

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes (DRAFT)

August 18, 2026

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Those present included: Ken Zichal, Dan Slagel, Chris Schoen, Jay Elvers, Larry Stone, Steve McCorkindale, Sandra Walter, Lee Pool, and Chuck Morine, as well as Clayton County Conservation Board director Ean Popenhagen. Liz Jaster and Chad Schroyer were guests representing the Clayton County Side-by-Side club. Zichal called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m.

AGENDA

Elvers moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of items on the Iowa Barn Foundation, Osborne Days, and a visit from Travel Iowa. Schoen seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

McCorkindale moved to approve the minutes of the July 21 meeting as distributed. Walter seconded. Carried.

SIDE-BY-SIDE EVENT – Jaster and Schroyer thanked the board for hosting a stop on the SxS July 31 CALISA Clayton County tour. About 69 machines and 135 people participated, despite the very rainy day. People came from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa. The SxS group donated more than \$5,000 to landowners and public safety agencies. Many riders also donated to the Motor Mill Foundation and bought pie. (More pies are needed for future events!)

The board discussed future participation in the event.

The SxS group has promised to use a boom lift to help install holiday lights on the Motor Mill bridge in November.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Slagel presented a treasurer's report to the board.

McCorkindale moved to accept the treasurer's report. Schoen seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1 – SXS EVENT (see above)

2 – LASER LEVEL – Slagel reported that volunteers have been monitoring first floor Mill posts about once a month. He recommended continuing that.

3 – MILL FOUNDATION – Popenhagen received a proposal from TKDA to do drilling to test the resistance for about \$56,000. Then a Geotech test would cost another \$50,658. Total TKDA estimate was \$138,200.

The board's consensus was that those costs were not reasonable and unnecessary.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – TOOL CHEST– The board discussed ways to store and secure the Milwaukee tools we will be receiving from McCorkindale's son-in-law's company. McCorkindale will ask for recommendations from Milwaukee.

2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS – Morine moved to no longer publish the treasurer's report with the minutes, although the report will be available to interested members of the public. McCorkindale seconded. Carried.

3 – ROOF REPAIR – Slagel noted that Bear Creek Construction's bill for recent roof repair was \$790, which was considerably more than about \$600 for past repairs. The board took no action.

4 – MILL BASEMENT HATCH – The board agreed that the addition of another piece of plywood and a simple block-and-tackle, along with a sliding steel bar on top of the hatch, should be an adequate deterrent to any intruders trying to come in through the basement.

5 – SEPTEMBER WEEKEND STAFFING – The board agreed that it will be important to keep the Mill open for tours through September. Slagel will resend the online schedule to volunteers to sign up.

6 – SPOOM GRANT – Slagel said the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills had offered matching grants of up to \$3000 for interpreting mill history. The board encouraged Slagel to apply – but he realized the initial deadline had passed. When late word came that that deadline had been extended until September 1, Stone moved to authorize Dan Slagel to act as the contact on behalf of the Motor Mill Foundation to apply for a SPOOM grant for interpretive panels. McCorkindale seconded. Carried

NOTES

*Slagel received a letter from the Iowa Barn Foundation asking if we'd be interest in including the Stable in the June 24-25, 2028, Iowa Barn Foundation tour, and whether we'd be willing to host a meal. The board agreed that we should be a tour site but was reluctant to provide a meal. Slagel will ask for more details.

*Popenhagen said the Conservation Board will host an Osborne Days fall festival Oct. 10-11. The board agreed that we should be certain to have extra tour guides at Motor that weekend. Popenhagen said the Conservation Board would try to have a place for Motor materials at Osborne.

*Travel Iowa has asked us to provide a tour guide for a visit from the Iowa tourism magazine. The tentative date is August 29. Schoen has agreed to be available.

ADJOURNMENT

McCorkindale moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Slagel seconded. Carried.

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County