

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
2011  
MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION OF  
CLAYTON COUNTY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<b>JOHN NIKOLAI -</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>
<b>JON DENEUI -</b>	<b>VICE CHAIR</b>
<b>LARRY STONE -</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>
<b>CHUCK MORINE-</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>
<b>LES KLINK</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>
<b>JEANETTE MULLER</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>
<b>TOM GIFFORD</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>
<b>LEE LENTH</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>
<b>BETTY BUCHHOLZ</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>
<b>ELLEN COLLINS</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*Motor Mill Foundation strives to protect and preserve the architectural integrity, history, natural beauty, and serenity of the Motor Mill site and its surroundings, and to develop appropriate uses and interpretations as a regional treasure for the benefit of current and future generations*

## **FOUNDATION BUSINESS**

### **Elections**

During the November regular meeting, Tom Gifford, Betty Buchholz and Les Klink were reappointed to the board. At the same time, the current board officers were reelected: president, John Nikolai; vice-president, Jon deNeui; secretary, Larry Stone; and treasurer Chuck Morine.

### **Volunteer Hours**

Volunteer hours are annually tracked to record number of volunteers and number of hours worked each year. This information can be used to help show the local support for grants. It also reflects the amount of time a dedicated group of individuals spend to help off set labor costs for the restoration efforts being made at the site. In 2011, 21 volunteers donated 1,628 hours working at the mill or conducting Motor Mill business throughout the year.

### **Security System**

Nikolai met with a representative of Alpine Communications regarding a security system in the mill. They estimated the cost would be \$1,500 for a unit that could not be guaranteed to work in cold weather. The Foundation did not accept the bid and are not taking action at this time.

### **CPR/First Aid Training**

The board agreed that members should receive first aid training. Training is offered in conjunction with the County Conservation Board annually in June.

### **Iowa Museum Association**

Nikolai contacted the Iowa Museum Association and the Garnavillo Historical Society about getting UNI students to do a service project of going through papers at the Garnavillo Museum. Nikolai will continue the discussions.

### **Turkey River Recreational Corridor/Iowa Great Places**

The Turkey River Recreational Corridor (TRRC) is a 28 E agreement between the Cities of Clermont, Elgin, Elkader and Motor Mill along with Fayette and Clayton Counties. The effort is to develop Land and Water Trails along the Turkey River connecting the four cities and the two counties.

Ellen Collins is the Motor Mill Foundation representative on the Turkey River Recreational Corridor. Collins updates each board of progress on projects and represents the views of the Motor Mill Foundation.

Mackenzie Johnson resigned as TRRC coordinator and Robin Bostrom was hired as the new coordinator for the TRRC. The funding for this position is paid for through a grant program. The TRRC website is located at [www.turkeyrivercorridor.com](http://www.turkeyrivercorridor.com).

The TRRC brought in Brian Leaders, NPS Trails Coordinator for the Midwest to present on community benefits of trails to the Fayette County Board of supervisors, the TRRC and the Elkader City Council. The Fayette County Trails committee has been able to use Mr. Leaders for help with trail planning.

The Turkey River Water Trail was completed in 2011. The Water Trail project includes way-finding signs, kiosks, water trail maps and water access signs at each access point. The signs and maps were in place by Memorial Day of 2011.

The TRRC was involved in Project AWARE held July 9-16. The organization also helped plan and coordinate the dedication for the Turkey River Water Trail. The event was held at Gilbertson Park near Elgin on July 13, in conjunction with the Project AWARE river cleanup. There were representatives from the Clayton and Fayette County Boards of Supervisors and Conservation Boards. State Representative Roger Thomas also spoke.

The TRRC was successful in securing an Iowa Great Places Grant for \$100,000. The funds will be split between Fayette County for the Valley Bridge, the City of Elkader for trail work and with Motor Mill for the engineering on the bridge. TRRC also received a UMGC grant for \$20,000 for the Motor Mill Bridge. Collins attended the ceremony to receive the grant.

Additional funding sources have been discussed including: Mediacom ad sales, food sales at sporting events, soliciting from community organizations, trail user fee, cosponsoring events with Clayton and Fayette County tourism departments, and private donations.

The land trail section between Clermont and Elgin was completed in 2011. The trail paving took place over the summer and saw usage even before it was completed. The bridge crossing the Turkey River at the Valley School came in higher than expected in April of 2011. The bridge was redesigned and rebid. The second set of bids came in favorable and construction will begin in 2012.

Clermont is working through trail plans within the city. Private funds have been raised through Brick City Days held on October 1. Funds came from a food stand and the Turkey River race for a total of over \$3,500. The City will apply for a Fayette County Community Foundation grant for some of the funding as well.

During 2011, the City of Elgin completed and dedicated on October 1 the Clock Tower and Water Fountain project located in the downtown area. A series of murals are being painted on some of downtown businesses surrounding the park. The bandstand located in the park is being renovated as well. Elgin is also working on a trail plan and will apply for grant funding from the Fayette County Community Foundation.

The Elkader City Council has approved a \$3.25-million riverfront development plan. It includes soccer fields, trails, gardens, a shelter, a retention pond, a seating area, a music area, a whitewater course, and a visitor center. The city applied for a REAP grant to help pay for the project but was unsuccessful. At the close of 2011, the last of the remaining homes were removed from the flooded area in Elkader.

## **PLANNING**

### **Long Range Visioning Plan**

The board reviewed and updated the visioning plan in February of 2011.

The board discussed the need for traffic control when the bridge is completed. deNeui suggested that MMF and the board of supervisors should negotiate a road closure during special events. Assuming that most visitors would come from the south, all traffic would be required to turn right as they leave the north end of the bridge, and thus avoid congestion near the Mill. A provision would have to be made for through traffic to turn around and safely proceed west past the Mill.

The board also noted the need for the county to carefully consider road improvements from the south to strike a balance between traffic needs and the desire to preserve the esthetics of this scenic approach to Motor Mill.

## **FACILITIES**

### **Windows and Flooring Project**

There are a few windows which need to be completed yet in the mill. The entire frame needs to be rebuilt and other projects moved ahead of finishing the windows this year. The very top floor needs to be finished yet, and the first floor will be completed after all of the work in the basement is completed.

### **Bridge**

In January of 2011, the Clayton County Conservation Board hired V. J. Engineering of Coralville to prepare the bridge design.

Engelhardt has met with FEMA officials, who have agreed that they will pay up to \$42,000 in bridge engineering costs. Engelhardt will be submitting a letter to FEMA to clarify that their payments are for an "improved" project, rather than restoration. The FEMA grant of \$432,427 is for masonry work on the pier, one bridge span, and raising the structure four feet.

In early 2011, based on our estimates, the bridge should have a cost of about \$689,675. After the FEMA grant, we will need to raise about \$257,000.

deNeui continued to work through several issues with the bridge and made a number of contacts from throughout the United States on historic bridge restoration. He used those ideas and passed them onto VJ Engineering throughout the year.

On April 6 a meeting was held with V. J. Engineering, the board of supervisors, and County Engineer Rafe Koopman. Representatives of FEMA and the State Historical Society participated by phone. Koopman is strongly opposed to the pin-connected Pratt truss historic bridge design because of safety concerns. V. J. Engineering is confident that they will come up with a satisfactory design.

In August, Engelhardt received preliminary plans from V. J. Engineering. Their preliminary cost estimate is \$1,396,380. The plans call for a bridge that looks like the 1895 steel bridge, but it will not

be a pin-connected Pratt Truss structure. They have worked out several issues to help the project meet safety, cost, and other concerns.

Engelhardt, deNeui, and County Engineer Rafe Koopman met with V. J. Engineering on Oct. 19 to discuss preliminary design. Koopman approved the preliminary design concept, so V.J. is now moving toward final design.

During the fall of 2011 several grants were received for the Motor Mill Bridge project. A \$20,000 grant was received from Upper Mississippi Gaming, a \$462,869.75 grant was received by REAP and a \$33,000 grant was received by Iowa Great Places.

VJ Engineering has arranged for subcontractors to do borings to check the condition of the center pier. The reports were completed by the end of 2011. Work on the center pier should be done during the winter months of 2012 while there is still low water flow.

VJ's revised schedule is to be ready to meet with stakeholders in February, to present the final plans in March, to receive bids in April, and to have a contractor hired in May. The expected completion date would be September 2012.

### **Motor Mill Trail**

In early 2011, the Motor Mill Trail project was awarded a Statewide Enhancement Grant for a 4.1-mile lime surface trail between Motor and the Pony Hollow Trail. The grant was for \$605,576. The process includes a preliminary design, environmental reviews and clearances, final design, approval of design and then construction bid.

