

Motor Mill Foundation Minutes May 15, 2012

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, May 15, 2012. Vice-chair Jon DeNeui called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Other board members present were Chuck Morine, Ellen Collins, Lee Lenth, and Larry Stone. Chairman John Nikolai arrived about 8:22 p.m. Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader and Director Tim Engelhardt also attended. Sandy Refle was a guest.

MINUTES

Stone noted that the board had agreed to hold a silent auction fund raiser for the walnut table donated by Harold Krambeer at the Clayton County Fair – and not at Heritage Days, as was incorrectly printed in the minutes for April 17. Collins moved to accept the minutes of the April 17 meeting with that correction. Morine seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chuck Morine submitted the following report:

Motor Mill Foundation

April 17 - beginning balance \$4,606.50

Receipts

Moyna tour donation \$50

CD & note card sales \$25

Elisha Boardman Questers donation \$100

Total receipts \$175

Expenses

Collins workshop registration \$35

Allamakee-Clayton Elec. \$26.75

Jansen Products web fee \$132

Total expenses \$193.75

May 15, 2012 balance \$4,587.75

Conservation Reserve Fund

April 17, 2012 balance forward \$362,186.85

Deposits

Iowa Room cap, note cards \$17.00

Expenses

Terracon – bridge engineering \$5,771.50

VJ Engineering \$11,070.00

May 15, 2012 balance \$345,362.35

CAPITAL FUND

April 17, 2012 balance carried forward \$15,458.87

Deposits:

Joan Barton donation \$1,000

Larry Berns donation \$50

Proteus donation \$75

Total deposits \$1,125

May 15, 2012 balance \$16,583.87

MOTOR BASEMENT

Engelhardt reported that he has submitted an application for 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 has asked FEMA for a time extension for the projects.

MOTOR MILL BRIDGE

Bids for rebuilding the Motor Mill bridge 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.

Minnowa has assured Engelhardt that it should be no problem to complete the project by November 15.

Engelhardt outlined the following budget:

Expenses –

construction, \$906,322;

engineering, \$142,000;

inspection, \$21,000.

Total expenses - \$1,069,322

Funding –

FEMA, \$432,427;

REAP, \$463,000;

UMGC, \$20,000;

Great Places, \$33,000;

Inspection by county engineer's staff, \$11,000;

Capital Fund Campaign, \$16,508.

Total funding to date - \$975,935.

Remaining to raise - \$93,387

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

(See bridge summary.) Engelhardt is planning a media and letter campaign after the construction contract is signed and the preconstruction meeting has been held.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

No new report.

LEGISLATIVE FLOAT ON TURKEY RIVER (Turkey River Rocks!)

Harkrader reported that the next planning meeting for the August 11 event will be on May 16. Some issues to resolve include the need for electricity for sound systems at Elkader Founders Park and at Motor Mill.

SILENT AUCTION

The board clarified the intent to hold a silent auction at the Clayton County Fair. The showcase item of the fund raiser will be the walnut table donated by Harold Krambeer. Mary Fran Nikolai also has offered to donate a quilt. The board agreed that we should seek a few more quality items for the event.

WEBSITE

The board briefly discussed website changes made recently by Joleen Jansen. It was noted that further changes are needed to keep up with the progress on the bridge project. Engelhardt urged board members to contact him or Jansen with website comments.

Harkrader said that Tammy Kraus also has been working on the Facebook page. She urged Facebook users to “like” the page.

NEW BUSINESS

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. Morine moved to approve the memorandum of understanding between Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area and the Motor Mill Historic Site. Lenth seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

Collins submitted the following report:

Clermont – “The Des Moines Register” recently printed a story about Clermont.

Elgin – The city has received \$3,000 from the Fayette County Community Foundation. The person who considered opening a restaurant has decided not to do so.

Elkader – The playground equipment fund drive is nearing \$23,000. The city has received a McElroy grant of \$3,500. There is also an INS grant for \$500 and a Building with Bags grant for \$2,000.

Elkader will be featured in the KCRG-TV “Our Town” segment the week of Sweet Corn Days.

The Masonic Lodge has plans to build a “Welcome” sign using limestone reclaimed from homes that were removed after the 2008 flood.

No report from Clayton or Fayette County Supervisors

Clayton County Conservation – REAP HRDP grant for Mill basement clean-out, and Cooperage & Ice House roofs will be submitted May 15.

Fayette County Conservation – Work is nearing completion on the Turkey River bridge.

FACILITIES

deNeui is planning volunteer projects to complete before July 1, when it is hoped that grant money will be available for silt removal and Cooperage restoration.

GROUNDS

Engelhardt asked if board members could be available June 14 to help give tours during an Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards district meeting.

Jones County has had good success with a “Dinner on the Ridge” fund raiser held on the restored Hale Bridge over the Wapsipinicon River. Engelhardt noted that we might want to try something similar.

A group of 100-150 people who spend the Memorial Day weekend paddling on NE Iowa rivers will be camping at Motor Mill.

Harkrader noted that two former interns, Jenna and Crystal, will be helping with Mill tours this seasons.

Harkrader and Brian Gibbs conducted two very successful field days at Motor Mill for fifth and sixth graders from Clayton County schools.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nikolai has submitted a letter to the editor to Clayton County newspapers reminding people of the importance of volunteering to the community.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 19, at Osborne.

ADJOURNMENT

Collins moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Lenth seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry A. Stone, secretary