

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
2009
MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION OF
CLAYTON COUNTY**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOHN NIKOLAI -	CHAIR
JON DENEUI -	VICE CHAIR
LARRY STONE -	SECRETARY
CHUCK MORINE-	TREASURER
LES KLINK	DIRECTOR
JEANETTE MULLER	DIRECTOR
TOM GIFFORD	DIRECTOR
LEE LENTH	DIRECTOR
BETTY BUCHHOLZ	DIRECTOR

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MISSION STATEMENT

To protect and preserve the architectural integrity, history, natural beauty and serenity of the Motor Mill site and its surroundings and to develop appropriate uses and interpretation as a regional treasure for the benefit of future generations.

FOUNDATION BUSINESS

Elections

Board members Chuck Morine, Lee Lenth, Jeanette Muller and Larry Stone were reelected to the board. Morine informed the board that to remove a member, Jeff Abbas, from the board it takes a special meeting. Discussion followed with the consensus to leave Abbas on the board until his term expires.

The following officers were voted in: chair – John Nikolai; vice-chair – Jon deNeui; secretary – Larry Stone; treasurer-Chuck Morine.

Sales Tax

Morine reported that Steve Clausen has advised us that the Foundation as a 501(c) 3 apparently does not have to collect state sales tax on items we sell that are related to our mission. We are required to pay sales tax on our purchases, however.

Security System

Nikolai has asked ADT Security Systems for an estimate of the cost of installing a security system at the Mill. The system might include motion detectors that would trigger alarm sirens, automatic telephone dialing, or other systems. Most systems require a telephone line and a heated control board.

Turkey River Corridor/Iowa Great Places

The three towns of Clermont, Elgin, and Elkader along with the two counties Fayette and Clayton Counties received an Iowa Great Place designation for the Turkey River Corridor from Montauk to Motor Mill. The focus will be river access and land and water trails along the Turkey River, as well as natural and cultural attractions in river communities.

Work Plans have to be developed for each project and are due January 18, 2010. The board suggested these items: a dike to protect the Stable, Inn, and Ice House; archeological work on the basement, lime kiln, and dam abutment; educational development; building restoration; further studies of an Elkader to Motor trail.

As part of the Turkey River Corridor Project, the Clayton County and Fayette County Conservation Boards received an Iowa Water Trails Grant. The grant is to designate the Turkey River Water Trail and provide way finding signs, educational kiosks, and a Turkey River Water Trails Guide map.

The larger vision for the Turkey River Corridor plan is to link the land trail portion of the project with the Prairie Farmer, Root River, and Mississippi River Trails to make a large loop. This vision will take several years to accomplish, but the planning and partnership building has begun.

PLANNING

Long Range Visioning Plan

The board reviewed the Long Range Visioning Plan at the beginning of the year and discussed how our progress corresponds with goals in the 2007 Visioning Plan.

Short-term projects that have moved ahead or been completed include:

Rebuilding stairways, begin structural repairs, follow architectural plans, better signage, speed control measures, staff, invasive species control.

Projects that need more attention include: basement excavation, passageway repair, roofing, security, volunteers, fund raising, educational programs.

Interpretive Vision Planning Grant

Through Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, the CCCB and the MMF received a grant for \$2,500 to hire consultant Tom Woods to take the MMF through an Interpretive Visioning Process. The grant requires a 50% match.

Woods will spend three days with the foundation and will help develop a vision for the educational programs, events, and displays for the Motor Mill. A final report will be completed by May of 2010 and will be the foundation for the future educational program at Motor Mill.

Future Projects

For next year we need to get a civil engineer to evaluate the center pier and any needed repairs for the pier. We also need a civil engineer to help advise on plans for the dike.

Things to think about for the year 2010:

How to build a dike, working with DNR

Need electrical service to mill area

Phone line to mill

Security system

Work on the Inn

Grape Road will be closed for a couple of months in 2010 to allow replacement of the bridge over Dry Mill Creek. We will need to work with the county to make people aware of the detour through Clayton Center.

FACILITIES

Doug Steinmetz Report

Doug Steinmetz completed an architectural report on the restoration needs for the Inn and the Stable in January of 2009. Engelhardt and deNeui have reviewed the report and said the report is a good introduction to the considerable work that needs to be done on the two structures.

Windows and Flooring Project

Work continued this year on the replacement of floor joists and flooring. Although the paperwork for the grant was due July 15, Engelhardt was in contact with the State Historical Society and received an extension to complete the project due to the flooding issues of 2008.

Volunteers worked this summer on the interior beam system. They were able to jack up some of the interior beams, which closed the gap at the upstream peak of the roof, and narrowed the gap at the downstream end.

The old floor joists, which had been used by former owners for flooring on the main floor of the Mill were removed and re-used as floor joists on the fifth and sixth floors. As we closed out the year 2009, the floor replacement was basically completed. They just needed to rebuild the front part of the main floor. Planks from the main floor will be used as joists for the 6th floor (loft). There was enough pine flooring left to rebuild the removed main floor and finish the patching of the other floors.

On the fourth floor of the Mill, an atrium was left between the third and fourth floors so visitors can better see the Mill structure. Also space was left for a second set of steps that can be built in the future.

Windows were being replaced as the floors were being replaced for a time. However, as the summer progressed into the fall, the majority of the time was spent on the flooring with plans for window replacement during the winter and spring of 2010.

Shutters have been installed on the first two floors of windows to reduce damage to the windows and to close off vandals access to the mill. They are also looking at ways to reduce damage from future flooding events on the mill basement windows as well.

Roof and Chimney Project

Consulting architect Doug Steinmetz visited Motor on April 16. He concurred with plans to use Decra shingles on the Mill roof. After a later consultation with Jack Porter, of the State Historic Preservation Office, however, he said the Decra shingles would not be permitted on the Inn or on the mill itself. Porter recommended asphalt architectural shingles, instead.

Jon deNeui dedicated many hours of time toward contacting contractors for the roof and chimney project throughout the spring and summer. Some of the problems he faced was the contractors interest after seeing the job. It was decided the MMF would secure scaffolding to help with the bidding process for the contractors. By early fall deNeui estimated the cost of the roof and chimney project at \$80,000. Our match would be \$40,000 and \$40,000 would come from the HSPG grant. The deadline was December 2009.

MMF members briefly discussed using volunteer labor to shingle the Inn roof to save some money. It was quickly decided after looking at the project and everyone's calendar that no one really had the time to dedicate to the project. Also if the job was contracted, the contractor would be responsible for leaks or any other problems that may arise after the job was finished.

The project was completed by the end of November. The total cost of the project was for \$71,598.83. The Inn roof was \$8,209.08, the chimney work was \$14,593.10 the mill roof was \$28,274.19 and the scaffolding was \$20,522.46 which adds up to \$71,598.83. The requested reimbursement from the grant was for \$35,799.41 which leaves our cash match at \$35,799.41.

Roof Fund Drive

The MMF began a fund drive for the Mill roof, requesting that donors contribute \$200 to sponsor one square of shingles. It will take about 44 squares to complete the project.

Bridge

Background and research work continued with the Motor Mill Bridge in 2009. Jon deNeui has been in contact with several engineering firms including Tometich Engineering of Urbandale Joe Rosenstiel, who worked with Doug Steinmetz on the architectural report, Howard Green Company and Keith Koch, a mechanical engineer from St. Olaf.

deNeui also raised concerns with the center pier. The center bridge pier apparently sustained additional damage in the floods of June 2008. deNeui was able to conduct some assessments of the damage with help from stonemasons and determined that work is needed to stabilize and restore the pier.

In November, Engelhardt was in contact with FEMA and FEMA sent representatives to the site to meet with deNeui and Engelhardt. It was established within the group that the center pier is part of the historical site and yes indeed the center pier was in danger due to the fact of missing mortar and the weight of the north span provided stability to the structure. FEMA was going back to write up a Project Work sheet to tuck point and repair the center pier, tuck point and repair the north bridge abutment and engineer a bridge and construct the north half of the bridge to protect the center pier. This project may become part of the Turkey River Corridor Iowa Great Places Project.

Flood Protection

Discussions occurred throughout the year regarding flood protection of the Stable, Inn and Icehouse. A civil engineer is needed to design a dike. Some estimates have surfaced of approximately \$75,000 to design and construct a dike. This would have to include purchase of additional land.

Rock Wall

The rock structure above the Mill that was exposed by the floods may be part of a dam that was built after the first dam was washed out in 1873. Archeological studies are needed at the site of the old dam and at the possible site of the lime kiln. Additionally, low water has exposed more dam timbers at the riverbank. We should consult an archeologist to document that old structure. (Lenth will talk to Laura Nix of Guttenberg.)

Mill Basement

The Foundation continues to discuss ways to remove silt from the basement while protecting any potential artifacts or structures that might be found and minimizing disturbance to the area around the mill. No clear plan has been established yet.

Donations

The MMF received a donation of milling equipment from Potter's Mill at Bellevue. It took several trips to make this happen, one trip to look at what was available, a second trip to remove doors to remove the equipment and the third trip on July 23 to bring the machines to Motor. The Jackson County Conservation Board staff helped with loading the equipment.

A mill in Kalona and the Kalona Historical Society donated some surplus milling equipment as well. This too included several trips of inspection and picking up the equipment and delivery to the Motor Mill.

Some of the items have been stored in the mill and other items have been placed in the red and the white shed near the house. In the future these items will be labeled and made available for public viewing and interpretation.

GROUNDS

Robert Grau Memorial Savanna

Work has continued on the Robert Grau Memorial Savanna over the past year. Work has included cutting under story trees such as maple, ironwood, bitternut hickory and basswood to open up more of the under story to let more light to the forest floor. The trees are cut, stumps treated and the downed trees are bucked up and piled to be burned in the future.

A new entrance trail was made this past summer. The trail leads up an old field drive between the cooperage and white house. The old trail with the steps has been abandon due to safety concerns. Trees were removed to expose the rock wall that supported the rail bed that led from the rock quarry on top of the hill to cooperage area.

Garlic mustard control has continued by pulling the adult plants during the summer, spraying the new plants with round up in the fall and burning the area in the spring. During the early summer of 2009 a public program was held and garlic mustard was pulled. CCCB staff had a prisoner crew to help pull the plants as well.

The savanna was burned in the spring of 2009. The area from the rock quarry south was not burned. This was due to the fact that we had planted prairie plugs in the area the year before and wanted to give them one year of not being burned.

The fall burns of the prairie fields were not successful. The grasses and the ground was too wet the days burns were attempted. The CCCB staff will consider a burn in the spring of 2010.

Flood 2008

During the early summer of 2009, the two prairie areas were reseeded, the area north of the campground and the area that was the old campground. The fence that was destroyed from the flood of 2008 was also replaced that sat between the inn and the crop field to the west. The new latrine in the campground was also installed during the summer. The Motor Mill Foundation provided for a port-a-pot next to the mill until the new latrine was installed.

The campground was seeded in the spring of 2009 along with the area in front of the Inn and Stable. The CCCB did not open the campground until Labor Day weekend. The CCCB wanted to give the grass a chance to grow establish a stronger root system before letting traffic and campers on the area due to the very sandy soil. New fire rings were installed the week before Labor Day and over the Holiday weekend we had a very busy weekend with campers and canoeists on the river.

White House

The white residential house that sites between the cooperage and campground was approved by the Conservation Board to have it removed. FEMA had written a PW to have it repaired at a cost of roughly \$12,000. The cost of demolition would be about the same and this would eliminate a potential future hazard. Nikolai and deNeui noted the need for some type of residence at the Mill for security reasons.

FEMA presented to the Conservation Board a change in funding source for the demolition of the house. The program is called a 403. The demolition will be completed after historical and environmental assessments are completed.

The Well

Conservation Board staff continued to monitor and test the well that supplied water to the campground. After several tests and retests the well was determined unusable. The Conservation Board hired Erdman Engineering of Decorah to plan for a new well to be drilled.

A new well was drilled on the hill behind the white house in late November. A well house and pump will be bid out and completed sometime in the upcoming year. Funds will be paid for through the Conservation Board. The plans are to develop a system that will be expandable to provide water for additional locations in the future.

COMMUNICATIONS

Website

The Motor Mill Website located at motormill.org has been kept up by Volunteer Webmaster Joleen Jansen and was reworked this past year. We continue to receive many good comments about the site. Members are able to send photos and stories to Jansen and she is able to post them and keep the site up to date. This is a great way to keep news in front of interested visitors. Website statistics for 2009 are 1,568 unique visitors. **2008**-1,658 unique visitors, **2007**-1,202 unique visitors **2006**-507 unique visitors

Newsletter

The Motor Mill Newsletter *Milling Around* was sent out three times during 2009. There are 136 newsletters sent by mail and 153 sent by e-mail for a total of 289. The newsletter is also posted on the motor mill website.

Newspaper

The Motor Mill received attention this year in area newspapers. The only paper that was researched was the Clayton County Register. Thirteen articles or ads appeared in the paper over this past year promoting Motor Mill. The variety of articles included Jerry Healey's pie safe, reconnection of the Alpine Grant, the Motor Mill Open House, garlic mustard pull, stream stomp, the Genealogical Society visit, the raffle and auction, CCFE award, roofing project and promotion of the Mellinger drawing.

Parades and Booths

The Foundation received \$50 in "chamber bucks" to be spent in Strawberry Point as a second-place prize for the Christmas tree that Buchholz decorated and displayed at the Strawberry holiday event in 2008. This was a great way to start out the new year.

Members of the Motor Mill Foundation were involved in parades and booths at the Garnaville 4th of July parade, Elkader Sweet Corn Days, Clayton County Fair, Plagman Barn, and Heritage Days. The events provided good exposure and contacts for the Foundation. They also used the opportunity to sell raffle tickets, art prints and other merchandise for the MMF.

EDUCATION

Fundamentals for Interpretation Training

Ranger Ken Block of Effigy Mounds National Monument conducted a Fundamentals for Interpretation Training Program for volunteers of the MMF and other interested historical groups or museum volunteers from this area. The training was held on February 21 from 1-4 p.m.

Board members agreed that the February 21 session was useful. Unfortunately, weather reduced the attendance.

Thematic Writing Workshop

Silos and Smokestacks sponsored a workshop, "Telling Your Story: Interpretation and Planning," on May 19 in Fredericksburg. Buchholz and Harkrader attended the training.

First Aid and CPR Training

Motor Mill tour guides and volunteers were able to receive First Aid and CPR training with CCCB staff on June 12th. Cost of the training was made available through the Foundation.

Motor Mill Open House

A Motor Mill Open House was held June 6 to coincide with the dedication of the Sherman Swift Tower at National at 2 p.m. on that day. VIP invitations were sent out along with articles in the newspapers and on the radio advertising the event.

A lunch was served over the noon hour. Some of the food items were purchased while other items were donated. Tours were given and members also attempted to visit with interested visitors regarding upcoming projects and future fund raising efforts.

Visitors were asked to park in the campground area. Horse drawn wagon rides were given to help get people from the parking area to the mill. Grandma Rosie from Clermont was set up near the Inn to demonstrate wheat grinding and bread making.

It was discussed after the event that volunteers were busy serving food, when their time might have been better spent talking to people. The group agreed that it would be good to hire a caterer for future events.

The weather was cool and rainy on the day of the event. It was felt attendance was lower than expected due to the weather. We served about 100 people lunch.

Historical Research

Motor Mill Foundation members have spent many hours again this year working through some of the historical documents at the Garnavillo Historical Museum. Additional Motor Mill information from individuals is constantly being researched by Motor Mill members.

Buchholz has located a 28-page document outlining the ancestral line of John Thompson. Buchholz reported Don Walz discovered an old register from the Motor Mill School. It has been donated to the Garnavillo Museum.

Memories of Motor

A Memories of Motor event was held on November 14 at 1:00 PM at the Osborne Center. Coffee and cookies were provided. An invitation list was made and sent out along with newspaper and radio articles inviting anyone with information, stories or photos of motor mill to come and share their knowledge of the site.

About 21 people attended the Memories of Motor Mill day. Both audio and videotapes recorded the conversations. The board discussed a list of other people who also might be able to provide some history or memories of Motor Mill.

Tours

This year is the 140th anniversary of the construction of Motor Mill. The group agreed that it would be useful to promote the anniversary. The mill was open for tours two weekends a month May through September representing 10 open weekends for 28 days. Several special group tours were given which included Questers, bus tours, paddling clubs, Amish group, Edgewood CHM, Red Hat Ladies, Garden Club, Wyalusing Academy and a tractor ride. There were 634 registered visitors from 13 different states. Volunteer tour hours was 280 hours and 916 work hours for other projects.

This year, special educational programs were offered as well. They included Birds and Blooms, Open House, Garlic Mustard work day, Savanna Walk, Geocaching, Stream Stomp, and Scaly and Slimy. Each program lasted about an hour and was offered on Saturday afternoons. Three off site presentations were given with a total of 51 people in attendance.

Civil War and Turkey River Rendezvous

The Civil War Encampment was not held this year, due to Shane Christen's serious traffic accident. Shane hopes to resume the event next year. The Turkey River Rendezvous was not held at Motor this year because of flood and insurance issues. This event may be discontinued altogether.

FINANCE

Pie Safe and Raffle Fund Raising Project

Jerry Healy, of Elkader, built a butternut pie safe and donated it to the Motor Mill Foundation for a fund-raising raffle. Healy suggested that a raffle should raise at least \$2,000. The foundation qualified for a state raffle permit for \$75 for 180 days.

Raffle tickets were sold \$1 each or six 6 for \$5. Additional prizes for the raffle included a set of Motor Mill drawings by Gordy Callison and a drawing by John Mellinger. A quilt donated by Pat deNeui was sold at a silent auction at Heritage Days.

Winner of pie safe was Robert Hansmeier of Waukon. The Gordy Prints were won by Jackie Robertson of Anamosa, and the Mellinger prints were won by Stan Delagardelle from Cedar Falls. Winners were announced at Heritage Days.

Motor Mill Art Work

To help raise funds for Motor Mill projects the Foundation continues to work with several artists to promote Motor Mill and to raise needed funds. The artists include P. Buckley Moss prints, pen and ink drawings by Gordy Callison and a pen and ink drawing by John Mellinger.

The pieces of art have been promoted and displayed at a variety of events and programs offered by the Motor Mill Foundation. Examples include displays at the Opera House during productions and two window displays in downtown Elkader. Throughout the year, the P. Buckley Moss print was displayed in a variety of banks promoting the print and the Motor Mill as well.

Additionally, John Mellinger offered to draw the home of donors to the Motor Mill Foundation. The Foundation set a minimum donation of at least \$500 for the drawing.

Big Blue Sky Concert

Jon Stravers and Big Blue Sky will performed at the Elkader Opera House on October 17. The Motor Mill Foundation elected not to be a co-sponsor this year, but to keep the idea alive for future years. Members noted potential conflicts with fund raising for the pie safe raffle and the \$200 roof repair sponsorships. After considerable discussion, the consensus was to not do a concert this year

Donor Recognition

The MMF discussed appropriate recognition of donors to the Motor Mill with the suggestion of using the backdrop of a mill stone. The recognition board would have to be an all weather environment display to withstand heat, humidity and cold without deterioration.

The consensus was to make plaques that look like millstones, and to attach nameplates to them. Three separate plaques will be made— one for the Mill windows, one for the Mill/Inn roof project, and one for the Cooperage windows. Each plaque would list the donors' names and the number of windows or roofing squares they donated. Lenth and deNeui will design four-foot diameter “mill stones” on which to mount plaques to recognize donors.

Fund Raising Projects

As 2009 closed out, the MMF had discussions of future fund raising projects. MJ Smith representing the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque attended the November meeting and explained the community foundation concept to the board. The system was authorized by the Iowa Legislature to encourage the reinvestment of wealth into communities, rather than have those assets move out of the community or out of state as wealth is transferred to younger generations over the next 50 years.

Potential donors may give to a specific endowment fund, or to the Clayton County Foundation for the Future. An endowment for an organization may receive up to 5% of the endowment funds annually. Groups also may compete for grants from the Foundation for the Future. Donors to community foundations qualify for a 20% tax credit on their Iowa income tax.

Smith urged the Motor Mill Foundation to consider establishing an endowment. The recommended minimum is \$10,000, although the process can begin with as little as \$2,500 and a plan to reach \$10,000.

It was suggested that we need some training and advice on how to ask potential donors for large amounts. A list of people who have worked as professional fundraisers or have been involved in large capital fund raising campaigns will be contacted to see what we need to know.

A discussion was also made that there may be some potential grant opportunities through the Turkey River Corridor Iowa Great Places initiative. It was also suggested continuing the drive to ask people to pay \$200 for a window in the Mill or the Cooperage, or a square of shingles for the Mill.

Grants Written for 2009

A total of six grants were applied for in 2009. Three of the six were funded for a total of \$4,500. One grant was turned down for \$20,000 and two grants are pending with notification in 2010. Two grants that were still open at the beginning of 2009 were closed out this past year. One grant through the National Trust for Historic Preservation for \$1,500, helped complete the assessment reports on the stable and the Inn. The total cost of the project was \$5,500. The second grant that was completed and closed out was the Historic Site Preservation Grant. This project was for the roof and chimney project. We received \$35,799.41 of grant funds with the total project being \$71,598.83.

Clayton County Foundation for the Future- A grant from the Clayton County Foundation for \$1,000 was awarded for the roof project. No additional matching funds were required for this grant.

Alpine Communications- A grant from Alpine Communications Charitable Giving Program was awarded for \$1,000 toward the roof project. No additional matching funds were required for this grant. Sara Hertrampf with Alpine said Alpine is glad to support such tangible projects and suggested that this type of assistance could continue.

Dubuque Racing Association- A grant to the Dubuque Racing Association was submitted for \$20,000 for the roof project. This grant was not successful and did not receive funding.

Silos and Smokestacks- A grant from Silos and Smokestacks was awarded for \$2,500 to hire a consultant to create an Educational Visioning Plan. The grant requires a 50% match.

Home Depot- A grant was applied for through Home Depot for \$2,500 in the form of gift cards to be used for tools or materials. There are no match funds required. Grant notification will be in late January 2010.

Alliant Energy- Engelhardt will apply for an Alliant Energy Grant of up to \$2,500 to help with the match dollars for the Educational Visioning Plan.