

Motor Mill Foundation  
Minutes  
April 15, 2014

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Other board members present were Ellen Collins, Jon deNeui, Chuck Morine, Betty Buchholz, Tom Gifford, Les Klink, Lee Lenth, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Fred Stroschein was a guest.

**MINUTES**

Nikolai accepted the minutes of the March 18 meeting as printed and distributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

March 18 beginning balance	\$8,738.58
Receipts	
April 7 – donation box at Irish Shanti	\$21.97
Expenses	
March 24 – Iowa Museum Assoc. membership	\$40.00
April 3 – Jansen Products, web fee	\$144.00
March 15 - Allam-Clayton Elec	\$32.10
April 15 – Heritage Printing, brochures	\$334.94
Total expenses	\$551.04
April 15, 2014 balance	\$8,209.51
<b>CONSERVATION RESERVE</b>	
March 18, 2014 balance brought forward (negative balance)	(\$70,190.21)
Deposits - none	
April 15, 2014 balance carried forward (negative balance)	(\$70,190.21)
<b>CAPITAL FUND</b>	
March. 18, 2014 balance brought forward	\$10,493.30
Receipts	
Iowa Room – photo	\$40.00
April 15, 2014 balance	\$10,533.30

## **INTERPRETIVE PLAN**

No new information.

## **INTERN GRANT**

Tracy Ott, an Iowa State University student from Elkader, has been hired to work 32 hours per week, starting in mid-May. Duties will include developing lesson plans, outdoor displays, and hands-on activities. The intern also will transcribe "memories" stories that have been compiled by volunteers.

## **MOTOR MILL TRAIL**

Several landowners have told Engelhardt they will not allow archeological surveys on their land. Engelhardt believes he still has a good relationship with the property owners, but they have personal reasons to oppose the trail on the old railroad bed between Motor and Elkader.

After considerable discussion, the board agreed to hold a special meeting at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 28, to consider other trail options. Engelhardt will invite Eli Garms, of Clayton County Secondary Roads, to bring maps of the area.

## **REGIONAL TRAIL COUNT**

The NE Iowa regional trails committee plans to count trail users on Saturday, May 10, and Thursday, May 17, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day. Board members should contact Engelhardt to volunteer for one or more two-hour shifts.

## **STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Collins shared a fund raising packet she has used successfully for the George Maier Rural heritage Museum. She strives to send a letter, including a brochure and donation envelope, to every visitor.

## **SPEAKING TO PROMOTE MOTOR MILL**

Nikolai and Engelhardt spoke to the Clayton County Farm Bureau on April 3.

Harkrader suggested contacting the Driftless Area Wetlands Centre at Marquette about a program there.

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Stone said that Floyd Sanford, who works in Cedar Rapids but has a home near Garber, is willing to volunteer when he's in the area, but he's not regularly available to serve as a board member.

Nikolai has talked with Barb Lichen, of Guttenberg, who is the new president of the Garnavillo Historical Museum. The Museum may be willing to work more closely with the Motor Mill Foundation.

## **BUSINESS PLAN**

Engelhardt has made some additions to the business plan, and returned it to Nikolai for further work.

## **PARADES**

Harkrader supplied the following list of parades where we should have a float:

June 7 – Strawberry Point, Strawberry Days

St. Oaf – Uff Da Daze

June 14 – Monona – Hay Days

June 28 – Edgewood Rodeo

July 4 – Garnavillo

July 5 – Guttenberg

July 26 – Elkader – Sweet Corn Days

August 30 - McGregor

## **OPEN DATES**

The board agreed to host Mill tours on the following dates:

Harkrader proposed the following dates for the Mill to be open for tours in 2014:

(The board elected not to be open on Friday, July 4.)

May 24, 25, 26 (Memorial Day weekend)

May 31, June 1 (Civil War encampment)

June 7, 8

June 21, 22

July 5, 6 (Independence Day weekend)

July 19, 20

August 16, 17

August 30, 31, Sept. 1 (Labor Day weekend)

Sept. 13, 14

Sept. 27, 28

Other events this season include:

July 30-Aug. 4 – Clayton County Fair

Sept. 19-21 – Plagman Barn Days

Oct. 11-12 – Heritage Days

## **ANNUAL EVENT/FUND-RAISER**

The Board briefly discussed several potential fund raising events, including a holiday walk, a full moon hike, canoe float, and a meal. The group tentatively agreed on September 6 or September 13 for an event.

## **OPEN ITEMS**

Roger Buchholz has agreed to build a bookcase in which to store Motor Mill references at Osborne.

The board discussed possible field trips to visit Heartland Acres and the Wapsipinicon Mill at Independence, and Dells Mill, near Augusta, Wis. The group

agreed to travel to Dells Mill on May 6. Lenth volunteered to drive.

The board agreed to clean the Mill beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20.

Collins brought a copy of a Clayton County tourism map being prepared by the Clayton County Development Group. The finished map will cost \$250, and be four feet by eight feet on weatherproof material. There will be copies in nine towns in the county. Collins moved that the Foundation buy a map for use at Motor. Buchholz seconded. Carried.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR**

The Turkey River Safari will again include a stop at Motor. Safari materials are available at all libraries.

TRRC will participate in the NE Iowa regional trail count.

The Tri-P (Paddle, Pedal, Putt) fund raiser is June 20 at Elgin.

#### **FACILITIES**

deNeui said volunteers will start work on stair railings on Tuesday, April 22. He also reported on drawings by Dave Metz that will help visitors understand the equipment and operation of the mill.

#### **EDUCATION**

Buchholz found additional mill photos and other material in her visit to the State Historical Society in Iowa City.

A friend of Morine's has found a millstone in the Maquoketa River near Lamont.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, at the Osborne Conservation Center.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry A. Stone, secretary