

## MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes (revised)

July 15, 2014

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, July 15. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 7 p.m. Other board members present were Jon deNeui, Chuck Morine, Lee Lenth, Ellen Collins, Les Klink, and Tom Gifford. Larry Stone arrived about 7:15. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt, naturalist Abbey Harkrader, and intern Traci Ott also attended.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the June 17 meeting were accepted as printed.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

June 17 beginning balance	\$8,170.33
Receipts	
July 2 – donations	\$226.00
Merchandise sales	\$115.00
July 7 – donations	\$445.00
July 14 – donations	\$20.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$806.00
Expenses	
July 3 – Clayton Co. Development – sign	\$267.50
July 7 – Esser's Menswear – t-shirts	\$111.28
July 14 – Allam-Clayton Elec.	\$35.26
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$414.04
July 15, 2014 balance	\$8,562.29

## CONSERVATION RESERVE

June 17 - balance brought forward (negative)	(\$70,136.96)
Deposits	
Iowa Room – 4 t-shirts, cut-out	\$65
Expenses	
Grau Logs & Lumber – 24 2x4x10	\$160
June 17, 2014 balance carried forward (negative)	(\$70,231.96)

## CAPITAL FUND

June 17, 2014 balance brought forward	\$11,183.30
Receipts	
Iowa Room – Stone photo	\$65
Mary Kahrs bequest	\$7,500.00
July 15, 2014 balance carried forward	\$18,748.30

Collins also announced a \$1,000 donation from Joan Barton for the bridge fund.

## INTERN REPORT

Ott distributed copies of the interpretive plan she is developing. She has met with Angi Reid, former naturalist for the Conservation Board, who offered input on the plan.

deNeui suggested adding information about the plans for a woolen mill at Motor, which is the apparent reason for the smooth wall on the upstream side of the mill. He also said we need better documentation of the sawmill and dam that preceded the gristmill at the site.

Ott also is working on a lesson plan for teachers to use in conjunction with the study of Motor Mill history; a proposed interpretive sign for the Grau Savanna; and a prairie mural for the Osborne Visitor Center.

## **MOTOR MILL TRAIL**

Nikolai and Sandy Refle met with Bud and Myra Voss about the feasibility of a multi-use trail through their property on the south side of the river. The Vosses raised concerns about the rugged topography and other issues. The concept is still under consideration.

Nikolai suggested that a trail north of Grain Road connecting to Hawk Avenue may be the most feasible, but the route beyond Hawk is problematic.

Engelhardt has sent the Iowa DOT a revised trail concept following Grandview Avenue, and has followed up with additional information requested by DOT.

## **REGIONAL TRAIL COUNT**

Engelhardt was unable to find enough volunteers to do a trails count on July 19, but the count will be conducted on July 17.

## **STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The board noted the significance of recent donations from the Mary Kahrs estate and from Joan Barton.

Collins moved to transfer the entire balance of \$19,748.30 in the Motor Mill Capital Fund to the Clayton County Conservation Board. Morine seconded. Carried.

## **PROMOTING MOTOR**

Nikolai hopes to arrange to give a program at the Driftless Area Wetland Centre near Marquette.

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Nikolai has asked Jim Klosterboer of Elkader to consider becoming a board member.

## **PARADES**

Nikolai questioned whether our participation in parades continues to be worthwhile. Engelhardt noted that some people visit Motor because they've seen a float in a parade. deNeui suggested it would be helpful at parades to announce that the Mill is open for tours.

## **BUSINESS PLAN**

Nikolai and Engelhardt reported no additional progress on the business plan.

## **ANNUAL EVENT/FUND RAISER**

Abbey will contact Faith Blaskovitch about an ice cream making machine.

The subcommittee to plan the September 13 event will be Nikolai, Lenth, Collins, Engelhardt, and Harkrader.

## **INTERPRETIVE SIGNS**

Nikolai reported that Signs-N-Frames has made the schematic drawings by Dave Metz into vinyl interpretive signs for display at the Mill. The cost was \$283. Stone moved to authorize the treasurer to pay the bill. Gifford seconded. Carried.

## **CONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION**

deNeui presented a list of items for restoration, repair, and/or development at Motor Mill. The board needs to develop a protocol to prioritize and plan the work. He asked board members to review the list for discussion at the next meeting.

Nikolai noted the need to complete the bridge donor recognition “millstone” board as soon as possible.

## **OPEN ITEMS**

deNeui has a bookcase he will donate to the foundation.

Nikolai and Collins are continuing discussions with the Garnavillo Historical Society to enable Motor Mill researchers to examine materials at the Museum.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

TRRC – There was no TRRC meeting in June.

Facilities – deNeui presented the construction protocol report.

Grounds – Engelhardt said the Conservation Board has a display case that could be used at Motor to display tools or other historical items.

Engelhardt and Ott have submitted a pre-application for an Upper Mississippi Gaming grant to help pay for schematic drawings of the mill and a working model of the millstones.

Alane Swales of Strawberry Point has donated a concrete bench in memory of her mother, Donna Wessel. The bench will be placed along the savanna trail

Communications – Stone wrote a brief article about the revised Motor Mill Historic District, which was completed by Marlys Svendsen. The story appeared in several local newspapers.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 19, at the Osborne Conservation Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Assisted by Ellen Collins