Request for Proposals were sent out for an engineering consultant firm. Three bids were received and the review committee hired Tekippe Engineering of West Union. By the close of 2011, Tekippe was able to begin some survey work on some of the properties.

A second grant was applied for and received through the Statewide Recreational Trails Grant for \$250,000. Total budget for the trail as of now is \$880,576.

However, due to some timing issues, Engelhardt was not able to be in contact with all landowners. As we close out 2011, there is some resistance to the trail at this time.

Additional trail concerns were brought up by the Clayton County Farm Bureau and long term costs of trail maintenance. As response to the long term costs, the Pony Hollow Trail costs roughly \$2,900 a year.

### **Mill Basement**

Volunteers cut posts to replace the posts for the millstone floor, as well as cutting beams and floor joists. Volunteers worked mostly on Tuesday and Thursday throughout most of the summer to replace the required posts. All of this was done by hand. By early fall all but two timbers were installed under the millstone floor in the basement. The remaining supports will go in after the silt is removed.

Development of a plan to remove the silt from the mill basement continues. During the summer, volunteers dug in the basement to determine the depth of silt. It appears to be about 15 feet from the basement floor to the top of the stone arches. We had hoped to have used a skid-loader and a conveyor to remove the silt through the arches on the upstream side. When this was presented to FEMA they rejected the proposal because they believed there was still equipment in the basement.

FEMA would like to see the silt removed by bucket and shovel, rather than a skid loader. They based this on the Project Worksheet that was only for three feet of removal. They also felt there was equipment in the basement based on a 1960's paper written by an Iowa State student.

deNeui conducted a cost estimate of hiring a crew and figuring wages, equipment and time to be \$60,000 to \$70,000 for the silt removal. FEMA suggested that if the MMF could prove there was no equipment and if we wanted to remove all of the silt, we will have to apply for an Improved Project. They would be willing to work with us.

At the close of 2011, Archeologists from Wapsi Valley Archeology, while conducting the survey for the residential house, was given a tour of the silt removal project. Through their help it has been suggested we apply for a REAP HRDP grant in the spring of 2012 and combine the roof projects with the silt removal project.

Planks have been placed over the arches to prevent large amounts of silt from entering the basement and to reduce the amount of wind coming into the mill. The planks were provided by secondary roads.

### **Cooperage and Icehouse Roofs**

The upper floor of the Cooperage was examined and major problems were discovered with the leaking roof. Gary Goyette of Guttenberg has submitted a proposal to replace the roof with wood shingles for \$7,500. The two chimneys should be repaired or replaced at the same time. Menno Borntreger submitted a bid of \$700 to build 13 sets of windows and two single sashes for the Cooperage.

Additional cost estimates for the other roofs and chimney work, and for basement silt removal will be compiled over the winter months of 2012 to be ready to apply for a 2012 REAP HRDP grant for the silt removal, Cooperage, Ice House, and Stable roofs, and the Cooperage chimneys and windows.

Roofs of the icehouse and cooperage have been covered with plastic until permanent repairs can be made to preserve the structure.

### **Donations**

The Whistlin' Bit Saddle Club donated \$100 in appreciation for their use of the Motor grounds and trail for their trail ride in October.

Ruth Olson donated six of Ed Olson's wooden cutouts of Motor, along with the original art used to make them. A legal agreement to assure that the Motor Mill Foundation will have the right to reproduce and sell more of the cutouts was produced by John Gnagy

Lee Lenth has donated a millstone hammer to the Foundation.

Nikolai received an offer of an antique wheeled scoop to display at Motor Mill. This prompted a discussion of guidelines for accepting such donations.

Buchholz gave the example of the Carter House Museum, which now asks donors to sign a release allowing the museum to sell items that are not needed or are inappropriate for exhibit. The Board will review the Carter House document and consider such a policy.

Chuck Siebrecht of Garnavillo has offered to donate some pine logs and to have them cut into lumber to our specifications.

## **GROUNDS**

### **Robert Grau Memorial Savanna**

The savanna was not burned in 2011. The CCCB plans to burn the savanna in the spring of 2012. On the south side, the 19 acre prairie was burned and staff attempted to conduct a timber burn, however weather conditions did not cooperate.

Additional projects included a community service worker cutting stumps on the savanna; this completed that project. A volunteer day to pull garlic mustard was May 28. Staff members were the only ones present and pulled several bags.

Engelhardt toured the Grau savannah restoration with DNR biologist John Pearson and foresters Gretchen Cline and Bruce Blair. Pearson praised the site, and concluded that the project to restore an “oak opening” habitat had been a success. He recommended continued work to open up the west hillside.

### **White House**

In August, the CCCB was finally given approval by FEMA to move forward with the demolition of the white residential house at Motor Mill which was damaged in the 2008 flood. A number of stipulations must be met before and during the process. Requirements include: an asbestos survey and abatement plan; archeological studies; historical research; and documentation of the process.

Through the historical research and the archeological studies some new information and theories have emerged which is cause for continued research. These reports came in December and will be further outlined in the 2012 annual report.

The actual demolition of the house occurred on December 12 and 13. The structure was removed from the site, documented and the four corners of the basement stone walls were marked with t-posts. In the spring, pins will replace the posts, the area will be seeded and mowed.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Website**

The Motor Mill Website located at [motormill.org](http://motormill.org) has been kept up by Volunteer Webmaster Joleen Jansen. In late 2011, the website started to go through an updating process and will be ready in 2012.

This is a great way to keep information in front of interested visitors. Website statistics for **2011** are 1,734 unique visitors, **2010** - 1,449 unique visitors **2009** -1,568 unique visitors. **2008**-1,658 unique visitors, **2007**-1,202 unique visitors **2006**-507 unique visitors

Motor Mill also has a presence on [www.VisitIowa.org](http://www.VisitIowa.org) and the Clayton County Conservation Board website.

### **Newsletter**

The Motor Mill Newsletter *Milling Around* was sent out two times during 2011. There are 154 newsletters sent by mail and 182 sent by e-mail for a total of 336. The newsletter is also posted on the Motor Mill Website and on [www.claytoncountyconservation.org](http://www.claytoncountyconservation.org).

### **Parades and Booths**

Members of the Motor Mill Foundation were involved in parades and booths at Guttenberg July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Garnavillo July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade, Elkader Sweet Corn Days, McGregor, Clayton County Fair, Plagman Barn and Heritage Days. The MMF featured a float with a “half a bridge”. The events gave members a good opportunity to discuss the bridge project at Motor Mill and promote up coming open weekends to the public.

The board agreed that the display at Heritage Days at Osborne Oct. 8-9 was a success, with quite a few interested visitors. The board also discussed ways that we might be able to have the Motor Mill site open for tours into the October leaf tour season. More volunteers and/or staff would be needed. Muller suggested applying for grants to pay for staffing. deNeui wondered if colleges might send interns to work as guides.

## **EDUCATION**

### **History in Your Hands Workshop**

Harkrader, Lenth, Buchholz and Collins attended a Silos and Smokestacks “History in Your Hands” workshop at Wickiup Hill, in Linn County, on August 4.

### **Historical Research**

Muller has been doing Motor research at the Clayton County Courthouse and at the Carter House.

Buchholz and Collins met with the Dubuque County Historical Society on January 28 to search their records for information about John Thompson.

Roger Buchholz has offered to build display boards for use at Motor Mill.

Buchholz found a story in the April 19, 1876 Clayton County Journal about a flood that did \$2,000 in damage to the sawmill and the flour mill flume at Motor Mill.

Buchholz found an old photo of a railroad bridge across the Turkey River just below Elkader. The bridge was destroyed in 1876, but pillars still are visible at low water.

Buchholz and Collins visited the Monona Museum, but found little information pertaining to Motor.

### **Historical Interviews**

Collins interviewed several people, including Jody Bown, owner of The Buttery. Bown suggested several other contacts.

Collins hopes to interview Les Klink. Don Mueller, a Communia historian, also may have Motor information. Nikolai suggested that Collins also contact Bob Bente of Garnavillo.

### **Tours**

The Mill was open for tours two weekends a month May through September representing 10 open weekends and for four special tours for a total of 26 open days. There were 683 registered visitors to the mill this year representing visitors from 19 states and one foreign country. Open times changed this year, hours are Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 to 5:00 PM both days.

Special programs included a teacher's workshop with Effigy Mounds and Silos and Smokestacks, Postville High school, Project Aware, and a Garlic Mustard Volunteer Day.

### **Civil War Living History Camp**

Harkrader said that Shane Christen wants to hold the Civil War encampment May 21-22, which is not a scheduled weekend for the Mill to be open. The board briefly discussed whether we should try to provide tour guides for the event.

Nikolai has received information from Ivan Hardt about the Clayton County Third Infantry and the Battle of Atlanta in the Civil War.

