

## MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

### Minutes

March 15, 2016

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 7:00 p.m. Other board members present were Chuck Morine, Les Klink, Larry Stone, Lee Lenth, Ivan Hardt, Ken Zichal, and Jon deNeui. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Bob Bente was a guest.

### **AGENDA**

deNeui moved to approve the agenda as printed. Lenth seconded. Carried.

### **MINUTES**

Stone moved to approve the minutes of the February 16 meeting as distributed. Lenth seconded. Carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

Feb. 16 beginning balance	\$8,675.51
<i>Expenses</i>	
March 14 - Allam-Clayton Elec	\$32.10
March 15 balance	\$8,643.41
<b>CONSERVATION RESERVE</b>	
Feb. 17, 2016 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$45,673.69)
March 15, 2016 balance carried forward	(\$45,673.69)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **GRANT SUBMISSIONS**

Nikolai's pre-application for the Upper Mississippi Gaming Commission grant was accepted. The request is for \$12,750 to help pay for \$17,000 in repairs to the roofs of the Cooperage and the Ice House.

The grant application to the Clayton County Foundation for the Future to help pay for a summer intern was denied, on the basis that an "intern" should receive college credit, rather than a cash payment.

Nikolai also completed a grant application to Dubuque Racing and Gaming for \$12,750 to help pay for roof replacement on the Cooperage and the Ice House.

### **BRICKS – STRAWBERRY POINT**

The contractor demolishing the old co-op building in Strawberry Point has offered to bring a load of old bricks to deNeui's farm for use by the Motor Mill Foundation.

### **WORTH COUNTY VISITORS**

On March 3, Dan Block, naturalist for the Worth County Conservation Board, brought six senior citizens to Motor Mill as part of a northeast Iowa tour. Nikolai, Morine, Lenth, and Stone gave the group a brief tour. Several of the visitors expressed interest in returning to spend more time at the site.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **IOWAN AD**

Pollock, Nikolai, and Stone developed a Motor Mill 2016 tour schedule ad for The Iowan magazine. (The deadline was early March, before possible discussion at a MMF meeting.) It will be a one-third-page ad in the May-June, July-August, and September-October issues. The magazine's circulation is about 77,000. The total cost, with a Silos and Smokestacks discount, is \$535 per issue, or \$1,605 total. Pollock said it's likely that cost can be split with the Conservation Board.

## TOUR DATES FLYER

Harkrader distributed copies of a flyer advertising the dates Motor Mill will be open for tours in 2016. She urged board members to be ready to sign up to work on specific dates at the April 19 meeting. Harkrader passed out background information on Motor tours and history.

Nikolai has talked with Madonna Hosch, Kent Werges, and Terry Cole and Mary Jane Keppler-Cole about helping with tours. He urged other board members to continue soliciting for other volunteers. If necessary, a volunteer could help by staffing a table to get people to register and make donations.

Lenth said that Dave Bahls of Elkader has indicated an interest.

## TELEPHONE AT THE MILL

Lenth emphasized the need to have a telephone at Motor Mill, especially in case of emergencies. The group discussed the difficulties of getting a line into the Mill through the limestone wall, and whether it would be feasible to connect with old phone lines that still may be present at Motor. If we decide to install a line through the Mill wall, an electrical line should be installed at the same time.

Lenth moved to ask Nikolai to meet with Alpine Communications about a “Smart Farm Solutions” package they offer, or other phone options. Hardt seconded. Carried.

## RENEW IOWA MUSEUM ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Nikolai said we initially joined the Iowa Museum Association to facilitate working with Upper Iowa University on historical research. Since that opportunity has passed, he suggested dropping the \$75 annual membership. deNeui moved to approve renewal. Hardt seconded. After considerable discussion, the renewal motion was defeated unanimously.

## ADS ON AREA WEBSITES

Nikolai said Motor Mill should be listed on as many local and regional tourism and local attraction websites as possible. He volunteered to check websites to be sure Motor is mentioned.

## UPDATES

### *RESTORATION*

**Flooring** - After further investigation, deNeui has found a Louisiana supplier for 16-foot, 1x6 southern yellow pines boards to use for flooring. The cost for one unit of 265 boards is \$865 delivered to Clayton County. The boards would be milled into tongue-and-groove flooring at an Amish mill near Cresco for \$2,048. The only additional cost would be transportation to and from Cresco – either by ProBuild or the Conservation Board.

Hardt moved to proceed with the purchase of the boards. Zichal seconded. Carried.

**Mill foundation** – deNeui noted the high priority of excavating and covering the passageway between the Mill foundation and the road as soon as weather permits.

**Mill roof repairs** – deNeui said we need to proceed with replacing shingles on the roof of the Mill, and to have the contractor install anchors on the roof to make future access easier and safer.

**Cooperage and Ice House** – Discussions are continuing with Gary Goyette on how to replace the Cooperage and Ice House roofs.

**Historic dam abutment** – Lenth said the rock dam abutment exposed by the 2008 flood could be a focus of interpretive tours. The board discussed the potential of excavating the wall and any remaining parts of the old dam, with careful documentation. Until that is done, it may be possible to clear some vegetation to make the abutment more visible to the public.

#### *EDUCATION*

Betty Buchholz has given Morine a newspaper clipping from the late Pat Matt, which shows a photo of a Motor Mill painting that supposedly hung in the Iowa Governor's mansion in Des Moines. Zichal volunteered to research the current location of the painting.

Another clipping from Pat Matt told of an April 1876 flood that carried away the sawmill and flume of the flour mill at Motor, doing about \$2,500 worth of damage.

**TRRC** – Pollock said TRRC board will review vision plans for Motor and other corridor entities.

**NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m., at the Osborne Conservation Center.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Morine moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. deNeui seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary