

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
2012  
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>

# Table of Contents

Mission Statement	3
Foundation Business	3
Planning	4
Facilities	5
Grounds	7
Communications	7
Education	8
Finance	9

## **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**

Dietz Donald & Co. was hired to prepare the MMF tax return for 2011, and to authorize the treasurer to pay our \$251 insurance premium renewal.

### **Elections**

Stone, Collins, Lenth, Morine, and Muller were reelected to the board for three-year terms. The current officers were reelected Nikolai, chair; deNeui, vice-chair; Stone, secretary; Morine, treasurer.

Nikolai asked board members to look for opportunities to give programs about Motor Mill for civic groups and other organizations. He also urged the board to try to recruit more volunteers, Friends of Motor Mill, tour guides, construction volunteers and board members.

### **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 2012, 21 volunteers donated 1,217 hours working at the mill or conducting Motor Mill business throughout the year.

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

Engelhardt invited Motor Mill Foundation board members to a first aid, CPR, and blood-borne pathogens safety training at Osborne at 9 a.m. on June 8.

### **Iowa Museum Association**

The Motor Mill Foundation renewed their Iowa Museum Association membership for \$75.

### **Silos & Smokestacks**

Collins attended a Silos and Smokestacks meeting where it was announced that partners will be required to renew a memo of understanding to reaffirm the partnership with the NE Iowa agricultural history group. The Foundation approved the memorandum of understanding between Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area and the Motor Mill Historic Site.

### **Security System Donation**

Tom Gifford donated a used security system that he no longer needs. The Honeywell system cost about \$650 new. Buchholz said the system is similar to that used at the Carter House, which works well. The Foundation accepted the donation.

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

The Turkey River Recreational Corridor (TRRC) is a 28E 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. The effort is part of an Iowa Great Places Grant.

Ellen Collins is the Motor Mill Foundation representative on the TRRC. Collins updates Foundation members of progress on projects and represents the views of the Motor Mill Foundation.

Robin Bostrom is the coordinator for TRRC. The funding for the position is paid for through a grant program which will expire in August of 2013. The TRRC website is located at [www.turkeyrivercorridor.com](http://www.turkeyrivercorridor.com).

The Safari Project was sponsored by TRRC this past summer. There were 10 sites in Clayton County and 10 sites in Fayette County for children and their families to visit. Participants received a map and a booklet in which they can do rubbings to show that they have visited each site. 290 people from 3 states registered for the Safari project. There are plans to repeat the idea next year with different sites.

Another project for next year is a golf, biking and canoeing fund-raiser. The golf courses in Elkader and Clermont/Elgin are talking to see what dates are available.

Clermont trail work is progressing. A tree planting project has been completed along with some landscaping for the trail. The city council pledged \$5,000 toward match funds for grant applications. There has been a noticeable increase in boat and bike traffic associated with the bike and water trail.

Elgin received a \$7,000 grant for park landscaping. Work was also completed on the trailhead near the Center Street bridge as part of an Eagle Scout Project. A resident has offered a trail parking site on the west side of town. Two new restaurants will be opening by January as a direct result of trail usage increase. They have also received a portion of the Iowa Great Places grant.

Elkader's focus was on Founders Park. Butterfly garden, sidewalk system, benches and playground equipment were all installed this past year. Funds were raised through grants, donations, and sales of benches along the sidewalk. Elkader continues to plan and research a whitewater course.

Fayette County experienced an increase in trail usage after the Valley Bridge was completed. The bridge was dedicated on August 25. The RC&D is coordinating the Turkey River Watershed Authority. This is made of 40 some groups working together on watershed management issues.

### **PLANNING**

#### **Long Range Visioning Plan**

The Board briefly reviewed the Vision Plan, noting progress on a number of items, including building restoration and plans for bridge construction.

deNeui has prepared a list of Motor Mill projects that will need attention in 2012 and later. One priority is to get electrical service in the Mill. Some others include: roof repairs on Cooperage, Stable,

and Icehouse; basement excavation; sixth floor of Mill; cover basement arches; Cooperage second floor access and floor repair; alternate stairways in Mill; Inn retaining wall; security systems.

