

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

April 15, 2025

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Those present included: Ken Zichal, Chuck Morine, Larry Stone, Jay Elvers, Jane Metcalf, Dave Beck, Brian Balster, and Dan Slagel. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Van Meeteren and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Zichal called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

AGENDA

Zichal asked to add items to discuss opening the Mill for tours on holiday weekends and for the Sept. 12-14 Caterpillar extravaganza. Elvers moved to approve the agenda with those additions. Schoen seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2025, meeting as distributed. Balster seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Slagel submitted the following treasurer's report:

3-17-25 Beginning balance	\$89,129.06
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Receipts

3-19-25 – donation – Greg Beisker	\$3,000
3-19-25 – donation – Marge Costigan	\$5,000
3-19-25 – donation – Jane Metcalf	\$300
3-21- 25 – donation – Gerry & Pat Schnepf , IMO Don Menken	\$25
3-21-25 – donation – Larry & Margaret Stone, in memory Don Menken	\$200
3-21-25 – donation – Larry & Margaret Stone, in memory Gary Goyette	\$100
3-25-25 – donation – Milton & Linda Owen, in memory Don Menken	\$30
3-25-25 – donation – Dennis & Melanie Menken, in memory Don Menken	\$90
3-25-25 – donation – Clayton Co. Ag. Ext., A. Harkrader program	\$75
3-27-25 - donation – Daryl Landsgard	\$500
3-27-25 – donation – Don & Mary Harstad	\$500
3-31-25 – donation – Blackbaud	\$20
4-01-25 - Donation – Alane & Roger Swales	\$500
4-01-25 – donation – John & Marla Peterson	\$1,000

4-01-25 – donation – William & Pat Dahlsten	\$50
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$11,390

Expenses

3-17-25 – ACREC	\$68.76
3-21-25 – Alpine phone	\$17.69
3-24-25 – CCCB – Shive-Hattery	\$1,325
3-31-25 – Bear Creek Construction, roof repair	\$600
3-4-25 – Jane Wilke, visit Bluff Country ad	\$185
4-10-25 – ACREC	\$70.58

Total expenses	\$2,267.03
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4-13-25 – Ending balance	\$98,252.03
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Pending claims include another \$2,000 to Shive-Hattery Engineering and \$143 in Metcalf's expenses for Iowa Eats. There also will be printing costs for the book prepared by Beck.

Slagel reported that he opened a new MMF account with freedom Bank and closed the account at Central State Bank.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1 – UPDATE ON MILL PILLARS – Van Meeteren said Steege Construction of Waverly, the contractors who worked on the Inn, have been awarded a \$68,543 contract for the first phase of the pillar restoration. Other bids were \$76,849 and \$125,650. Steege hopes to begin work the week of April 21. Van Meeteren was cautiously optimistic that the work could be done by Memorial Day.

2 – UPDATE ON VIDEO – Van Meeteren has been working with NE Iowa RC&D to schedule recording times for Beck, Metcalf, Stone, and Daryl Bruxvoort. Recording should be finished by the end of April.

3- FUND RAISING UPDATE – There have been stories about the fund drive on KCRG-TV, the Clayton County Times-Register, and other media. Donations have continued to come in, with the total at least half of the \$211,000 goal. Zichal and others shared concern that the economic/political uncertainty in this country could make people more reluctant to give in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – IOWA EATS – Metcalf had a Motor Mill table at the annual Iowa Eats festival sponsored by Silos and Smokestacks in Waterloo on April 5. She took mini cornmeal muffins, and rack cards and fliers about the Foundation Rescue. About 700 people attended. Metcalf said she had good conversations with many visitors, and she expects the event will lead to more visitors to the Motor Mill Historic Site.

2 – FOUNDATION RESCUE GRANTS - The Clayton County Board of Supervisors has authorized Van Meeteren to apply for a Historic Resources Development Program (HRDP) grant to complete work on the basement pillar renovation. Mallory Hansen, director of the Turkey River Recreational Corridor, will help write the application. Van Meeteren proposed asking for \$50,000.

Van Meeteren also suggested submitting a preapplication for an Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation grant.

Slagel moved, and Balster seconded, that the Board approve Van Meeteren proceeding with the applications, and that the Motor Mill Foundation pledge an additional \$25,000 to the project. Motion carried unanimously.

3 – MOTOR MILL CLEAN-UP – There are no plans at present to enlist the help of students to help clean the Mill before the tour season. For safety reasons, no one is allowed in the Mill while contractors are working on the pillars.

Schoen noted that volunteers are considering what to do with lumber stored in the Cooperage. With little interest from buyers, it may be given away.

Van Meeteren said three weddings have been scheduled in the Stable this summer, but Conservation Board staff and the wedding planners will handle that cleaning. She does not want the dam beam, which is now on display outside, to be moved into the stable.

4 – TV FEATURE – The Motor Mill Foundation Rescue Campaign was featured on KCRG-TV on March 26.

5 – TOUR GUIDE DATES – The board discussed a tentative tour guide schedule prepared by Harkrader. The consensus was to try to staff the Mill all weekends and holidays through Heritage Days, with a special emphasis on Sept. 12-14, when John Moyna, with C. J. Moyna and Sons, is hosting a 100th anniversary celebration for Caterpillar. About 5,000 people are expected to attend.

6 – MUSEUM CRAWL – The board discussed ideas for activities during a “museum crawl” hosted during June by the Clayton County Tourism Team and the Clayton County Historic Preservation Commission. Participating museums should be open and staffed on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. People who visit at least six museums during the month will be entered in a prize drawing.

Suggestions for activities at Motor included a scavenger hunt, a quiz board of Motor facts and trivia, and guided hikes.

ADJOURNMENT

Elvers moved to adjourn the meeting about 8:40 p.m. Slagel seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton Count