

2014
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

DIRECTOR

TIM ENGELHARDT—RESIGNED—11/13/14

TUCKER ANDERSON—INTERIM DIRECTOR

BOARD MEMBERS

JIM LANGHUS—CHAIRPERSON, MONONA

JOE IHM—VICE-CHAIRPERSON, GUTTENBERG

DEANNA KRAMBEER—SECRETARY, ST OLAF

LIZ JASTER—GARBER

LARRY STONE—ELKADER

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Staffing	4
Visitor Numbers	5
Projects and Events	6
Camping Numbers	7
Law Enforcement	8
Naturalist Report	9
Public Programs	11
Volunteer Hours	14
Summary of Board Minutes	15

Executive Summary

The Mission of the Clayton County Conservation Board is to promote the health and general welfare of the people, and to encourage preservation, conservation, education and recreation through responsible use and appreciation of our natural resources and cultural heritage.

This document is a condensed summary of the projects and events the Clayton County Conservation Board has been involved with in the year 2013. The document also contains a summary of meeting minutes and statistics compiled by the Clayton County Conservation Board staff. The purpose of this document is to give the reader a summary of the events and proceedings within this department for the calendar year 2013.

The Clayton County Conservation Board adopted a Five-Year Strategic Plan in 1999. The Plan outlines the Board's values and goals and gives direction to the department as to the development of each of the specific properties entrusted to them. The Strategic Plan is reviewed and updated annually.

The Conservation Board and staff had a great year in 2014. They were able to complete a number of projects throughout the year while dealing with high water a number of times throughout the spring and summer. The staff worked together and was able to maintain the Clayton County Conservation Board's parks as top notch destinations for northeast Iowa.

As always, the environmental education program has excelled in its self-mandated standard for providing quality educational programs to all of those in the county who wish to partake by providing a variety of public programs throughout the year.

The Osborne Nature and Welcome Center continues to be a great resource for the local population as well as visitors from all over the world. This is due to the continued hard work of the staff at understanding the value of our portion of northeast Iowa and being willing to showcase that value with courtesy and professionalism.

Finally, I greatly appreciate the hard work and professionalism of the Conservation Board, staff, Motor Mill Foundation and the rest of the volunteers I am given the opportunity to work with. Through the efforts of the entire organization, we are accomplishing great things as we move forward.

Tucker Anderson
- Interim Director

Staffing

STAFF MEMBERS—Permanent Full-Time

TIM ENGELHARDT—Director—Resigned 11/13/14

MARTY MULFORD—Operations Supervisor

HARRY LUSTER—Office/Welcome Center Manager

TUCKER ANDERSON—Interim Director/Park Ranger/Special Projects

BRIAN GIBBS—Naturalist I

ABBEY HARKRADER—Naturalist II

STAFF MEMBERS—Permanent Part-Time

WALTER REICHSTADTER—Maintenance Technician—Resigned 7/31/14

DARRIN SMITH—Maintenance Technician—Started 11/14

JOYCE SCHOULTE—Secretary/Receptionist

TAMMIE KRAUS—Administrative Assistant

PAUL & CATHY MARCOTTE—Exhibit Security

SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

SUMMER MAINTENANCE—5 Individuals

SUMMER NATURALISTS—2 Individuals

VOLUNTEERS

More than two hundred volunteers assist the Clayton County Conservation Board with the Naturalist Programs, Heritage Days, Fishing Clinic, Hunter Education Classes, Public Programming, Mentored Youth Turkey Hunt, Motor Mill Foundation and Welcome Center Staffing. School and Youth Groups also assist with various projects.

Visitor Numbers for 2014

It is difficult to obtain the exact number of visitors to Osborne Park because of the layout of the park. Numbers are obtained through signatures of visitors who sign the Iowa Visitor Registration Book in the Iowa Welcome Center. The purpose and main focus of the numbers is to show trends from year to year.

Iowa Visitor Registration

2014: 7,035 Representing 72 Iowa Counties, 38 States, & 12 Countries

2013: 7,008

2012: 7,020

2011: 8,063

2010: 8,452

2009: 7,871

2008: 7,234

2007: 7,441

Website Unique Visitors

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CCCB</u>	<u>Motor Mill</u>
2006	2,335	507
2007	7,394	1,202
2008	No Data	1,658
2009	20,777	1,568
2010	28,816	1,449
2011	25,914	1,734
2012	30,428	No Data
2013	42,845	5,011
2014	44,214	3,400

Projects and Events

The staff and board continue to strive to offer the public a wide variety of programs and facilities each year. The following is a list of the major projects that were completed in 2013 as well as a list of programs and events in which CCCB staff were involved with.

PROJECTS

New Wolf and Bear
New Owls
Inventoried Donated Environmental Ed Materials
Motor Mill Signage
Buck Creek Management Plan
Buck Creek Timber Sale
Becker Management Plan
Becker Rental Ground
Motor Mill Trail Project
New Pond Trail Maps
Prairie Root Display
Marimba Installed in Playscape
Water System
Seeding Project Chicken Ridge
New Roof on Woodpecker Lodge
New Steps on Woodpecker Lodge
New Roof on Pond A-Frame
Burned EWP Site
Flood Clean-up Projects
TSI work at Bloody Run and Osborne Parks
Fix Motor Mill Canoe Ramp
Seeding of EWP Site
New Parking Lot on West Becker Property

EVENTS

Hunter Education (2)
Mentored Youth Turkey Hunt
Bird Surveys
Frog and Toad Survey
Riverfest
Motor Mill Gala
Fish Surveys
40th Heritage Days
Eagle Appreciation Day
Holiday Walk
Hosted Volunteer Dinner
Osborne Partners Fund Raising
Monthly Public Program
O.W.L.S Education Series
Archery Shoot (2)
Motor Mill Open for Tours
Trees for Kids
Career Fair
Guttenberg Bald Eagle Day
Audubon Interp Boat Tour
TRRC Safari Scavenger Hunt
K-9 Training Day

Hunter Registration 2014

The Clayton County Conservation Board offers archery only hunting opportunities for deer and turkey at Buck Creek Park and the South Side of Motor Mill. In the fall of 2001 the board adopted a registration form to be filled out by hunters before they hunt at the start of each season. This is an effort to acquire statistics at each park with regards to hunting.

Buck Creek Park—12 Hunters Registered—6 Black Hawk County, 2 Dubuque County, 1 Clayton County, 1 Grundy County, 1 Johnson County, 1 Clinton County

South Side Motor Mill Park—10 Hunters Registered—5 Black Hawk County, 1 Clayton County, 1 Johnson County, 1 Bremer County, 1 Clinton County, 1 Dubuque County

Camping Numbers

	# of Users	# of Nights	Fees
<u>Bloody Run Park</u>			
2008	1131	736	\$5,186.05
2009	1220.5	800	\$5,814.25
2010	1333	933	\$6,620.85
2011	1129	860	\$6,218.25
2012	1436	917	\$6,573.11
2013	963	659	\$6,646.00
2014	1148	781	\$7,766.64
<u>Motor Mill Park</u>			
2008	47	15	\$ 105.00
2009	51	23	\$ 168.00
2010	231	87	\$ 859.00
2011	223	138	\$1,119.00
2012	420	108	\$1,299.00
2013	222	112	\$1,150.00
2014	188	106	\$1,059.75
<u>Joy Springs Park</u>			
2008	205	79	\$ 553.00
2009	162	54	\$ 441.00
2010	149	63	\$ 462.00
2011	133	49	\$ 399.00
2012	214	78	\$ 609.00
2013	60	29	\$ 347.00
2014	71	41	\$ 500.00
<u>Buck Creek Park</u>			
2013	61	91	\$ 480.00
2014	71	90	\$ 624.00
<u>Frieden's Park</u>			
2013	113	62	\$ 515.00
2014	66	34	\$ 250.00
<u>Totals</u>			
2008	1391	832	\$ 5,858.05
2009	1433.5	877	\$ 6,423.25
2010	1713	1083	\$ 7,941.85
2011	1485	1047	\$ 7,736.25
2012	2070	1103	\$ 8,481.11
2013	1419	953	\$ 9,138.00
2014	1563	1033	\$10,210.39

2014 Clayton County Conservation Board Law Enforcement Report

Routine Patrol of County Parks

- Register campers
- Public Relations
- Environmental and Laws Education
- Checked 126 Fishing Licenses
- Checked 59 Hunting Licenses outside of regular shotgun deer seasons
- Investigated incidents in parks
- Patrol for illegal hunting/fishing

Calls consisted of the following:

Traffic Stops	7	Search Warrant	1
Vehicle Accident	7	Stolen Property	1
Fight	2	Meth Lab	1
Animal Call	6	Underage Party	1
Medical	4	Noise Complaint	3
Search/Rescue	1	Building Alarm	3
Criminal Mischief	4	Boating Patrol	1
Fireworks	1	Domestic Disturbance	2
Storm Damage	1	Suspicious Activity	10
Wanted Person	3	Special Project	1
Traffic Control	4	Assist Motorist	4
ATVs in Park	1	Narcotics	1
Barricaded Subject	1	OWI	4
Deer Poaching	1	Theft	1
Trespass	3		

Shotgun Deer Season: Assisted Iowa DNR Officers with approximately 150 hunter contacts.

K-9 Training Day: Conservation Board staff along with the Clayton County Sheriff's Office hosted a K-9 Training Day at Osborne Park. Seventeen (17) K-9 teams from Iowa and Wisconsin attended.

Assist other agencies

Agency	# of assists
Mar-Mac	7
Elkader	1
Clayton County	15
Iowa DNR	4
Iowa State Patrol	1
Garnavillo	2
TOTAL	30

***SUMMARY OF NATURALIST PROGRAMS
2014***

		<u># of Presentations</u>	<u># of Student Contacts</u>	<u># of Teachers/Leaders</u>
<u>Classroom Programs</u>			**	
Jan - Dec		297	6504	329
Trees for kids		8	306	15
	CNP			
	Totals	305	6810	344
<u>Field Trips</u>				
Jan - June (34)		175	1357	160
August-Dec (8)		26	243	34
	FT			
Total 41	Totals	201	1600	194
 <u>Summer 2014</u>				
(June - August)	12 programs	59	364	51
Scout/4H Groups - 1		5	50	0
Field Days-9		27	1292	
Public Programs		46	888	
Heritage Days			16,000	
Holiday Walk		4	73	
Motor Mill Open 12 weekends		12 special-251	995	
Hunter Education		2	120	21
Grand Totals		661	28,192	610

Classroom Visits by Naturalists

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>#Presentations</u>	<u>#Students</u>	<u>upper class</u>
Central	PS-12th	23	198	21
Ed-Co	JK-8	55	279	
Garnavillo	5-8th	26	194	
Guttenberg	HS-4	33	198	
MFL/MarMac	HS-8	89	609	
Postville	HS-5	22	174	
Starmont	HS-5	17	284	
St. Mary's	ps-8	21	80	
Valley	ps-5	11	139	
TOTALS		297	<hr/> 2155	**

** These numbers differ because nearly all students and teachers saw more than one program.
For numbers on top section, each person is counted more than once.

2014 Public Program Numbers

Programs, sessions:	46	888
9 Field Days, sessions:	27	1292
1 Scouts, 4-H	5	90
Holiday Walk	4	73
Heritage Days	2 days	16,000
<hr/>		
MY Volunteers	100	605.5 hrs

Public Programs

February 1	Snowfest	Cancelled
February 14	V-day Snowshoeing by Moonlight	23
March 1	BB Box	25(2VIP-8hr&2hrVIP)
March 20	O.W.L.S. – Leopold Benches	10
April 4	Wake Up Ozzy	48
April 17	O.W.L.S. – Gutt. Creativity Center	5
May 1	Volunteer Supper / Unveil Marimba	
May 1	VIP Nature Walk	
May 15	OWLS – Garden Art	12
May 23	Frog Party	45
May 31	Motor Mill Civil War Encampment	?
June 3	MMF-Heartland Acres/Wapsi Mill	11
June 20-	O.W.L.S. –Fairie Gardens	14
June 26-27	Fish Iowa Educator Workshop	14 + 8 VIPs -60hrs
July 17-	O.W.L.S. –Sun Wind and Rain	8
July 19-	Birds (seasonals)	7
August 1	Driftless Area Wetland Center-Herps	25
August 9	Turkey River Float	7
August 21	OWLS–Fold the Flock-passenger pigeons	10
September 7	Monarchs	19
September 13	Motor Mill Fall Fun Day	50
September 19	O.W.L.S. Maiden Voyage	25
October 18	OWLS – Upcycling	6

23 programs	Subtotal	364 10@70hr VIP
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Outreach

January 31	Guttenberg Care Center –Hibernators	17
February 27	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –Local Love Birds	18
March 27	Gutt Care Cntr –Trees, maple syrup, & BB houses	16
April 19	Gutt Care Center – Wildflowers	15
April 29	Gutt Library – Edible Wild Plants	8
May 29	Guttenberg Care Center pgm – Frogs-	18
June 5	Elkader Childcare-Scaly Slimy	12kids+3adlt
June 26	Straw Pt lib-Fun Science Expmnts w/Osborne	44kids+10adlt
June 26	Garny library-Sammy Soil	36 kids +9adlt
June 27	Gutt Care Center – “Nocturnal”	19
July 14	Straw Pt library – insects	28 kids 7Adults
July 16	Gutt library – Fun Science w/ Osborne	37kids 9Adults
July 16	Elkader library –Fun Science w/ Osborne	27
July 19	Elkader library –insects	25
July 26	Gutt Care Center – “Birds of Clayton Co”	18
July 30-31	Henry Co. A.C.O.R.N.S.-Driftless Bus Trip -Bixby, Backbone, Osborne, Pikes Peak, Villa Louis, Effigy	15- Abbey
August 28	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –Dismore book-	35
August 29	Chautauqua- A Country So Full of Game	13
September 29	Gutt Care Center – “Medicinal Plants”	15
October 29	Garnavillo Lib-Lions, Wolves, & Bears- Oh My!	7 kids +3 Adults
October 30	Guttenberg Cr Ctr–Lions, Wolves, Bears- Oh My!	23
November 22	Guttenberg Cr Ctr–Turkeys-	17
December 23	Guttenberg Cr Ctr–Bears and Hibernators-	20
23 programs	Subtotal	483 + 41= 524

Regular Public Programs- 46 Grand Total 888

Outreach Events and Field days:

May 2	Falcoln Field Trip- McGregor 3 sessions	60
May	FFA Farm Safety Day Clayton County 4th graders-11 sessions	300kids
June 2	Fish Clinic	67
February 15	Guttenberg Eagle Day - Habitat Mural and herps	25
February 22	Bald Eagle App. Day - Habitat Mural and herps	550
May 5 -6	Riverfest- 5 sess-boat,fishing,hatchery,lock,shocking,hike	cancelled
July 16	Miss River Adventure Day (pool9)	cancelled
August 4	Mississippi River Adventure Day-60 x 2 stations- 5 sessions ea	120
Sept. 22-23	Riverfest - Central 10 th , MFL, Cayton Ridge, & Ed-co 8 th -	170

Event /Sessions/programs 9 (27sessions) Total 1292

Motor Mill

Visitors 995-(877 + 118 youth)
13 programs 251 – *JNP 21, 2 *Schools 97, *Fun Day 50, tractorcade-10, 7 specials-29, 22 Model A's-44,
3 Guest speaking- 64 (not included in any above figures)-Monona Lib.-20, Volga Study Club-14 est., FB-30est.

**These statistics are included in above CCCB program numbers*

May 24-26	May 31-June 1 Civil War Camp
June 7-8	June 21-22
July 5-6	July 19-20
August 16-17	August 30-31, September 1
September 13-14	September 27-28

VOLUNTEER HOURS 2014

<u>Area of Service</u>	<u>Hours Served</u>
Iowa Room	68
Field Trips/Public Programs	105
Heritage Days	500
Fishing Clinic/Holiday Walk	50
Youth Mentor Turkey Hunt	100
Hunter Education	217
Motor Mill Foundation	1,036
Conservation Board Members	<u>180</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>2,256</u>

JANUARY

The budget was approved by the Conservation Board.

Engelhardt has been working with various agencies on a plan to reseed the (EWP) field along the Turkey River.

The director was authorized to apply for a \$3,000 Silos and Smokestacks grant to hire an intern to help with summer tours and develop an interpretive plan for Motor Mill.

Copies of the CCCB 2013 Camping Summary, the 2013 Summary of Activities, and the 2013 Motor Mill Foundation Summary of Activities were distributed.

Langhus and Ihm met with Engelhardt for his evaluation. Langhus said the evaluation and discussion were very positive.

Per a request from the Board of Supervisors, Engelhardt prepared a list of properties for which we have management plans, along with an estimate of possible timber harvests over the next 50 years.

The Iowa DNR is coming to inspect the water system on Wednesday. Our water permit also expires in April, so this will be longer inspection to look at the entire system not just the chlorination system. The Chlorination System has been installed at Osborne and staff started the daily monitor of chlorine levels in the system

The contract has been signed with Grau Logging for the timber sale at Buck Creek.

Engelhardt has met with Lyle TeKippe regarding the Preliminary Survey work for the Motor Mill Trail. We will be meeting with landowners again in the next couple of weeks.

The dates for the 2014 Hunter Education Classes have been submitted to the state and will be posted on the Iowa DNR website soon.

Naturalists have continued classroom programs, field trips and are developing several new programs this year along with planning public programs. Gibbs was involved with the Christmas Bird County, Mid-Winter Bald Eagle count, Attended REAP Congress and an Algific Slope Strategic Monitoring meeting with USFWS and IDNR.

Marlys Svendsen has completed the National Register of Historic Places Registration for the Motor Mill Historic District (amended). The County Preservation Commission will review the document on January 17 and then the State National Register Review Committee will review it in February.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 10,302.43
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 10,581.13
	Total	\$ 20,883.56

FEBRUARY

Jim Langhus and Tim Engelhardt attended the REC board meeting to request a loan, which was approved, for construction of a new maintenance shop. The Board of Supervisors wants the CCCB to convert the Old Center into a shop instead of building a new shop. Mike Tucker of Martin Gardner Architecture will meet with CCCB staff to come up with a plan and a cost estimate for this proposal.

After review of the logging contract with Grau for removal of trees at Buck Creek by county attorney Alan Heavens, it was suggested that future timber sales need to shore up language to read that all marked trees are removed.

The CCCB reviewed the questions and answers sent out by the Board of Supervisors in response to a request for funding by the TRRC (Turkey River Recreational Corridor). The Board of Supervisors did not fund the TRRC request, stating the CCCB has not made the Pony Hollow to Motor Mill Trail a priority. Discussion followed on differing perceptions in the statement, and how to respond to the intent of the report.

The Executive Director was authorized to advertise bids for 3 years on the 30.6 acre hay field at the Becker Property.

The Iowa DNR came and conducted our water system inspection. Staff has completed the responses to this inspection. There are still a couple of items that need to be completed by the end of February.

The next step for the Motor Mill trail is a Phase I Archaeological Survey. Currently getting some preliminary cost estimates.

Several of the staff attended Winterfest in Waterloo on January 21-23. Both Larry Stone and Brian Gibbs were presenters during the three day event.

The Clayton County Foundation for the Future Grant for the Medicine Show for Heritage Days has been submitted.

Naturalists have been busy with Classroom programs, rescheduling programs and have had two field trips to the center. They have had several snowshoe programs at the schools.

All required animal permit forms for the wildlife exhibit have been completed.

The Iowa DNR Water Trails has contacted us regarding if we had any needs of assistance on canoe landings. Three projects, Osterdock, Millville and Turkey River Park, have been submitted.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 11,463.58
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 1,280.79
	Total	\$ 12,744.37

MARCH

Bruce Schultz, who farms in Clayton County and uses Monsanto Company products, was awarded a grant from Monsanto for Clayton County and chose the Osborne Partners for Education Endowment to receive the \$2,500.00.

Becker property hay ground was awarded to Joe Kann. Jeff Bittner will rent the 3.79 acre field just east of the homestead on the Becker property for grazing. The Board approved the purchase of seed for approximately 13 acres on the West Becker property, designated for prairie planting.

Engelhardt presented a feasibility study and cost comparisons from Martin Gardner Architecture regarding the possible renovation of an existing building for a maintenance shop at Osborne.

Tim Engelhardt presented information and material about the Long Range Regional Transportation Plan 2035, Turkey River Recreational Corridor (TRRC), and Motor Mill trail, and how the actual and proposed trails in Clayton County tie in with the regional plan and network of trails.

The board adopted a Forest Stewardship Plan has been developed for Buck Creek Property by Bruce Blair, DNR District Forester, with input from the CCCB and staff.

The Executive Director was authorized to work with Lonny Kuehl on the fencing project at Buck Creek and the splitting of the cost.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) currently owns most of a culturally sensitive area in Clayton County: the Garland Property. Jeff Garland owns land within this area and needs an easement to reach his property. The INHF in cooperation with the CCCB and DNR will develop the easement. The Director was authorized to obtain a survey of flora and fauna in the area needed to apply for a REAP grant to cover the cost of transfer of the land to the CCCB.

The Regional Enhancement Committee is organizing volunteers to help with a trail count this year and hopefully in future years to get some baseline numbers for trail usage.

Naturalists are busy with school programs most every day. Scheduling for spring field trips has picked up in the past couple of weeks. Staff hosted a couple of snowshoe programs that were well attended. Snowfest was cancelled due to weather conditions. Brian Gibbs assisted with a bat survey, bald eagle nest monitoring, is assisting with a class at UNI, and is working with Ed-Co schools on curriculum based around Bixby Park. Harkrader assisted with two Bald Eagle Days with lots of contacts along with a care center program. She has also started planning for the next season of OWLS.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 6,396.99
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 1,235.19
	Total	\$ 7,632.18

APRIL

The Executive Director was authorized to proceed with the plan of remodeling the old center with an addition for maintenance.

The lease for grazing of the 3.79 acres near the buildings at the Becker Property has been signed as has the hay ground contract. Recycling agents have been contacted to remove the bins and old farm equipment. Seeding of the 13 acres on the West property with prairie seed will progress with help from Pheasants Forever.

Driftless Land Stewardship was awarded the bid to do a survey at the Garland Property that will include a detailed plant survey and a timber stand map.

Logging at Buck Creek was completed on Monday March 17. 100 trees will be planted and tubed with the assistance of MFL MarMac students. Staff has walked the property line at Buck Creek with Lonnie Kuehl. Bulldozer work will be starting this week to provide a 50 foot clear area next to the fence line.

After brief discussion, the board approved hiring Korey Wilker to put down new vinyl flooring in the break room and replace shelter house roofs.

The Board approved the Media Com ad package.

Wapsie Valley Archeology was awarded the bid for the Phase I Archeological survey for the Motor Mill Trail. Landowners have been notified about the need for access to do the survey.

John Nikolai and Engelhardt presented to the Clayton County Farm Bureau Board regarding Motor Mill and trails.

Native grass seed has been ordered for around the Becker Pond and for the EWP site by Elkader. Both sites will have a 20 to 30 foot fire break planted around the outside.

4-H Shooting Sports will be held at Osborne this summer. One Sunday a month, starting in May through October.

The seasonal staff has been hired and the Motor Mill Intern has been hired.

Naturalists are finishing up Classroom programs and are scheduling field trips for May. They have also presented several public programs.

We have closed Bloody Run Park, Frenchtown Park, Turkey River Park and Pony Hollow Trail to let the areas dry out.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 8,452.64
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 7,587.74
	Total	\$ 16,040.38

MAY

Tim Engelhardt reviewed the draft of the Osborne maintenance shop with Board members. The overall design was reviewed and appears acceptable.

The Permanent Conservation Easement on the Garland property was reviewed.

The Board approved to increasing the spending authority of the Executive Director to \$3,000.00, with the policy subject to change by the Board in the future.

An agreement could not be reached with the landowners along the current proposed Motor Mill Trail route. The CCCB respects the landowners’ decisions; an alternate route will be considered. The IDOT is willing to work with alternative routes.

Staff worked on marking trees at Buck Creek Park to save along the fence-line. The fence work may be completed this week. MFL Mar-Mac students helped to plant and tube 100 walnut trees.

Bloody Run, Turkey River Park, and Pony Hollow Trail have all been opened. French-town Park remains closed due to high water on the Mississippi River. Frieden’s Park will open later in May.

The xylophone has been installed in the Playscape area and has been used!!

The guys outside have been doing a lot of cleaning and preparing for the spring and summer mowing season. The rangers have started patrolling on weekends.

Gibbs continues to conduct Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring and Frog and Toad Survey work. The Mississippi River Festival on May 5 & 6 was canceled due to high water levels.

Motor Mill Brochures have been reprinted and the schedule for Motor Mill Tours has been developed.

The CCCB received the Clayton County Foundation for the Future Grant for \$800 which helps sponsors the Medicine Show for Heritage Days. We have three \$100 additional sponsors for the show as well so far.

Engelhardt is working with the By-Way board on two projects: signage showing conservation practices along the By-Way and historical sites along the By-Way.

The Turkey River Recreational Corridor Safari will be starting again by Memorial Day weekend.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 12,484.83
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 4,134.94
	Total	\$ 16,619.77

JUNE

Mike Tucker of Martin Gardner Architecture presented preliminary plans for the addition and remodeling of the old visitors center into a shop area.

Tim Engelhardt, Executive Director, and Board members boarded the van to tour Buck Creek Park. On the way, the CCCB saw the new roof on the Woodpecker lodge, the log cabin, and the A-frame picnic shelter at Osborne Pond. The group also toured the EWP (Emergency Wetland Program) area at Elkader.

The Board then toured the Buck Creek area which has been selectively logged. The new fence has been installed between the neighbor’s property and the woodland and reseeded has been done in this area. Several small oak seedlings and many maple seedlings are regenerating.

Traci Ott, Motor Mill Intern, has started and is working on first person stories. She has given tours at the mill. Ott will be developing an Interpretive Plan for Motor Mill.

Once the new Motor Mill Trail route is finalized, a new Concept Statement will need to be submitted to the DOT for the grants.

Engelhardt and Gibbs attended the dedication at Yellow River State Forest for the first Globally Important Bird Area for the state of Iowa. The event was very well attended.

We had a very busy Memorial Day weekend in the parks. Bloody Run was overflowing.

Harkrader had 12 attend the May OWLS program and 45 attend the frog party. The naturalists have finished up the spring field trip season. Off-site field trips included Motor Mill, Bixby, Big Springs and fishing at Motor Mill and Big Springs. Naturalist staff is preparing for the summer JNP camps. They start next week June 10th.

Engelhardt helped at the Farm Safety Day held at the Fair Grounds. This is for all 4th graders, 11 sessions, 300 kids.

Many of the ash trees in several of the parks are showing signs of stress. The state forester recommended not removing the trees yet.

The next Regional Trail count will take place the week of July 12-19. One week day and one weekend day will be counted.

We have received notice that the Eno property will be the conservation board’s on June 27 if the final documents are not contested.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 24,956.18
	R.E.A.P.	\$ 5,755.80
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 1,715.55
	Total	\$ 32,427.53

JULY

The Board received a copy of the Final Opinion of Construction Costs to remodel the old Osborne Nature Center building into a maintenance shop. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$289,589.00. This is over the \$200,000.00 amount set by the Board of Supervisors. Mike Tucker and Tim Engelhardt will meet with the Board of Supervisors discuss the shop.

RC&D will write a REAP grant, due August 15, for the purchase of the Garland property. RC&D will have one of their staff, Ross Evelsizer, conduct a bird survey of the site.

The group spent over an hour touring the Joy Springs Park campground and fishing areas. The area is used primarily for primitive camping and by visitors who fish in the trout stream.

The CCCB received the Eno property on June 28th, although several items still need to be completed. Discussion in the van on the return trip and after arriving back at Osborne centered on possible uses for the farm that would be compatible with the wishes stated by John Eno.

Several of the conservation properties have been closed due to water issues and storm damage. Staff is trying to get them cleaned up and opened up as soon as possible. The largest damage has the canoe landing at Motor Mill.

Silos and Smokestacks conducted a site visit for our Motor Mill Intern. Process went well. Traci Ott is doing an outstanding job with the project and is ahead of schedule with projects.

We had a USDA inspection conducted on the animal exhibit.

We have had two fish mounts donated by an MFL teacher Chet Bachman. Mr. Bachman attended the Fish Iowa Class held at Osborne and decided this was the place for them.

The fishing clinic held at Backbone had 67 participants. The Fish Iowa Educator Workshop was held at Osborne on June 26-27 and had 14 participants. Our staff assisted the Iowa DNR with this project.

Naturalists have had a number of Care Centers, libraries and childcare visits. They have also completed the 6th Grade JNP and have started the 7th grade program.

The regional trail committee will be conducting another trail count on Thursday July 17 and Saturday July 19. Just starting the planning process for that project.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 12,517.17
	R.E.A.P.	\$ 3,458.18
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 724.11
	Total	\$ 17,081.80

AUGUST

Mike Tucker of Martin Gardner Architecture and Tim Engelhardt, Director, met with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) regarding the plan for remodeling the old visitor’s center into a shop. Cost, usage and size of the structure were discussed. The BOS requested more reductions be made to reduce the cost. Previous reductions to the plans for the remodeling leave few options for further reduction.

The Board authorized the Executive Director to purchase a new furnace for the old visitor’s center. After lengthy discussion, the Executive Director was authorized to pursue a new design for a smaller shop building.

Tim Engelhardt sent the additional requested information to the DOT regarding the proposed Motor Mill Trail route. A map of the proposed trail was reviewed.

The pressure tank at Bloody Run Campground is not working. CCCB accepted a proposal by Allen Mitchell to replace the equipment with a system that meets current codes.

The transfer of title documentation to the Eno Property has arrived.

Wally Reichstadter has resigned his position as a maintenance tech effective July 31.

The Conservation Board received a donation from the Mary Kahrs Revocable Trust for use by the Osborne Conservation Education Center 50% and Motor Mill Center 50%.

We have placed a sign purchased through the Economic Development Office showing the locations of a variety of attractions throughout Clayton County in the parking lot island exhibit.

The annual Shed Your Threads Fun Run was held during Sweet Corn Days. That had about 160 runners who used Pony Hollow Trail.

Lora Friest will complete the REAP grant for the Garland property; the Office of State Archeologist will write a support letter.

The naturalists have completed 7th and 8th grade camps and have hosted several. They have been working in the nature center and have redone several displays, working on the prairie root display and cleaning. Gibbs is working on a map for the pond area to be displayed on the side of the shelter house promoting the area for trails. Seasonal naturalists have conducted several library and care center programs.

The USDA inspector was back due to a complaint from the public.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 11,217.77
	R.E.A.P.	\$ 6,940.50
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 3,720.16
	Total	\$ 21,878.43

AUGUST SPECIAL MEETING

The Clayton County Conservation Board for a Special Meeting on, August 26, 2014, at the Eno Farm to tour the outbuildings on the farm site. Bill Eno led the group on a tour of the outbuildings. He agreed to being taped and several Board members tape recorded portions of his tour. Bill Eno described some of the machinery and shared his memories about its history and use.

He continued the tour of the barn, hay barn, horse barn, hog barn and corn crib, describing the history and use of each of these buildings. He also shared information about family activities related to farming. There are machine sheds of later vintage. A shed in the lower barnyard wasn't toured. Tim Walters, a neighbor who rents some the land, said that his grandfather did farm work with the Eno family years ago, so there is a multi-generational history of cooperation between these two families.

The roof of the barn and walls of the horse barn need repair and the floors of the barns and corn crib are in poor condition. Numerous small items related to care and maintenance of equipment remain in the buildings. The farm yard is large and the area around the house is mown.

Bill Eno concluded his tour and left the meeting about 11:20 AM and Tim Walters left shortly after. CCCB members thanked both of them for their time and for sharing their information.

The Conservation Board members continued to tour the other outbuildings and the house yard. Discussion centered on how to proceed with this farm site. Tim Engelhardt said RC&D has a videographer, and he will contact them about the cost of this service. Consensus was that it is a priority to video Bill Eno so he can share his family history of the site. He has shared a number of wonderful stories about the family and the farm with the CCCB and it would be helpful to provide a list of these stories to the videographer so they can be included.

Other decisions need to be made on the following items:

- taking an inventory of what is on the property and how best to do this inventory
- establish criteria to aid in deciding what items should be kept on the site (consider the age of the item, is the item relative to work on the farm, etc.)
- establish a secure storage area on the site
- establish the priority of buildings to focus on
- should the CCCB give certain items to other groups, or loan them, or do neither
- maintenance of the property

SEPTEMBER

Fausser Energy, Elgin, was awarded the LP bid.

Mike Tucker of Martin Gardner Architecture, Tim Engelhardt, Executive Director, and Marty Mulford, Operations Supervisor have met to discuss options for a new structure.

Tim Engelhardt, Executive Director, met with Fehr Graham to discuss the proposed Motor Mill trail route using Grandview Road.

Discussion of priorities of the Eno Farm centered on obtaining a video history from Bill Eno and possibly others. RC&D has a videographer who will do this. Lengthy discussion on how to finance the needed repairs at the site occurred.

The board decided to discontinue deer in the exhibit following an anonymous complaint made to the USDA inspector. The complaint centered on the fact that visitors can physically touch the deer.

The Clayton County Conservation Board commends the Motor Mill Foundation for their hard work and effort that resulted in the debt reduction on the bridge.

Lease termination letters were sent to Tim Walter (Eno Property) and Jeff Bittner (Becker Property). This had to be completed on or before September 1. Engelhardt will work on the renewal of contracts and have them available at a future meeting.

A new bench has been installed along the Motor Mill Savanna Trail IMO Donna Wessel by her family.

The equipment along the exercise trail has been removed. The trail itself will be maintained. Staff worked on the updating the Friedan’s Park canoe ramp. The Archery Range was prepped for the August shoot.

Naturalists have been working on planning for River Festival, September 22 and 23. New programs and displays have been completed.

Brian Gibbs is working with Eli Garms on a map and interpretive sign for the pond area to better promote this area.

The Motor Mill Foundation will host a Motor Mill Fun Day on Saturday September 13 from 4-6 PM. The event will include tours of the buildings, ice cream, a scavenger hunt, and James Crosby will give a presentation. Free will donations will be accepted.

Regional Trail Count will take place September 24 and 27.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 7,702.10
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 11,331.75
	Total	\$ 19,816.74

OCTOBER

Engelhardt met again with Mike Tucker of Martin Gardner Architecture, who concluded that there would be very little savings in trying to construct a pole building for a shop.

New furnaces and replacement doors and windows will be installed in the old nature center. Those improvements should pay for themselves in energy savings within a few years.

Engelhardt met with Bill and Annette Reimer to discuss the concept of the Motor Mill trail crossing their property to connect Grandview Road with the CCCB’s land on the south side of Motor Mill.

Engelhardt and Stone met on September 23 with Brian Fankhauser of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to discuss options for the property donated to the CCCB by John Eno.

Engelhardt reported that Heritage Days 2014 were a great success.

TRRC, city of Elkader and the CCCB will be hosting the Turkey Trot, 5K Fun Run down Pony Hollow Trail on Saturday October 18.

Engelhardt and Anderson attended the annual CCPOA training in DM at the end of September. They also attended a 10 hour Clayton County LE training on September 10.

Staff has been working with the Clayton County SO K-9 unit to host a K-9 training day at Osborne scheduled for October 20.

Camping in the parks has slowed down, rangers have spent a lot more time with anglers and hunters in and around our areas.

The Motor Mill Fun Day held on Saturday September 13 drew about 60 people to the event. The Motor Mill Bridge continues to be the backdrop and center piece for senior pictures, engagement pictures, wedding pictures and family pictures this fall.

Brian Gibbs worked with Eli Garms to develop a trail map for the Osborne Pond area. Gibbs worked with Central Global Science class on invasive species and then took students out for a few hours to cut and treat Japanese Knotweed.

Riverfest was held on September 22 and 23. Four schools attended with a total of 170 students. Several fall field trips have been out with one of them spending time at Motor Mill.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 15,376.51
	R.E.A.P.	\$ 3,364.98
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 7,232.72
	Total	\$ 25,974.21

NOVEMBER

After reviewing the McGregor Conservation Easement contract, the CCCB raised questions about portions of the easement and sent the draft back to the city of McGregor for clarification of access and the permitted and prohibited uses of the property

The Board reviewed proposed salaries with varying Cost of Living and Longevity increases, seasonal salary rates, and the Iowa 2015 Salary Survey for conservation board employees. A list of needed items prepared by the staff was reviewed.

Tim Engelhardt met with Fehr Graham Engineering and Bill and Annette Reimer about placing a trail across the Reimer property that would connect Grandview Road and the south side of Motor Mill. The proposed trail route has been sent to the DOT to approve the engineering.

The Clayton County Historical Preservation Commission is working to save old records from throughout the county and have requested the use of the 3rd floor of the Visitors Center for storage.

Darrin Smith of Garnavillo has been hired as the Maintenance Technician at \$13.54 per hour. Because Administrative Assistant Tammie Kraus has taken on increased responsibility and hours after six years with the department, the Board approved increasing her salary to \$13.54 per hour for approximately 1,200 hours a year, beginning with the November pay period.

Tim Engelhardt, Executive Director, read his letter of resignation to the board. Board members expressed their appreciation for Tim’s 24 years of service to CCC and accept his resignation with regret.

Tucker Anderson, Ranger/Special Projects, has agreed to take the position of Interim Director. The Board appreciates his help.

The TRRC Fun Run was held in Elkader and ran down Pony Hollow Trail on Saturday October 18.

18 K-9 units attended the training day held on Monday October 20 was a great success.

The Motor Mill Bridge will have lights on it again for the Holiday season.

Holiday Walk is starting to be planned for. Scheduling for winter class room programs and several winter field trips is underway.

The sledding hill and cross country ski trails have been mowed and prepared for winter.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 5,747.51
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 9,042.34
	Total	\$ 14,790.04

NOVEMBER SPECIAL MEETING

The Clayton County Conservation Board met at the Strawberry Point City Hall on Friday, November 21, 2014, to allow board member Liz Jaster to participate.

Discussion began with the past and future duties of the executive director. What are the priorities expected of the new director? How do conservation and law enforcement roles relate to each other? Pros and cons of the need for a law enforcement certified director was discussed at length. Patrolling of campgrounds takes a significant amount of time of the ranger and the director. Liz Jaster presented a draft of an ad for the executive director, which was reviewed and several alterations were made. The ad will state that those with Iowa Law Enforcement Academy certification or the willingness to be certified within one year may be given preference.

Tim Engelhardt and Tucker Anderson sent an email to those involved with the drafting of the easement with the questions and concerns the Clayton County Conservation Board expressed at the last meeting. No reply has been received from the parties.

The Iowa DOT contacted Tucker Anderson about the possibility of incorporating this parking lot into the DOT's official parking lot system. The lot is used by hunters on the Becker property and also by the general public. After discussion, it was suggested Tucker Anderson notify the DOT that the lot will best be utilized being left as it is.

Tucker Anderson has agreed to serve as interim director, requiring his presence in the office during the time he is usually off using comp time he accumulated during the summer. This results in Tucker Anderson working overtime hours in his role as interim director. The Board approved payment of overtime during this situation with Tucker's current pay rate staying the same during his tenure of interim director, not to exceed 160 hours per month.

There was brief discussion on the trail count numbers for Northeast Iowa trails and the impact trails have on the economy.

Sale of the patrol rifle to the Clayton County Sheriff's office was briefly discussed.

DECEMBER MEETING

Harry Luster, Office Manager, presented information on salary increases of 1.7% COLA and 2% longevity for staff.

Applications will be taken until January 6, 2015, for the Executive Director position.

The Board approved the purchase of the patrol rifle Tim Engelhardt used at CCC for his continued use as a Clayton County Sheriff’s deputy.

Buildings on the Eagle Prairie Reserve (Eno property) are being secured and minor repairs done. RC&D will be contacted about obtaining the oral history from Bill Eno and the possibility of doing a video inventory of the property.

Tucker Anderson shared McGregor’s response to the CCCB’s concerns about the McGregor Conservation Easement criteria. It was suggested the McGregor City Administrator come and explain the easement and help answer several questions raised by the Board.

The board approved Brian Gibbs’ request to use vacation time and comp time to meet his scheduled hours at CCC while teaching a one-time course at UNI on the role of the naturalist.

Jim Langhus’ term expires on December 31, 2014. He has made the decision to not serve another term on the CCCB. He has served many years as the Chair of the CCCB.

Motor Trail—Anderson will be working on a new Concept Form for the DOT with the change in trail route using Reimer’s property and the South Side of Motor Mill.

The staff has discussed putting some kind of sign on the deer pen to let the public know why we no longer have any deer.

Stone and Gibbs picked up the items donated by Don Menken. They have been inventoried and pictures taken.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 14,749.12
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 5,251.77
	Total	\$ 20,000.89

DECEMBER SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of Supervisors has requested the 2016 Budget be in the Supervisor's Office on December 29, 2014, so this special meeting was held. Harry Luster, Office Manager, presented the proposed budget and reviewed the salaries, revenues and expenses in the proposed 2016 budget. It was previously voted to approve a 3.7% increase in salaries, 2% longevity and 1.7% COLA.

After the review of the proposed FY 2016 budget, the board approved the following:

SALARIES:

Director:	\$53,993.91
Operation Supervisor:	\$52,600.26
Office Manager:	\$41,900.90
Naturalist 1:	\$37,788.28
Naturalist 2:	\$38,544.06
Ranger/Spec. Projects	\$40,101.23
Maintenance Tech	\$17,979.90
Sec/Receptionist	\$20,958.51
Admin. Assistant	\$16,856.16
Summer Staff (Seasonals):	<u>\$34,263.75</u>
<u>TOTAL SALARIES</u>	\$354,986.96

REVENUE:

<u>General Basic:</u>	\$46,270.00
<u>REAP:</u>	\$15,875.00
<u>Conservation Reserve:</u>	\$30,000.00
<u>TOTAL REVENUE:</u>	\$92,145.00

EXPENDITURES:

<u>General Basic Administration</u>	\$128,755.00
<u>General Basic Operations:</u>	\$449,100.00
<u>General Supplemental Administration:</u>	\$16,560.00
<u>General Supplemental Operations:</u>	\$41,790.00
<u>REAP:</u>	\$90,000.00
<u>Conservation Reserve:</u>	\$337,774.00
Joe Ihm seconded. Carried.	
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</u>	\$1,063,979.00