

Motor Mill Foundation  
Minutes  
October 15, 2013

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, October 15, 2013. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other board members present were Lee Lenth, Ellen Collins, Chuck Morine, Betty Buchholz, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

**MINUTES**

Nikolai accepted the minutes of the September meeting, pending the receipt from Harkrader of a final copy with corrections made to the draft.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Chuck Morine submitted the following report:

*Motor Mill Foundation*

Sept. 17 - beginning balance		\$7,912.87
Receipts		
Sept. 23	Glenna Whitford, Moss print	240.75
Sept. 23	donations	141.00
Oct. 3	merchandise sales	15.00
	Donations	106.00
Oct. 15	donations, Heritage Days	627.00
	Stone photo sales	175.00
	Merchandise sales	125.00
	Return of change	40.00
Total receipts		\$1,469.75
Expenses		
Oct. 10	Allam Clayton Elec	\$38.27
Total expenses		\$38.27
Oct. 15, 2013 balance		\$9,344.35

*CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND*

Sept. 18, 2013 (negative) balance	(\$70,426.48)
Deposits – Stone photos, Iowa Room	145.00
Expenses – Pro-Build supplies	48.73
Oct. 15, 2013 (negative) balance	(\$70,330.21)

*CAPITAL FUND*

Sept. 18, 2013 balance carried forward	\$8,258.30
Deposits	
Jean Welsh	400.00
H. Phillip Palmer	100.00
Total deposits	500.00
Oct. 15, 2013 balance forward	\$8,758.30

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Morine moved to re-elect Nikolai and deNeui to 3-year terms to the board of directors. Lenth seconded. Carried unanimously.

Buchholz moved to re-elect the current officers: Nikolai, chair; deNeui, vice-chair; Stone, secretary; Morine treasurer. Lenth seconded. Carried unanimously.

**MOTOR MILL BRIDGE**

The foundation owes \$70,330.21 to the Conservation Board's Conservation Reserve Fund. The foundation has raised \$39,433 for the capital fund.

**MOTOR MILL TRAIL**

Engelhardt urged the board to be patient as he negotiates with Iowa DOT officials and seeks permission to meet with landowners. He is comfortable with the process, although it may seem to be slow. Our two grants totaling about \$1 million are not in jeopardy.

**STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN**

Funds still continue to come in slowly. Nikolai has given the Clayton County Farm Bureau information about the value of tourism. He plans to do a presentation for the group.

## **PROMOTE MOTOR MILL**

We need to continue to look for opportunities to speak at public meetings and to service groups and other events.

## **BOARD MEMBERS & TOUR GUIDES**

The group discussed several possible names of people to contact about being volunteers.

## **BUSINESS PLAN**

Nikolai is continuing to work on the business plan.

## **ART/HISTORY ON WEBSITE**

Stone plans to meet with Alan Johnson to take photos of a number of Motor Mill paintings on display at Central State Bank.

Lenth noted that artist Shawna Hamann has done Motor Mill paintings.

## **MOTOR MILL MEMORIES**

Nikolai asked board members to continue to circulate DVD copies of the June 11 Motor Mill Memories session.

## **INTERPRETIVE PLAN REVIEW**

The board discussed parts of the Interpreting Vision report prepared in 2010 by Tom Woods.

Nikolai mentioned the need to frame and display a copy of the as-built drawings. Also, we should get advice from Dave Metz's interpretation of the as-built drawings to help us decide what to interpret.

Lenth proposed asking Amish friends to do an ice cutting demonstration.

The board discussed whether to interpret the small building as an ice house, a smoke house, or both.

Engelhardt suggested that board members pick topics and prepare interpretive ideas for the next meeting. Nikolai volunteered to do transportation. Morine offered to do grains.

## **HOLIDAY WALK**

Harkrader reviewed plans for the November 14 Holiday Walk at Motor.

The event starts at 6 p.m., with volunteers giving brief presentations at the Stable, the Inn, the Ice House, the Cooperage, and outside the Mill.

After completing the walk, visitors will go inside the mill for refreshments.

A high school chorus will provide music.

Volunteers also will be needed to park cars, meet and greet visitors, serve refreshments, bake cookies or bars, and provide lanterns.

Sandy and Dean Refle will be asked to install lights on the bridge again.

Joe Ihm and Jean Marie Hall will be asked to set up luminaria.

There will be another planning meeting at 1 p.m. Oct. 22 at Osborne.

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

The board discussed the September 23 meeting with the Board of Supervisors, during which the Supervisors objected to what they interpreted as criticism by foundation members who were giving tours at Motor.

Lenth suggested that we need to do a better job of explaining the economic benefits to the county of the tourism generated by Motor Mill.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **GROUNDS**

Engelhardt reported that the Conservation Board has received an offer from a group that would help with silt removal from the basement.

An Eagle Scout candidate has proposed a project to lengthen the trail on the Grau Savanna.

Engelhardt and the staff hope to do a fall woods or prairie burn at Motor.

The Motor Mill and kayaker photo by Jessica Rilling may be used on an electronic billboard in LaCrosse, Wis., promoting the River and Bluffs Scenic Byway.

There will be a Rivers and Bluffs Scenic Byway meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the Central State Bank community room in Elkader. Board members are urged to attend. The MMF meeting scheduled for that date will be cancelled.

Marlys Svendsen reports that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) says the new bridge is such a faithful reconstruction of the 1899 superstructure that it should be considered a contributing resource in the Motor historic district.

### **EDUCATION**

Buchholz has been in touch with an individual whose great grandfather may have worked for John Thompson.

Collins also has talked to a Mill visitor whose great uncle may have been a cooper at Motor.

Buchholz noted that some of the occasional confusion about John Thompson might be because there were at least 17 people named John Thompson in Clayton County between 1850 and 1900.

Collins has found a list of mills that were located in Clayton County.

Stone brought a book, "Old Mills of the Midwest," which was donated to the Motor Mill Foundation by Bernie Runkel, the widow of naturalist Sylvan Runkel.

The board discussed the idea of keeping a reference library of books about Motor and milling. The Conservation Board has a number of such books.

**NEXT MEETING**

There will be no November meeting. Board members are encouraged to attend the Rivers and Bluffs Scenic Byway meeting on November 19, at 6 p.m., at the Central State Bank community room in Elkader.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Buchholz seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry A. Stone, secretary