

Motor Mill Foundation
Minutes
June 19, 2012

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, June 19, 2012. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Other board members present were Jon deNeui, Chuck Morine, Ellen Collins, Les Klink, Lee Lenth, Tom Gifford, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader and Director Tim Engelhardt also attended.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections, Nikolai accepted the minutes of the May 15 meeting as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chuck Morine submitted the following report:

Motor Mill Foundation

May 15 - beginning balance	\$4,587.75
Receipts	
Merchandise sales	\$113.00
Donations	\$180.00
Total receipts	\$293.00
Expenses	
May 16 – deNeui, tool repair	\$420.59
May 16 – cash for change	\$40.00
May 17 – Esser's Menswear	\$346.68
Allamakee-Clayton Elec.	\$27.36
Total expenses	\$834.63
June 19, 2012 balance	\$4,046.12

<i>Conservation Reserve Fund</i>		
May 16, 2012	balance forward	\$345,362.35
Deposits		
none		
Expenses		
	Heritage Printing	\$42.00
	CCCB postage – newsletter	\$69.30
	CCCB postage – fund drive letters	\$67.50
	VJ Engineering	\$16,393.17
June 19, 2012	balance	\$328,790.38

<i>CAPITAL FUND</i>		
May 16, 2012	balance carried forward	\$15,583.87
Deposits:		
	Schnurr	\$50
	McCartney	\$100
	Horstman memorials	\$305
	Gifford Insurance	\$2,000
	Lautner	\$50
	Total deposits	\$2,505
June 19, 2012	balance	\$19,088.87

MOTOR BASEMENT

Engelhardt is continuing discussions related to the grant application. Someone from the State Historic Preservation Office may come to inspect the site. FEMA has approved extensions of the work time schedule.

MOTOR MILL BRIDGE

Engelhardt distributed an estimated time schedule for bridge construction. On-site mobilization should begin Sept. 10, with all work to be complete by Dec. 5.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

With bridge contract issues and the REAP application now complete, Engelhardt plans to begin more focus on the trail.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Engelhardt and Nikolai have been writing and sending more letters to potential donors. Engelhardt plans to update the fund raising brochure at least every two weeks to report progress. He also has been updating the Conservation Board and Motor Mill websites, as well as the on-screen ad at the Elkader Cinema. We need to raise a little over \$90,000 to complete the current bridge and building restoration campaign.

LEGISLATIVE FLOAT ON TURKEY RIVER (Turkey River Rocks!)

Harkrader reported no additional information on the August 11 event.

SILENT AUCTION

Mary Fran Nikolai has made an Afghan to donate to the silent auction to be held at the Clayton County Fair. Margaret Stone will donate a hand-made basket. Larry Stone will donate a photo. The main item of the fund raiser will be the walnut table donated by Harold Krambeer.

NEW BUSINESS

PARADES

Several Foundation members participated in the June 16 parade at Monona. Upcoming parades include: Edgewood, June 23; Guttenberg, June 30; Garnavillo, July 4.

CEDAR TREE DONATION?

Stone reported that Judy Siebrecht of Elgin has offered to donate red cedar trees for possible use as shingles for the Cooperage and the Ice House. The Friends of the Sherman Swift Tower used trees she donated to build the chimney swift tower that the group erected at National.

After considerable discussion, the board decided to decline the offer. Board members felt the quantity of shingles needed and the volunteer time to process the trees into shingles would make the task impractical.

RETAINING WALL

Lenth reported that the retaining wall near the Inn is badly deteriorated. He and Gary Goyette will pursue ways to repair the damage – perhaps as part of a training session.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

Collins submitted the following report:

Clermont – The city is researching grants for a trail project.

Elgin – The city continues work on landscaping in the park.

Elkader – Work continues on Founder's Park. Caterpillar has made about nine benches in the design of the Keystone Bridge. Donors are paying \$400 each for the benches, with Cat donating time and labor. Volunteers are planting hostas. There are plans for a 35-room motel near Johnson's Restaurant. Whitewater course promoters are beginning a fund drive. The city has investigated Vision Iowa and Main Street I-Jobs grants.

Fayette County Conservation – The Turkey River bridge is complete and being used. Nearly 40 groups are working with the Iowa Flood Center on the Turkey River Watershed Authority.

The board also discussed the eventual Clayton County connection to the trail. Engelhardt said supervisors are open to a route from Gilbertson Park to Big Springs Hatchery. More discussions are needed for the route on from the hatchery to Elkader.

Turkey River Rocks – Planning continues for the August 11 event, which includes a float from Elkader to Motor.

Turkey River Safari – At least 29 families have registered for the summer-long event to connect children with Turkey River history and natural history.

FACILITIES

deNeui reported that most of the new Mill window frames have been built, and the goal is to install them July 3.

deNeui stopped in Harmony, Minn., to meet some of the staff of Minnowa Construction, our bridge contractor.

GROUNDS

Engelhardt thanked board members who helped with a June 14 district meeting of Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards (IACCB) at Motor.

Motor Mill will be a featured project in an upcoming IACCB publication for board members.

The Clayton County Conservation Board is working with Pheasants Forever and Whitetails Unlimited to install a new canoe ramp downstream from the existing ramp.

There will be a push in the 2013 Iowa Legislature to raise the sales tax to fund the Iowa Water and Land Legacy constitutional amendment, which passed by more than 63% in 2010.

There will be a free interpretive workshop sponsored by Silos and Smokestacks on August 8 at Fredericksburg.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nikolai has responded to an email from a person who was pointing out some apparent errors in information about John Thompson in a 1985 article in the Guttenberg Press.

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

Nikolai adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry A. Stone, secretary