## **FACILITIES**

### **Windows and Flooring Project**

The final windows have been installed in the mill. Several window frames had to be rebuilt because they were missing. Jon deNeui devised a system to avoid the need for volunteers to be outside the building when installing the upper windows.

Another important project that has been worked on in the mill is electrical power for the mill. The hope is to have power in the mill next summer. Currently volunteers are using drop cords from the power pole outside the mill.

### **Bridge**

An engineering study concluded that the abutments and center pier are sound, although they need tuck-pointing. Final plans from V. J. Engineering arrived on February 21. After a final review process, plans were posted for contractors to develop bids to submit. A pre-bid meeting was scheduled for April 19.

Bids were opened on May 3. The low bid, which was approved by the County Conservation Board on May 8, was \$906,322 from Minnowa Construction of Harmony, Minn. This was more than \$480,000 below the engineer's estimate. An estimated time schedule for bridge construction that was on-site mobilization should begin Sept. 10, with all work to be complete by Dec. 5.

Work started with construction of a cofferdam on Oct. 11. The work crews had good weather and low water levels throughout the entire project with no delays. Two change orders occurred during the project. The first change order was to add a concrete collar around the base of the center pier due to the deteriorating stone. The second change order included more tuck-pointing work.

Engelhardt and deNeui reported that the new bridge at Motor would have a 36-ton weight limit. The county secondary roads department has not yet determined if there will be a length limit. A traffic count is scheduled for the summer of 2013. That may help determine how much the road will be improved.

The bridge was completed on December 5. The ribbon cutting was held December 8. The event had good weather and was attended by about 75 people which included members of the MMF, the CCCB, TRRC, Board of Supervisors, the County Engineer and friends and family.

The following week the 2<sup>nd</sup> roads department spent some additional time on Galaxy Road, removing Dead End signs and making some additional improvements to the approaches on both ends.

A Grand Opening will be held in May of 2013 to celebrate the bridge and all of the projects that have been completed at the site.

During the fall, members of the MMF met with the Board of Supervisors and the county engineer to discuss traffic control at the mill and the condition of Galaxy Road. Several options were laid out and discussed. A decision will be made at a later time.

### **Motor Mill Trail**

Not much was done with the Motor Mill Trail this year. The focus was on the Motor Mill Bridge and there was not enough time to work on both projects. In December, John Gnagy and Tim Engelhardt met to discuss plans for the trail between Elkader and Motor.

### **Mill Basement**

Planning and funding for the silt removal from the basement of the mill was a large topic of discussion and planning this year. A portion of the silt removal was part of a FEMA project and required a more extensive review process.

In May Engelhardt submitted a REAP HRDP grant for work to clean the silt out of the basement, to repair the roof on the Ice House, and to repair the roof, chimneys, and windows on the Cooperage. The estimated costs of the projects is \$102,725. The hoped-for REAP grant is \$50,000, the cash match is \$35,600, and the in-kind match is \$17,125.

Engelhardt and deNeui met with FEMA and SHPO officials at Motor on July 12 to discuss excavation of the silt from the basement. deNeui's plan to clean out the flume was rejected. But officials did agree to allow removing silt outside and inside the Mill on the upstream wall to allow repair of the masonry.

FEMA officials want other silt to be removed from the east door on the main floor of the Mill. deNeui is working on a plan to accomplish that with the use of conveyors and/or a hay track to carry a large bucket in and out of the Mill, and to raise and lower the bucket in the basement.

FEMA wants to have an "industrial" archeologist on site when excavation begins, and when digging reaches the lower levels. Photo documentation of the process also will be required. There may be other guidelines in a report being prepared by FEMA.

We did not receive funding for the REAP HRDP grant. Therefore Clayton County withdrew the request to receive FEMA funding for the basement clean-out. The bureaucracy, paperwork requirements, and restrictions were too cumbersome to make it worthwhile.

However, the project is still planned for summer of 2013. deNeui and county engineer Rafe Koopman have negotiated an agreement to use silt from the basement to help regrade the west side of the road north of the stable. Koopman has agreed to let us use a 50-foot conveyor, and to have mechanics help repair the conveyor. Dean Franzen has offered the use of a 3-foot ProBuild conveyor.

Installing more beams in the basement will not be practical until at least some of the silt is removed.

### **Cooperage and Icehouse Roofs**

Temporary covers have been placed on the roofs of the cooperage and icehouse due to leaking roofs. Gary Goyette assisted deNeui and Engelhardt with putting together a budget for new roofs, tuck-

pointing and chimney repairs. These numbers along with cost of window replacement were used for a REAP HRDP grant. The grant was not successful.

The group will continue to work at finding appropriate funding sources and ways to complete the needed project.

### **Donations**

A silent auction was held at the Clayton County Fair. Items included the walnut table donated by Harold Krambeer, an Afghan from Mary Fran Nikolai, a basket from Margaret Stone and a photo from Larry Stone and a copy of an 1857 map donated by Lee Lenth. The auction raised \$325.

Lee Lenth donated several laminated copies of an 1857 Clayton County map that he obtained from the Don Sass family. One copy will be sold at the silent auction at the Clayton County Fair. One will go to the Clayton County Conservation Board. Others may be sold or displayed at Motor.

Buchholz reported that Roger Buchholz has made a number of birdhouses that can be sold for a fundraiser.

Engelhardt has received a number of old Mill photos from Ruth Tuecke.

Fred Phelps, who lived at the Mill as a boy, has donated a collection of Native American projectile points and artifacts.

The Conservation Board has received a historic postcard of Motor Mill from Donald Mueller.

## **GROUNDS**

### **Robert Grau Memorial Savanna**

The Conservation Board staff burned the timber and prairie areas at Motor in the spring of 2012. Conservation staff continued work on garlic mustard control on the site as well which included some pulling in the spring and spraying the plants in the fall.

### **White House**

Engelhardt completed the closeout process with FEMA on this project in early 2012. The Conservation Board received the archeologists' report for the Schroeder house as well.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Website**

The Motor Mill Website located at [motormill.org](http://motormill.org) has been kept up by Volunteer Webmaster Joleen Jansen. In 2011 and 2012 the website went through some updating. The updates have helped visitors find information easier. This is a great way to keep information in front of interested visitors. Due to updates, the stat counter was put back on the website so there are no numbers for 2012. 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.

### **Facebook**

Conservation Board staff Abbey Harkrader and Tammie Kraus started a Facebook page for Motor Mill. This became very popular during the bridge construction process with many positive comments being made. The page is also used to post upcoming events and programs being held at Motor Mill. At the close of 2012, the site has 270 friends.

### **Newsletter**

The Motor Mill Newsletter *Milling Around* was sent out two times during 2012. There are 193 newsletters sent by mail and 159 sent by e-mail for a total of 353. The newsletter is also posted on the Motor Mill Website and on [www.claytoncountyconservation.org](http://www.claytoncountyconservation.org). Copies are also available in the Welcome Center.

### **Parades and Booths**

Members of the Motor Mill Foundation were involved in parades and booths at Elkader St. Patrick's Day, Monona, Edgewood, 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.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Workshops**

Ellen Collins and Betty Buchholz attended the workshop "Revisit the Past" hosted by Silos and Smokestacks on March 28. The speakers urged interpreters to be very sure of their facts when telling historical stories. Both Betty and Ellen felt the experience was very helpful.

Several board members attended the Iowa Statewide Historic Preservation Conference in Decorah on April 27-28. They found the information and the contacts helpful.

### **Historical Research**

Buchholz reported that prospects are not good for reviewing Garnavillo Historical Museum materials, which were moved to unknown storage areas because of moisture and mold problems.

Buchholz, Harkrader, and deNeui visited with Mary Schmitt, a college student who was preparing a presentation on Motor Mill, Buchholz will contact her to get a copy of the report.

Buchholz did research for a person who thought he might be a descendent of J. P. Dickinson. deNeui suggested that the foundation post a notice on the website that there is a charge for such research.

Collins and Nikolai spent parts of two days researching files at the Garnavillo Historical Museum. They found a number of files with information about James Crosby. They hope to search more files at the museum.

