

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

March 21, 2023

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Those present included: Dan Slagel, Chuck Morine, Ken Zichal, Jane Metcalf, Mark Yackel-Juleen, David Beck, Larry Stone, Chris Schoen, Don Venteicher, Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock, and CCCB naturalist Abbey Harkrader. Vice-chair Zichal called the meeting to order at 7:02 p. m.

AGENDA

Stone moved to approve the agenda as distributed. Morine seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the February 23 minutes as distributed. Lenth seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine presented the following treasurer's report:

Feb. 21	Beginning balance	23,254.56	
	Receipts		
Feb. 24	lumber sales		60.00
Mar. 09	donation: Blackbaud		20.00
XX	John Nikolai memorial donations		2,815.00
	Total Receipts	-	2,895.00
	Expenses		
Mar. 08	Alla. Clayton Electric	42.59	
Mar. 17	Alpine Communications	17.45	
	Total Expenses		60.04
March 21	- Current balance	26,089.52	

Morine said recent additional donations have brought the John Nikolai memorials to \$3065 from 24 groups or individuals.

Lenth moved to accept the treasurer's report. Slagel seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1 – TURBINE DISPLAY UPDATE – The board discussed options for exhibiting the renovated turbines. Pollock said the CCCB tractor with pallet forks would be available to move the turbines from the Ice/Smokehouse to the Mill.

The board agreed that the turbines need to be enclosed in large plastic (or glass?) case. Lenth wondered if flexible greenhouse panels would work.

Schoen will investigate whether temperature and humidity control is required. He has been monitoring the temperature and humidity over the winter and has documented large extremes. Slagel noted that controlling temperature swings might require double-paned glass or plastic, and insulation under the floor.

Zichal suggested the need for special lighting on or in the display case.

A turbine display committee will meet for further discussion at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 4, at Osborne.

2 – INN UPDATE – Pollock said West Union Trenching has drilled in the water line from the campground well to the Inn. Steege Construction is continuing with interior work on plaster and flooring. Steege says they are on schedule to be finished by June 30, as the contract specifies.

3 – CCFF & UMGC GRANTS – Pollock proposed applying for a \$1,000 grant for interpretive materials from the Clayton County Foundation for the Future. She also asked to submit a grant application to the Upper Mississippi Gaming Commission for the turbine display. Morine moved to authorize Pollock to submit both applications on behalf of the Motor Mill Foundation. Metcalf seconded. Carried.

4 – INN FURNISHINGS COMMITTEE UPDATE – Metcalf said the committee has chosen the cabinet color to match the old wainscoting cupboards, which were not salvageable. The committee is hoping for donations of some furniture. For wall décor, the Metcalf proposed a picture rail so photos could be hung without damage to walls.

Beck said the Garnavillo Museum may be willing to donate some artifacts for display at Motor. That could include a model of the Mill.

5 – INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE – Pollock showed a Motor Mill logo designed by NE Iowa RC&D. It can be adapted for use on rack cards or brochures, examples of which she also showed to the board.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – HONORING JOHN NIKOLAI AND OTHERS – The board discussed a number of ways to honor the late John Nikolai and others who have contributed to the protection of Motor Mill. Suggestions included naming rooms in the Inn and including signs or plaques in the Inn or Mill.

Slagel agreed to investigate the option of plaques with a brief summary of the honoree's accomplishments, and to report at the April meeting.

2 – OPENING FOR THE 2023 SEASON – Harkrader asked board members to send her a list of dates they could serve as tour guides so she can prepare a schedule.

The board agreed to stay with the past schedule of being open from noon until 5 p.m. Saturdays beginning May 27.

Metcalf offered to check with Central School staff to learn if student volunteers will be able to help with Mill clean-up as in past years.

3 – DUST CONTROL – The board stressed the need for dust control on the gravel road beside the Mill, and especially on the road in front of the Inn. Pollock agreed to check with the county engineer and private vendors who apply the dust control liquid.

4 – MEETING TIME – Board members agreed to keep the 7 p.m. starting time for foundation meetings.

5 – FLOOD LEVEL MARKERS – Zichal noted the significant impacts of numerous floods on the Motor Mill Historic Site. He proposed posting signs to demonstrate flood levels. The board discussed how many signs might be appropriate and where to put them, but took no further action.

6 – INN AS WELCOME CENTER – The board noted the likely changes in visitor traffic flow when the Inn becomes the welcome center for the site. Many people still may be drawn first to the iconic Mill, while others might choose to visit the Inn first for restrooms and interpretive materials.

The board took no action, but agreed to try to adapt to public desires when the Inn opens in July.

TRRC

Slagel said the March Turkey River Recreational Corridor meeting focused on the fate of a mill located at the confluence of Otter Creek and the Turkey River in Elgin.

ADJOURNMENT

Lenth moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Schoen seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation