

Motor Mill Foundation
Minutes
January 17, 2012

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Other board members present were Jon deNeui, Chuck Morine, Ellen Collins, Lee Lenth, Betty Buchholz, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Fred Stroschein was a guest.

MINUTES

Collins moved to accept the minutes of the December 20 meeting as printed. deNeui seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chuck Morine submitted the following report:

Motor Mill Foundation

Dec. 20, 2011	beginning balance	\$4,472.30
Receipts		
Dec. 23 - Note cards		\$10
Dec. 23 - Voss – Cooperage window		\$200
Jan. 10 - Central State Bank, capital campaign		\$500
Total receipts		\$710
Expenses		
Dec. 20 – deNeui, supplies		\$387.80
Jan. 5 - Allamakee-Clayton Elec.		\$26.75
Total expenses		\$414.55
Jan. 17, 2012 balance		\$4,767.75

<i>Conservation Reserve Fund</i>	
Jan. 1, 2012 balance forward	(\$28,425.67)
Deposits:	
Iowa Room - stationery	5.00
Expenses	
VJ Engineering	\$10,385.00
Jan. 17, 2012 balance carried forward	(\$38,805.67)
Jan. 17, 2012 Capital Fund	\$9,219.29

Stone moved to hire Dietz Donald & Co. to prepare the MMF tax return for 2011, and to authorize the treasurer to pay our \$251 insurance premium renewal. Collins seconded. Carried.

BASEMENT PROJECT

deNeui is seeking estimates on the cost of silt removal. Engelhardt will use the estimates in grant applications for the project.

MOTOR MILL BRIDGE

An engineering study has concluded that the abutments and center pier are sound, although they need tuck-pointing. Bid specifications for that project will be sent to potential contractors on January 19, with bids to be returned by Feb. 9, and work to begin by March 19.

deNeui expects to receive drawings of the final bridge design from V. J. Engineering by Feb. 1.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Engelhardt had nothing new to report.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Nikolai has made a number of contacts, but response has been limited.

LEGISLATIVE FLOAT ON TURKEY RIVER

Harkrader has written a letter of support for an Iowa Rivers Revival application for a grant from Alliant Energy to sponsor our proposed legislative canoe trip. The date and route for the event have yet to be determined. Perhaps from Elkader to Motor in August?

The board discussed asking the Clayton County Conservation Awareness Network and the Turkey River Recreational Corridor to be involved. The board also agreed that legislators and candidates for legislative seats should be invited.

NEW BUSINESS

CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT – Seth Mangas of Fayette contacted Stone with a proposal for the Second Regiment Iowa Volunteer Cavalry to hold a living history or reenactment at Motor Mill. The board discussed potential conflicts with Shane Christen's group, which has held previous Civil War encampments at Motor.

Lenth noted that horses might help build public interest in the event. Engelhardt warned of potential damage to the grounds from horses. The board agreed that the horse issue could be handled by restricting where the animals are allowed to go.

Lenth agreed to contact Shane Christen to discuss whether there would be a conflict if Mangas's group is invited to a Mill event.

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Engelhardt distributed copies of the foundation's 2011 summary of activities.

GARNAVILLO MUSEUM

Buchholz reported that prospects are not good for reviewing Garnavillo Historical Museum materials, which were moved to unknown storage areas because of moisture and mold problems.

STONE STRUCTURE INVENTORY

Collins and Nikolai are assisting in a Clayton County Historical Society inventory of stone buildings. Volunteers are still needed to assist.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

Collins submitted the following report:

Clermont – A tree-planting project along hy 18 has been completed except for the paperwork.

Elgin – The city is working with Fayette County Economic Development to create a revolving loan fund for business incentives.

Elgin will apply for a landscaping grant from the Fayette County Community Foundation.

Elkader – Although fund raising has not begun for soccer fields and playground equipment, these projects need to be completed by June 30 under terms of the Iowa Great Places grant.

Fayette County – Taylor Construction was the low bidder, at \$475,000, for the bridge near Valley High School. Work could be completed as early as May.

Grants – The group discussed the possibility of applying for grants from from Bikes Belong, Keep Iowa Beautiful, and Pepsi Refresh.

FACILITIES

deNeui confirmed his receipt of a letter from Menno Borntrager with a bid of about \$800 to build windows for the Cooperage.

deNeui is seeking estimates for roof repairs on the Cooperage and the Stable. The information will be used in a REAP application.

GROUND

Engelhardt is trying to complete paperwork and accounting for the demolition of the white house.

EDUCATION

Buchholz showed photos she had taken of the pillars from the old railroad bridge just upstream from Turkey River Park.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, at Osborne.

ADJOURNMENT

Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry A. Stone, secretary