Buchholz is researching the history of Pony Hollow from highway 13 to Motor Mill.



The Board briefly discussed plans for future interpretive displays at Motor, including the need to plan for those displays during the ongoing remodeling. A history of the Communia settlement may be appropriate.

### **Tours**

The Mill was open for tours two weekends a month May through September representing 11 open weekends and five special tours for a total of 28 open days. There were 575 registered visitors to the mill this year representing visitors from 13 states and one foreign country. Open times are Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 to 5:00 PM both days.

Special programs included Clayton County Insurance Agents Meeting, IACCB District meeting, Scenic By-Way/Freedom Bank Mystery Tour, and two School Field Trips.

Harkrader has worked with Ed-Co fifth grade students, who produced several good PowerPoint presentations about Motor Mill. The board discussed possible ways to make those programs more widely available.

### **Motor Mill Presentations**

In the effort to continue to promote Motor Mill and give its history several offsite presentations were given during 2012. The list of programs included; The Rotary Club at Guttenberg, Proteus Club in Elkader, Lions Club at Strawberry Point, American Legion in Elkader, and the Farm Bureau Women's Group. This represented 83 participants.

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

The camp was held with limited number of reenactors and visitors to the site. A discussion was held regarding inviting other groups during the weekend as well. Seth Mangas of Fayette is part of the second Regiment Iowa Volunteer Cavalry and inquired about coming during the weekend. The timing did not work out for Mangas this year. The event was held May 18-20.

### **Turkey River Rocks**

In a partnership effort, the Motor Mill Foundation, Turkey River Recreational Corridor, Clayton County CAN, Fayette and Clayton County Conservation Boards and Iowa River Revival hosted Turkey River Rocks, a float trip from Elkader to Motor Mill. The event was held August 11 and had more than 40 float down the river.

The mill was open for tours, live music was in the campground and a meal was served. During the float educational programs were given about the river and land management discussions were held.

## **FINANCE**

### **Donor Recognition**

John Nikolai has done an outstanding job of writing thank yous to donors for all of the projects at Motor Mill throughout the year.

Foundation members set a \$200 minimum donation required for the donor's name to be added to the millstone board for the capital fund campaign. The board is being made, plaques will be ordered and it will be up before the Grand Opening in May.

Nikolai has ordered more plaques to recognize donors for Cooperage windows.

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

A large effort for the Stories in Stone Capital Fund Campaign was kicked off in late 2011 to raise the remaining funds needed for the Motor Mill Bridge. Roughly \$100,000 in private money was needed out of the \$1 million bridge project.

Engelhardt put together a sample letter and a packet of information for board members to use when writing letters or visiting with perspective donors. The board also decided that for every \$500 donation a pair of Gordy Callison's Bird's-Eye-View Historical Recreations will be given to the donor.

Engelhardt continued to publicize the fund drive at the Elkader Cinema, Facebook, the Conservation Board website, weekly radio program, and the MMF website.

During the summer parade season, MMF members pulled the half of bridge float and walked (ran) up and down the street handing out Capital Fund Brochures. If it was possible, members would also stay and visit with folks about the project. Donations came in steadily during this time frame.

During late fall, a raffle was started to be the first to drive across the bridge. The cost was \$50 for a chance. Harkrader designed and printed tickets. The raffle was highlighted as part of the Heritage Days booth Oct. 13-14. 24 tickets were sold and after expenses raised \$990 in profits. Joe Ihm of Guttenberg was the winner.

On December 8<sup>th</sup> a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on the north side near the Mill. Invitations went to Motor Mill Foundation members, County Conservation Board members, the Board of Supervisors, and the Turkey River Recreational Corridor. About 75 people attended the ceremony.

As we round out the 2012 year, the Capital Fund Campaign is still underway. Approximately, \$28,000 has been raised to date.

### **Grants Written for 2011**

**REAP HRDP**- applied for \$50,000 for work to clean the silt out of the basement, to repair the roof on the Ice House, and to repair the roof, chimneys, and windows on the Cooperage. An estimated cost of the project was \$102,725 cash match was \$35,600 and the in-kind match is \$17,125. Grant was not funded.