

# Beardstown Harbor

Mile 88 Illinois River

105 West Third Beardstown, IL 62618



*Kelly Cagle*

*Chairman Beardstown Harbor*  
217-248-9354

*Leslie Harris*

*Beardstown Mayor*  
217-323-3261  
217-248-0208

*Gary Hamilton*

*Beardstown Director of*  
*Public Works*  
217-323-1422

*Brenda Sheppard*

*Treasurer Beardstown Harbor*  
217-323-4105  
*FNB of Beardstown*  
*Trust Department*

*Sally Lael*

*City Council Appointment*  
217-323-4102

*Janet Pate*

*Research and Grant*  
*Development*

*City of Beardstown*

*105 West Third Street*  
*Beardstown, IL 62618*  
217-323-3261

As Chairman for the Beardstown Harbor I am looking for ways to improve our river access and the recreational area of the Beardstown Marina located at Mile 88 on The Illinois River.

Having a safe functional harbor would bring tourism, recreational family fun, hunting and fishing, and would help to boost economical growth in our small town. It would give our commercial fisherman a place to launch, out of the rivers current, and help to supply the Atlantic Capes Fish Processing Plant with the Asian Carp needed to keep them running at capacity. One of the biggest needs that is important to our community is to bring a safe access point for our first responders when working on a recovery mission or transporting a sick or injured tow boat worker or a recreational boater to safety for transfer to a medical facility.

We are long overdue of making this dream a reality! The Mayor, the committee, the community, and I are committed to working hard to see that this goal is reached. We took for granted our heritage of living on the river and having access as a way of life for a river community. We have started fundraising and looking for grants to help us along the way.

The Asian Carp population has taken over our waterways. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources have studied the best ways to control them. It has been proven "fishing them out" is the best way to gain control. We have the plant to process them, now we just need safe access to catch them.

As a life long citizen of Beardstown and a boating enthusiast I feel honored to help my hometown move forward to secure funding and have a safe recreational area for our community and surrounding land locked areas to enjoy for many generations to come .

Sincerely,

Kelly L Cagle, Beardstown Harbor Chairman

## Making Our Dream a Reality

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018- 04**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MARINA IMPROVEMENT**

WHEREAS, sediment buildup at the joining of the Illinois and Sangamon rivers upstream of the City of Beardstown has caused that sediment to settle and fill the Beardstown Marina, blocking Beardstown's access to the Illinois River during much of the year; and

WHEREAS, for many years, the City of Beardstown has been actively exploring options to improve the City's access to the Illinois River for both commercial fishing and recreational boating; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beardstown has identified the future viability of its marina as an essential economic engine to help spur increased investment in its fishing industry, including the harvesting and processing of Asian Carp, as well as expand recreational boating with its related impact upon tourism and service businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beardstown is committed to pursuing all financially viable options for rehabilitating its existing marina; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beardstown wishes to formally express its support for the improvement of the Beardstown Marina.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Beardstown does hereby express its support for the improvement and rehabilitation of the Beardstown Marina, and respectfully requests that any federal, state, or private sector funding program favorably consider the City of Beardstown's request for funding assistance.

Passed and approved at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Beardstown, Illinois this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018.

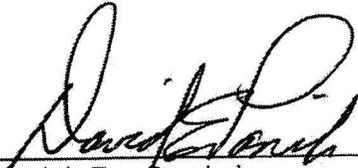
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Sally Lael	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Ron Culves	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Gabe Seward	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Mary Davis	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Tom Penwarden	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Tracey Price	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Robert Burget	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Tim Harris	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEARDSTOWN  
HARBOR PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Beardstown Harbor Committee was formed to raise funds for the development of river access in the City of Beardstown,

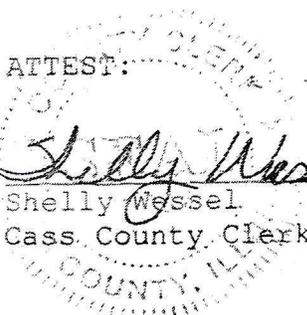
WHEREAS, if successful in achieving river access, the benefits to the City of Beardstown and the County of Cass will include improved economy, enhanced recreational opportunities and most importantly provide access for emergency service personnel,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chairman and The Cass County Board, support the efforts of the Beardstown Harbor Committee and the development of the Beardstown Harbor Project.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David E. Parish  
Chairman, Cass County Board

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelly Wessel  
Cass County Clerk



RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

DEMOCRATIC WHIP

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1704

April 12, 2018

Col. Craig Baumgartner  
District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Clock Tower Building  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Col. Baumgartner,

I am writing to voice my support for the Beardstown Bay Restoration Project on the east bank of the Illinois River in Beardstown, Illinois.

This beautiful natural bay that was once rich with wildlife has deteriorated due to siltation and loss of water surface acreage. While it was once a popular destination for boaters, sportsmen, fishermen and outdoor recreationalists, this paradise's end is now in sight. Without the measures called for in this project, including the relocation of the marina and the expansion of hydraulic dredging of the area by both width and length, this bay will be overrun with silt and resulting vegetation. Dredging will revitalize aquatic life and increase recreational boating, driving economic development in the area. However, if action is delayed on this project, it will be too late to dredge, permanently closing boat ramps, ending many outdoor recreational activities, and negatively impacting the fish and wildlife of the area.

I also would like to highlight a critical public safety concern related to this issue. At the moment, local police water rescue units must drive ten miles upriver to get access to the river, and subsequently boat ten miles back down the river to address the issue at hand. This is plainly unacceptable. There must be river access in Beardstown, for the sake of public safety, if for nothing else.

Beardstown was once a destination for families for miles around to enjoy the river activities and the wildlife. Today, Beardstown is a river town without access to the river. I strongly support the Beardstown Bay Restoration Project and I urge your serious consideration of their application for funding. Please do not hesitate to contact me at my Springfield office should you have any other concerns or questions.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
U.S. Senator

RJD/dl

U.S. SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20540-5000  
202-512-1133  
202-512-6400

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Richard Durbin

DARIN LAHOOD  
18th DISTRICT, ILLINOIS  
lalahood.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



1424 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 226-6201  
FAX: (202) 226-9249

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

June 27, 2018

Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Directorate of Civil Works  
Operations and Regulatory Community of Practice  
Attention: CECW-CO-OD  
441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20314

Dear Assistant Secretary R.D. James:

I write in support of the Village of Beardstown's submitted proposal for the Section 1122(a)-(h) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Pilot Program. This project could help the Village regain river access to the Beardstown Marina.

Specifically, this project could help the Village reestablish a connection between the federally authorized Beardstown Small Boat Harbor and the Illinois Waterway 9-foot Channel Navigation Project through dredging. In addition, the dredged material would be reused to help create a new elevated parking lot near the marina to a higher elevation level. This project would benefit the area by improving rescue access to the river in cases of emergency, promote economic growth, and allow river access for recreational hunting, boating and fishing.

It is my hope that you will give this proposal full and fair consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or my District Director, Brad Stotler, at (309)671-7027.

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress

BLOOMINGTON DISTRICT OFFICE  
3004 G.E. ROAD, SUITE 1B  
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61704  
(309) 205-9555

JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT OFFICE  
201 WEST MORGAN STREET  
JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650  
(217) 245-1431  
FAX: (217) 243-6892

PEORIA DISTRICT OFFICE  
100 NE MONROE STREET, ROOM 100  
PEORIA, IL 61602  
(309) 671-7027  
FAX: (309) 671-7309

SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT OFFICE  
235 SOUTH SIXTH STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701  
(217) 670-1653  
FAX: (217) 670-1806

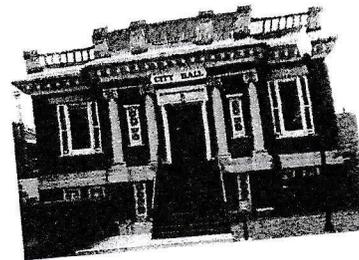
Leslie A. Harris  
Mayor

Phone (217) 323-3261  
Cell (217) 248-0208  
Fax (217) 323-4029

**CITY of BEARDSTOWN**  
Member of the Illinois Municipal League

**CITY HALL**  
105 West 3rd Street  
Beardstown, Illinois 62618

City of Beardstown is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



March 9, 2018

As the Mayor of Beardstown I would like to thank you for this opportunity to apply for this grant to improve my town! I have only been the Mayor since April 2017, I previously have served on the Beardstown City Council for 24 years. I have been involved in many efforts to bring boating back to Beardstown, but when I was running my campaign for Mayor I walked the streets and knocked on many doors. In doing this and talking with the people of our town I realized most had one common goal: Leslie when are you going to get us access to the marina! So as Mayor my very first move was to create a harbor committee. I realized the economic and social impact having limited access had on my city. I feel that having a waterway open to the Illinois River would be beneficial to our city and the surrounding communities in central Illinois.

Having a working marina would bring tourism, recreational family fun, hunting and fishing opportunities, bring business to our bait shop, and two marine dealerships. We have restaurants that would love to see the boaters stop in along with many other businesses that would benefit from the economic impact.

I can think of a long list of many things we could bring to our citizens. We could once again have fishing tournaments, boat races, river festivals, outdoor concerts, fireworks just to name a few. But one thing I think is most important we bring back to Beardstown is the safety of having access to our rescue squad and first responders.

I feel our time is long overdue to have boating as a way of life for our river community. Many of us grew up taking it for granted, but not anymore! I as the Mayor am committed to seeing this happen. Our committee has started fundraising efforts and the outpouring of support has been phenomenal by individuals and businesses. We will continue to rally around our cause. We know this process will not be cheap. We have TIF funds, IDNR grants we are applying for, and private funds to help but I know our town cannot take this burden on alone we need your help. By helping us you are making our dream a reality.

