

Motor Mill Foundation
Minutes
March 18, 2014

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Other board members present were Ellen Collins, Jon deNeui, Chuck Morine, Betty Buchholz, 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 18 meeting as printed and distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

Feb. 18 beginning balance	\$8,915.68
No receipts	
Expenses	
Feb. 24 - SPOOM membership	\$50.00
Mar. 7 - Dietz, Donald & Co., tax prep	\$95.00
Mar. 14 - Allam-Clayton Elec	\$32.10
Total expenses	\$177.10
March 18, 2014 balance	\$8,738.58
CONSERVATION RESERVE	
Feb. 18, 2014 balance carried forward (negative balance)	(\$70,240.21)
Deposits	
James Stolley	\$50.00
March. 18, 2014 balance carried forward (negative balance)	(\$70,190.21)
CAPITAL FUND	
Feb. 18, 2014 balance brought forward	\$10,468.30
Receipts	
Volga Study Group	\$25.00
March 18, 2014 balance	\$10,493.30

INTERN GRANT

The Foundation has been awarded a \$2,100 grant from Silos and Smokestacks to hire an intern to help with interpretation. Our match is \$900. The intern will work 32 hours per week for 12 weeks. Harkrader has selected four applicants to interview for the position. Duties would include developing lesson plans, outdoor displays, and hands-on activities. The intern also will transcribe “memories” stories that have been compiled by volunteers.

INTERPRETIVE PLAN

No new information since the February meeting. Collins submitted a number of ideas for Motor stories that tour guides could share. Some included: the diverse uses of the river; people involved with the site, from Native Americans to early settlers to Mill developers to modern farmers; architecture and construction methods; milling equipment and the milling process.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Engelhardt has sent Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to four archeological firms to bid on completing a phase 1 archeological study of the trail route. Replies are due April 1.

REGIONAL TRAIL COUNT

The NE Iowa regional trails committee plans to count trail users on one weekday and one Saturday during the week of May 10-17. Volunteers are needed to work shifts of from two to four hours. Engelhardt will be contacting board members to help.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

“If you like what we’re doing, help us do more” is the new slogan for the parade float and other occasions.

Nikolai is reviewing the list of potential donors to determine how many have been contacted and how many have donated. He will prepare an updated list to remind board members to continue soliciting for funds.

Collins said she’s had good success getting donations when she writes personal letters to people who visit the George Meier Museum.

deNeui suggested that we attempt to persuade donors to ask their employers about matching contributions.

SPEAKING TO PROMOTE MOTOR MILL

Stone spoke to about 25 people at the Murphy Library “bookworms” in Monona on March 4.

Nikolai’s talk for the Volga Study Club on March 4 was influenced by bad weather. Only 10 people attended, but he received a check for \$25.

Nikolai and Engelhardt will speak to the Clayton County Farm Bureau on April 3.

BOARD MEMBERS

Stone agreed to contact Floyd Sanford, who works in Cedar Rapids but has a home near Garber, to see if he'd be willing to help as a volunteer.

BUSINESS PLAN

Engelhardt is continuing to work on a revised business plan.

PARADES

The board discussed ideas to generate more interest at parades. Suggestions included dressing our volunteers in costumes and having a cooper demonstration on the float.

OPEN DATES

Harkrader proposed the following dates for the Mill to be open for tours in 2014:

May 24, 25, 26 (Memorial Day weekend)

May 31, June 1 (Civil War encampment)

June 7, 8

June 21, 22

July 4, 5, 6 (Independence Day weekend)

July 19, 20

August 16, 17

August 30, 31, Sept. 1 (Labor Day weekend)

Sept. 13, 14

Sept. 27, 28

Volunteers also have given group tours by appointment. Nikolai has contacted area banks to suggest that Motor be on the list for bus tours they sponsor. Kay Moser, manager of the Elkader Opera House, also has included Motor in mailings she's made to solicit groups to visit Elkader.

ANNUAL EVENT/FUND-RAISER

The Board briefly discussed fund raising events, including a dinner on the bridge or a gala similar to the 2013 bridge grand opening.

OPEN ITEMS

deNeui has compiled a list of milling reference publications, most of which are suggestions from Dave Metz of Pine Creek Mill. Engelhardt said there would be a place for a bookcase in the Osborne conference room. Buchholz said Roger Buchholz would be willing to build a bookcase.

Dave Metz from Pine Creek Mill has said he could use "as-built" drawings prepared by Tom Gardner to make drawings showing what equipment originally may have been used at Motor.

The Silos and Smokestacks Golden Silo awards banquet is Wednesday, April 2, in Waterloo. As previous award winners, we should send representatives. Reservation deadline is March 26.

Lee Lenth has been in contact with owners of Dell's Mill, in central Wisconsin, who would be willing to give us a tour.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

The Turkey River Safari will again include a stop at Motor.

TRRC will participate in the NE Iowa regional trail count.

The Tri-P (Paddle, Pedal, Putt) fund raiser is June 20 at Elgin.

FACILITIES

Engelhardt reported on a safety inspection he conducted at the Mill with Eli Garms. They noted appropriate use of traffic barricades.

Concerns included: holes in the floor; uneven flooring; lack of stair railings; need for guards inside first floor windows. deNeui said many of the issues have been addressed, or will be repaired soon.

Collins noted the difficulty of operating shutters and windows to open the Mill for tours. The board agreed that the situation should be addressed as soon as possible this spring.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nikolai is up to date with thank-yous to donors.

EDUCATION

Buchholz located documents at the Dubuque Public Library suggesting that Davis and Thompson may have owned a lead mine near Dubuque in the 1850s.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Larry A. Stone, secretary