

Motor Mill Foundation
Minutes
July 17, 2012

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, July 17, 2012. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Other board members present were Jon deNeui, Chuck Morine, Betty Buchholz, Ellen Collins, Les Klink, Lee Lenth, Tom Gifford, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board Director Tim Engelhardt also attended.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections, Nikolai accepted the minutes of the June 19 meeting as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chuck Morine submitted the following report:

Motor Mill Foundation

June 19 - beginning balance	\$4,046.12
Receipts	
Merchandise sales	\$63.50
Donations	\$198.10
Total receipts	\$261.60
Expenses	
Allamakee-Clayton Elec.	\$32.68
Total expenses	\$32.68
June 19, 2012 balance	\$4,046.12
<i>Conservation Reserve Fund</i>	
June 20, 2012 balance forward	\$328,790.38
Deposits	
Iowa Room	\$52.00
Expenses	
VJ Engineering	\$2,375.00
Pro-Build	\$41.15
July 17, 2012 balance	\$326,426.23

CAPITAL FUND

June 20, 2012 balance carried forward \$15,583.87

Deposits:

Community Savings Bank \$250

Griffin \$100

Meyer IMO Horstman \$10

Grau Logs \$150

Swales \$100

Bries IMO Winch \$109

Peoples State Bank \$50

Total deposits \$670

July 17, 2012 balance \$19,758.87

MOTOR BASEMENT

Engelhardt and deNeui met with FEMA and SHPO officials at Motor on July 12 to discuss excavation of the silt from the basement. deNeui's plan to clean out the flume was rejected. But officials did agree to allow removing silt outside and inside the Mill on the upstream wall to allow repair of the masonry.

deNeui proposed renting an extended track hoe for the project. He will discuss the logistics with John Moyna, and with the County Engineer.

FEMA officials want other silt to be removed from the east door on the main floor of the Mill. deNeui is working on a plan to accomplish that with the use of conveyors and/or a hay track to carry a large bucket in and out of the Mill, and to raise and lower the bucket in the basement.

FEMA wants to have an "industrial" archeologist on site when excavation begins, and when digging reaches the lower levels. Photo documentation of the process also will be required. There may be other guidelines in a report being prepared by FEMA.

MOTOR MILL BRIDGE

The timeline remains for work to begin after Labor Day and be complete by December 5.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Nothing new to report.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Engelhardt reported that money has been coming in slowly following the letter campaign and publicity through parades.

MEDIA CAMPAIGN for BRIDGE

Engelhardt has been updating donation information on the Motor Mill and Clayton County Conservation Board websites every two weeks.

LEGISLATIVE FLOAT ON TURKEY RIVER (Turkey River Rocks!)

Stone reported that plans are proceeding for the August 11 event. The main responsibility of MMF volunteers is to be available to give tours from about 3:30 – 7 p.m.

The board discussed the feasibility of running electrical cords from the well house to the campground to provide electricity for the band. It may be an option to have the band at the Cooperage instead.

SILENT AUCTION

Nikolai asked if we would have additional items for the silent auction to be held at the Clayton County Fair. To date, the items include the walnut table donated by Harold Krambeer, an Afghan from Mary Fran Nikolai, a basket from Margaret Stone and a photo from Larry Stone. During a later discussion, the board agreed to add a copy of an 1857 map donated by Lee Lenth. The board agreed to limit the auction to crafts or unique items, rather than general merchandise.

NEW BUSINESS

PARADES

Nikolai asked for volunteers for the Elkader Sweet Corn Days parade on July 21.

AUGUST 15 TOUR

Engelhardt asked for volunteers to give tours at the Mill for a “mystery tour” on August 15.

MAP DONATION FROM LENTH

Lenth donated several laminated copies of an 1857 Clayton County map that he obtained from the Don Sass family. One copy will be sold at the silent auction at the Clayton County Fair. One will go to the Clayton County Conservation Board. Others may be sold or displayed at Motor. Morine move to thank Lenth for the donation. Buchholz seconded. Carried.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

Collins submitted the following report:

Clermont – The city is trying to resolve a conflict with private landscaping on the trail right-of-way. There has been a noticeable increase in bike and boat traffic.

Elgin – The city has received a \$7,000 grant for park landscaping. An additional \$3,000 is needed.

Elkader – Work continues on Founder's Park, the butterfly garden, and soccer fields. Sidewalks are done. Fifteen benches have been ordered from Caterpillar, with donations to pay for them going well. Donations also have been received for the playground and tree planting. More than \$10,450 has been raised from private donors. (Gifford reported that the figure now exceeds \$30,000.)

Fayette County Supervisor – The Turkey River bridge has been completed. The dedication will be at 10 a.m. on August 25, but the trail and bridge already are being heavily used.

Clayton County Conservation – The county did not receive the REAP HRDP grant for work at Motor Mill. FEMA and SHPO officials came on July 12 to discuss silt removal.

Fayette County Conservation – Trail use is increasing. The bridge itself may be a tourist attraction.

FACILITIES

deNeui suggested ordering windows for the Cooperage. Buchholz moved to contact Menno Bortrager to build 15 windows at a cost of about \$800. Collins seconded. Carried.

deNeui also discussed the availability of pine floorboards. He will continue to investigate sources.

GROUNDS

Engelhardt said the five-county enhancement committee is working with the NE Iowa RC&D to develop a survey of the economic benefits of outdoor recreation in the region.

The Conservation Board staff will be working with secondary roads crews next week to begin clearing some overhanging branches on Galaxy Road south of Motor Mill.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nikolai continues to send thank-yous to donors. Nikolai will prepare a work schedule for volunteers to staff our booth at the Clayton County Fair.

EDUCATION

Buchholz found a news article about the Mederville Mill. The article suggested that a stone from that mill might be displayed at Motor, but that apparently never happened.

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

Nikolai adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry A. Stone, secretary