I ask that you please give my hometown Beardstown, Illinois your consideration in the 1122 USACE grant. Please help me put Mile 88 back on the map for the Grand Loopers once again!

Respectfully,

Leslie A. Harris, Mayor  
City of Beardstown, Illinois



Beardstown Fire Department  
1119 Edwards St  
Beardstown, IL 62618  
(217)-323-1191

Currently the city of Beardstown does not have quality river access. This is not only a problem for the recreational boater but also for access during times of an emergency.

Everyday there are tow boats traveling up and down the river and in the event of a medical emergency or traumatic event we have no good access to retrieve sick or injured personnel from these vessels. At this time we rely on the local tug service and then have to carry the patient up and over the 35 foot flood wall, not at all safe in the night or during bad weather, (which has occurred in the past). Also with the commercial traffic on the river there is a potential for a hazardous materials incident, and here we sit without quality access to the river.

Next we do have the recreational boaters, in the event of an accident or illness where can we get quality river access to assist them. Our Fire/Rescue department has two boats set up for river responses but sadly enough we do not have any type of quality launch site, we have a fully staffed Advanced Life Support Ambulance service but are unable for our Fire/Rescue personnel to get onto the river to transfer the patient to a waiting ambulance. Then sadly enough we do have drownings that occur, currently we either drive about 6 miles to use an old gravel ramp at Frederick or hope that there is adequate room behind the grain elevator and barges are not fleeted across there to use the gravel ramp at that location, neither one is a good solution.

In closing river access or the lack of quality river access does create major concerns for our emergency services.

Sincerely,  
Heath White  
Beardstown Fire & Ambulance Chief

Roger D. Lauder  
Director of  
Cass County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency

Beardstown is the largest community in the county of Cass. It is also the largest community on the Illinois River that currently has no access to the River. Obviously Beardstown and Cass County are two separate entities of government. However in times of disaster and emergency we are one. Cass County is an active player in the Beardstown Flood Prevention District. We work together in emergency exercises and real disasters and emergencies.

Beardstown has an enormous amount of commercial transportation traveling through it's jurisdiction on a daily basis. Over 400 semi trucks are in and out of the JBS hog slaughtering operation each day. In excess of 17 trains cross the river in Beardstown each day. And of course the Illinois River is the corridor for chemicals, grain and other commodities that pass by or town on commercial barge lines day and night. The enormous amount of commercial transportation increases the likelihood of a potential environmental accident. BNSF rail road crosses the river at Beardstown. The chief contents of these trains include Bakken Crude oil, Ethanol, and coal. In addition, Cass County is home to farming and thus farm chemicals. In the event of an environmental release, Emergency Responders would need to travel a great distance to respond. Large response vessels carrying absorbent boom would need to travel 20 to 30 miles to deploy. This delay could potentially cause adverse environmental impacts on the water quality, and aquatic life within the river. The IEPA, USCG, and USEPA would be delayed significantly in their response.

The Beardstown Fire Chief has already addressed the difficulty for search and rescue efforts because of no boat access to the river. This is also a concern of the county. Cass County has many well trained search and rescue personnel. River rescue it is all for naught with no access to the river

Many other River communities host river festivals and river related events, We are denied this opportunity with no viable access to our river. Our marina would be a perfect location for environmental exercises involving USEPA, USCG, DNR, BNSF, and USACOE, because of it's large size to stage response vehicles and equipment.

Considering all of the needed benefits that river access would provide, Cass County recognizes and supports the need for river access.

Roger D. Lauder,  
Cass County ESDA Director

Letters to the editor

# Hammond has local plant operator's endorsement

Dear Residents  
of the 93rd District,

With the upcoming election right around the corner, I thought it would be important for the good people along the river system to understand how much work State Representative Norine Hammond has done. I have been trying to cut through the red tape and the obsolete laws that

are holding back the local Asian Carp fishermen. These laws are a real problem, slowing down and reducing the flow of fish into our Beardstown fish meal plant, Atlantic Capes Protein Plant. While we have been able to hire enough talented workers, it has been hard to keep a steady volume of fish to operate at the level needed.

Norine was proactive when we contacted her. After hearing some of the issues, she, with surprising speed, brought the state and federal agencies here to get the needed changes talked about with all the right people. She did not do the normal "we need to create a committee to study this problem," which so many career politicians do. No!

She understood the problem, understood the need to move quickly. Things did not need to be explained to her twice, and then she came up with good solutions. This is the way good government should work. I wish I had reached out to her sooner but I am confident that with her lead on this issue, the Atlantic Capes Protein Plant

and all of its fishing families can see a day in our future that we can start to run our plant around the clock. I am sure that she handles your issues as well. She is not like a lot of people I have dealt with in government, always talking about themselves. Norine gets to work and gets things done. So, even though I am not yet a resident of

her district and her to help me in business forward that you put Norine when you go to the booth. She is deal.

Sincerely,

Thorne Tasker  
Atlantic Capes  
6681 Kent Feed  
Beardstown, IL