Nikolai suggested that we should have a copy of the Iowa Volunteer Company Roster with Enlistments, prepared by Shane and David Christen, available for people to see at the May 21-22 Civil War Camp. He also asked about including a copy of Ivan Hardt's history of the Battle of Atlanta. Nikolai recommended that the documents could be emailed to people who requested them. Harkrader agreed to make those arrangements.

### **Project Aware**

Project AWARE held a river cleanup in Fayette and Clayton Counties July 9-16. MMF volunteers hosted tours of the Motor Mill Historic Site on Thursday, July 14 when the AWARE group camped at Motor.

Big Blue Sky performed at the Opera House on Wednesday July 13 at 7:30. The event was a free will donation with proceeds going to Clayton County CAN.

Harkrader, Engelhardt, Stone, and Lenth praised the organizers of Project AWARE for a very successful river cleanup. More than 400 people participated in the 7-day, 90-mile project. The group averaged 150 people per day on the river. They collected more than 30 tons of trash including more than 600 tires.

Many AWARE participants took tours of the Motor Mill historic site when they camped there on July 14. Several gave donations to the foundation.

### **Events at Motor**

The board discussed the idea of hosting additional events at the Motor Mill historic site. The Civil War Encampment probably will continue, although attendance has not been particularly good.

Harkrader discussed a canoe/kayak clinic with Darrin Siefken of Crawdaddy Outdoors, in Waverly. He agreed to offer a clinic for \$30 per person, with a minimum of seven people. The board tentatively scheduled the event for Saturday, June 9, 2012.

The Iowa Rivers Revival was also discussed. Motor Mill could be the host for the summer 2012 event for state legislators to acquaint them with Motor Mill and the Turkey River. We could partner with the Turkey River Recreational Corridor, the Clayton County Conservation Awareness Network, Iowa Rivers Revival, and others.

### **FINANCE**

#### **Donor Recognition**

Lee and Verna Lenth made and painted three wooden “millstones” that were developed into donor recognition plaques that will be placed in the mill in the spring of 2012. Two of the plaques were used now and the third one will be used for future projects. The board developed guidelines that donors who give a minimum of \$200 to the roof fund, the window fund or the Stories in Stone campaign fund would have their names displayed on the plaque.

One plaque reads, Donor Recognition, Motor Mill, Cooperage & Inn Roofs & Chimneys. The second plaque reads Donor Recognition, Motor Mill and Cooperage Windows. We have 9 \$200 donations for the windows in the cooperage. There are 12 large windows and three small windows needed for the cooperage.

The two donor boards were completed and were displayed Oct. 8-9 at Heritage Days.

#### **Stories in Stone Capital Fund Campaign**

The “Stories in Stone” Capital Fund Campaign was kicked off in the fall of 2011. The purpose of the campaign is to raise remaining funds needed for the construction of the Motor Mill Bridge and restoration projects for the buildings as part of the Iowa Great Places Projects.

MMF members reviewed lists of potential donors and prepared a master list of likely donors. The campaign developed an informational brochure and information packet. Letters were mailed out and potential donors were contacted by phone to set a one on one meeting time. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has agreed to process any donations of stock that the MMF might receive during the campaign.

To help to create awareness of the campaign, the Sept. 21 edition of the Clayton County Register carried an article by Stone about the kick-off of the Foundation’s fund drive. It is hoped the article can appear in other papers, too. Buchholz developed table tents she had made to distribute to businesses to help publicize the capital campaign.

The campaign will continue on into 2012.

## **Grants Written for 2011**

**FEMA Project Work Sheets-** The bridge was \$432,427 in 2010. Since that time we have applied for and received this as an Improved Project which will allow the entire bridge to be completed.

**Statewide Enhancement Grant-**

Was awarded \$605,576 in January of 2011 for the trail connecting Pony Hollow Trail to Motor Mill.

**REAP-** Was awarded \$462,869.75 in September 2011, for work on the Motor Mill Bridge.

**Upper Mississippi Gaming Corp-** Was awarded \$20,000 in October 2011 for work on the Motor Mill Bridge

**Iowa Great Places-** Was awarded \$33,000 in November 2011, for work on the Motor Mill Bridge.

**State Recreational Trails Grant-** Was awarded \$250,000 for the trail connecting Pony Hollow Trail to Motor Mill.

**Kodak- American Greenways Grant-** Applied for \$2,500 for the Motor Mill Trail. Grant was not funded.