

Motor Mill Foundation
Minutes
March 20, 2012

With 3-22-12 corrections

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, March 20, 2012. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Other board members present were Jon deNeui, Chuck Morine, Ellen Collins, Lee Lenth, Betty Buchholz, Les Klink, Tom Gifford, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

MINUTES

Nikolai accepted the minutes of the February 21 meeting as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chuck Morine submitted the following report:

Motor Mill Foundation

Feb. 21 - beginning balance	\$4,730.00
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Receipts

Schera's – note cards sold	\$5.00
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Total receipts	\$5.00
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Expenses

Allamakee-Clayton Elec.	\$26.75
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Total expenses	\$26.75
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March 20, 2012 balance	\$4,708.25
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Conservation Reserve Fund

Feb. 22, 2012 balance forward	\$393,939.60
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Expenses

VJ Engineering	\$25,956.25
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March 20, 2012 balance	\$367,983.35
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CAPITAL FUND

February 22, 2012 balance carried forward	\$12,619.29
Deposits:	
James Osterhaus	\$100.00
Ken Reimer	\$25.00
Andy & M. J. Smith	\$1000.00
Dr. James Osterhaus	\$100.00
Total deposits	\$1225.00
March 20, 2012 balance	\$13,844.29

IOWA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Stone moved to renew the Iowa Museum Association membership for \$75.
Lenth seconded. Carried

BASEMENT PROJECT

Engelhardt has been working on a REAP HRDP grant to pay for silt removal and for roofs on the Ice House, Cooperage, and Stable.

MOTOR MILL BRIDGE

Although we now have final plans from V. J. Engineering and permits from the DNR, the Corps of Engineers permit expired on March 19, Engelhardt reported. It should be relatively routine to reapply for the permit. When it is received, bid packets will be sent out. Bids will be due in about a month from that time. There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting for potential contractors.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Nikolai asked board members to follow up on their commitments to contact people on the potential donors list. Upon request, Engelhardt will print letters for the board members to sign and mail. After the letters are sent, the board members should follow up with personal phone calls and visits.

The capital campaign has raised about \$14,000 so far. The fund drive has been publicized at the Elkader Cinema, Facebook, the Conservation Board website, Engelhardt's radio program, and in the Clayton County Register. Gifford has been asked to do a presentation for Clayton County insurance agents.

PARADES

Nikolai, Gifford, Lenth, and Stone distributed 300 fund raising brochures at the Elkader St. Patrick's Day parade. This emphasizes the need for the Motor Mill Foundation to participate in every parade in the county, if possible, Nikolai said. Collins suggested that the float should include contact information, such as a phone number and web address. Lenth agreed to prepare a sign.

The board reviewed a list of county events and parade dates.

LEGISLATIVE FLOAT ON TURKEY RIVER

Harkrader reported on a March 9 planning meeting with Iowa Rivers Revival, TRRC, and the Clayton and Fayette County Conservation Boards. The float has been set for August 11 from Elkader to Motor. The event also will include a meal, tours of the Motor Mill site, a possible open house at the Big Spring Trout Hatchery, and land tours on the TRRC trail from Clermont to Elgin. Public officials, political candidates, and other dignitaries will be invited.

RAFFLE

Harold Krambeer has donated a hand-made walnut table to the Foundation to be used as a fundraiser. After considerable discussion over the merits of a raffle or auction, Klink moved that the table be sold at a silent auction at the 2012 Clayton County Fair. deNeui seconded. Carried. The board agreed that the auction should include a few other high-quality items, as well.

NEW BUSINES

EQUIPMENT IN WISCONSIN – Nikolai has learned that the Wisconsin man who contacted him about some 1887 milling equipment wants to sell the machinery for \$1,800. Nikolai declined the offer and gave the equipment owner's name to Dave Metz at the Pine Creek Mill.

REVIEW VISION PLAN – The Board briefly reviewed the Vision Plan, noting progress on a number of items, including building restoration and plans for bridge construction.

deNeui noted the continued need for a security system. He has been comparing ultrasonic and infrared equipment.

The board also discussed the need for more volunteers.

WORKSHOPS

Collins and Buchholz plan to attend a Silos and Smokestacks “Revisit the Past” workshop in Des Moines on March 28. Buchholz’s registration will be paid by Carter House. Stone moved to authorize the Foundation to pay \$35 for Collins’s registration, and \$100 to be split by Collins and Buchholz for expenses. deNeui seconded. Carried, with a no vote from Buchholz.

Several board members are considering attending the Iowa Statewide Historic Preservation Conference in Decorah on April 27-28. Early registration deadline is April 10.

OLD BUSINESS

CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT – Stone reported that Shane Christen plans to bring a small group from Minnesota May 18-20. Seth Mangas of Fayette also can bring about four cavalry reenactors and two or three horses.

Board members questioned whether the reenactors need to have liability insurance. Engelhardt will investigate the Conservation Board policy.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

Collins submitted the following report:

Clermont – The Visioning Committee has a \$15,000 fundraising goal for trail work.

Elgin – Bids will be let soon for a downtown street project. A Boy Scout may work on a trailhead as an Eagle project. Discussion continues about a café.

Elkader – About \$14,000 has been raised for playground equipment. Other grants are pending. Labor and plants will be donated for the Girl Scout butterfly garden.

Fayette County – Work is almost done on the bridge near Valley School. Rod Marlatt has been in discussions about how the TRRC trail can be the backbone of a NE Iowa/SE Minnesota trail system.

Clayton County – The Supervisors approve of the Motor Mill bridge project. But they have major questions about the Elkader to Elgin land trail, and traffic around the Elgin Co-Op.

FACILITIES

deNeui has returned tools that were borrowed from Roger Halvorson. The saw needs to be repaired or replaced. deNeui is investigating the cost. A used saw could cost \$350-\$400.

One of the next projects is to drill and peg the beams installed in the basement last year.

Nikolai has received an offer from the Garnavillo Mill to use their truck to haul silt.

deNeui hopes that we can get electrical and telephone service into the Mill soon. He is looking for sources of limestone slabs that may be needed to cover trenches that will be cut to install the wires.

deNeui has talked with Gary Goyette about the cost of tuck-pointing and chimney repairs on the Cooperage. The other buildings will need major work by restoration professionals to repair lime mortar that has been improperly patched with Portland cement

GROUNDS

Engelhardt and the Conservation Board staff plan to burn woodlands on both sides of the river and prairie areas near the campground and as soon as the weather permits.

Engelhardt noted that there might be a push next year in the Iowa Legislature to implement the three-eighths of one percent sales tax for natural resources that Iowa voters endorsed in 2010.

EDUCATION,

Buchholz reported that Roger Buchholz has made a number of birdhouses that can be sold for a fundraiser.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, at Osborne.

ADJOURNMENT

Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry A. Stone, secretary