

Motor Mill Foundation  
Minutes  
April 17, 2012

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, April 17, 2012. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Other board members present were Jon deNeui, Chuck Morine, Ellen Collins, Lee Lenth, Betty Buchholz, Tom Gifford, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Director Tim Engelhardt arrived about 8:15 p.m. Dean Refle was a guest

**MINUTES**

Nikolai accepted the minutes of the March meeting as printed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Chuck Morine submitted the following report:

*Motor Mill Foundation*

March 20 - beginning balance \$4,708.25

Total receipts none

Expenses

Allamakee-Clayton Elec. \$26.75

Iowa Museum Assoc. \$75.00

Total expenses \$101.75

April 17, 2012 balance \$4,606.50

*Conservation Reserve Fund*

March 20, 2012 balance forward \$367,983.35

Deposits

Iowa Room shirts, note cards \$80.00

Expenses

Heritage Printing \$84.00

VJ Engineering \$5,792.50

April 20, 2012 balance \$362,186.85

## *CAPITAL FUND*

March 20, 2012 balance carried forward	\$13,844.29
Deposits:	
Ft. Atkinson Hay, Carl Shirk	\$1,464.58
Claire & Ernie Wright	\$50.00
George McClain	\$100.00
Total deposits	\$1,614.58
April 17, 2012 balance	\$15,458.87

### **REPORT ON SILOS AND SMOKESTACKS WORKSHOP**

Collins and Buchholz reported on the Revisit the Past workshop they attended on March 28. The speakers urged interpreters to be very sure of their facts when telling historical stories. Both Betty and Ellen felt the experience was very helpful.

### **MOTOR BASEMENT**

deNeui said no additional work has been done, but he has been devising a plan to start by excavating dirt outside the Mill on the upstream side to allow access for machinery and to provide a place to stockpile silt removed from inside the Mill.

Installing more beams in the basement will not be practical until at least some of the silt is removed.

### **MOTOR MILL BRIDGE**

Engelhardt reported that VJ Engineering had sent out final plans on April 5. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for April 19. Bids will be opened on May 3. The Conservation Board will consider the bids for approval on May 8.

### **STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN**

Nikolai again urged board members to follow up on their commitments to contact people on the potential donors list. Engelhardt will print letters for the board members to sign and mail to donors they choose. Board members should follow up with personal phone calls and visits.

### **LEGISLATIVE FLOAT ON TURKEY RIVER**

Harkrader reported that the next planning meeting for the August 11 event will be on April 27. An Iowa Rivers Revival intern will begin soon to help with planning.

## **RAFFLE/SILENT AUCTION?**

The board agreed that the best use of the table donated by Harold Krambeer would be to offer it at a silent auction at Heritage Days. Mary Fran Nikolai has offered to donate a quilt. Other auction items are needed. (Note: In March, the motion was to hold the auction at the fair. We may need to clarify this. LS)

## **VISION PLAN**

Copies of the revised Vision Plan were distributed.

## **SECURITY SYSTEM DONATION**

Gifford offered to donate a used security system that he no longer needs. The Honeywell system cost about \$650 new. Buchholz said the system is similar to that used at the Carter House, which works well. Lenth moved to accept the donation with thanks. deNeui seconded. Carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **TOURS**

Gifford asked that the Foundation provide a tour of the Mill for a Clayton County insurance agents meeting on Sept. 18.

Lenth noted the popularity of special tours. He recently gave a tour for a group from a senior citizens center.

### **FACEBOOK**

Nikolai noted the increasing popularity of social media and the value of having a Motor Mill presence on Facebook. deNeui moved to authorize Harkrader to work with the Conservation Board staff to do Motor Mill updates on the CCB website, and to include Facebook logos on our brochures, caps, and t-shirts. Buchholz seconded. Carried.

### **WEBSITE**

Nikolai urged board members to review the Motor Mill website, which Joleen Jansen recently revised.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

deNeui reported that it will cost about \$475 to repair the power saw we borrowed from Roger Halverson.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR**

Collins submitted the following report:

Clermont – The city did not receive the grant they had applied for.

Elgin – The city has received a \$7,000 grant.

Elkader – About \$20,000 has been raised for playground equipment. The Central Schools will donate some playground equipment. There will be a fund-raiser with Dueling Pianos at Johnson's Restaurant on May 5.

Fayette County Supervisor – Contractors are ready to pour concrete for the trail bridge over the Turkey River near Valley School.

Fayette County Conservation – The RC&D is coordinating a Turkey River Watershed study and management plan.

Safari Project – There will be 10 sites in Clayton County and 10 in Fayette County for children and their families to visit. Participants will receive a map and a booklet in which they can do rubbings to show that they have visited each site.

#### **GROUND**

Engelhardt asked board members to review the website, which Joleen Jansen has recently updated, and to send any comments to Jansen.

The archeologists' report for the Schroeder report has been completed. A copy is available for review.

The Conservation Board staff burned the timber and prairie areas at Motor this spring.

Engelhardt is now on the board for the Rivers and Bluffs Scenic Byway.

#### **EDUCATION,**

Buchholz, Harkrader, and deNeui visited with Mary Schmitt, a college student who was preparing a presentation on Motor Mill, Buchholz will contact her to get a copy of the report.

Collins suggested that we send fund raising letters to everyone for whom we have an address, including those on the newsletter list and people who have signed the guest book at Motor.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, at Osborne.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry A. Stone, secretary