

## Motor Mill Foundation

### Minutes

(DRAFT)

May 20, 2025

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Those present included: Ken Zichal, Chuck Morine, Larry Stone, Jay Elvers, Jane Metcalf, Chris Schoen, Steve McCorkindale, and Dan Slagel. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Van Meeteren and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Zichal called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### AGENDA

Stone asked to add a discussion of how to use the gifts of art and other items from the family of Don Menken. McCorkindale asked to add an item about the offer of a ladder to be donated to the Foundation. Schoen asked to show the report he has prepared on the basement sediment removal.

### MINUTES

Slagel moved to approve the minutes of the April 15 meeting, with the addition of a note that Chuck Morine announced he has retired from giving tours at the Mill. Elvers seconded. Carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Slagel submitted the following treasurer's report:

4-13-25 Beginning balance	\$98,252.03
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#### Receipts

4-14-25 – donation – Leon & Vicki Linderwell	\$25
Donation – Jan Every family	\$50
Donation – Robert Sack	\$100
Donation – George & Janelle McClain	\$300
Donation – Gail Behrens	\$500
4-15-25 – Donation – Slagel – PayPal test	\$4.36
4-16-25 – Donation – Slagel – PayPal test	\$5.30
Donation – Ed & Barbara Ruff	\$100
4-21-25 – Donation – Slagel – PayPal test	\$2.41
4-23-25 – PayPal transfer	\$425
PayPal reimbursement	\$47.48
5-6-25 – Donation – Dick Woodard via PayPal	\$48.51

Donation – Blackbaud	\$20
5-13-25 – Donation – Fred Frost	\$100
Donation – NE Iowa Can Redemption, via Royal Products	\$404
Donation – Ann & Dave Gibney	\$100

<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$2232.06</b>
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#### **Expenses**

4-16-25	Alpine	\$17.71
4-22-25	Jane Metcalf reimbursement, Iowa Eats	\$71.87
	CCCB reimbursement for Shive-Hattery Engr.	\$2000
4-29-25	Heritage Printing, Iowa Eats poster	\$42.80
	Supreme Graphics, 100 books	\$493
5-2-25	Margaret Stone reimbursement, Iowa Eats	\$29.32
5-12-15	Allam-Clayton Elec	\$75.55

<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$2,730.25</b>
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<b>5-18-25 – Ending balance</b>	<b>\$97,753.84</b>
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McCorkindale moved to accept the treasurer's report. Morine seconded. Carried.

The board discussed how much to charge for the Motor Mill: Stories in Stone book assembled by Dave Beck. The consensus was \$15.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1 – UPDATE ON MILL PILLARS – Van Meeteren said Steege Construction has completed the first phase of encasing the pillars in flowable mortar. Shive-Hattery has submitted a bid of \$64,250 for engineering only for the second phase. The board agreed that cost is unreasonable, and we should seek another opinion.

Stone has a contact with a Mason City firm that is interested in the project and may send a representative to see the Mill.

Schoen suggested waiting to move ahead with phase two until we see whether or how the first phase construction affects the floodwater hydrology. Van Meeteren intends to apply for a state Historic Resources Development Program grant, which requires completion within two years. If we want to wait longer than that, we could either delay the application or decline a possible grant offer until we're ready to proceed.

2 – UPDATE ON VIDEO – Van Meeteren said the recording for the Stories in Stone video has been completed, but NE Iowa RC&D is still working on the animation. She

said the Clayton County Foundation for the Future has awarded the Motor Mill Foundation \$1000 for the project.

3- FUND RAISING UPDATE – Slagel said the Foundation has received \$109,299 in donations since November 2024, with another \$38,200 in pledges through 2028. The Foundation has paid out \$26,000 for engineering, with the expectation of a pillar repair bill from Steege Construction for \$68,543.

The board discussed ways to recognize donors. Ideas included: a newspaper add or story; an open house; a cook-out or ice cream social. Metcalf said she will contact Molly Moser with the Community Foundation of Great Dubuque for additional suggestions.

Slagel reminded board members of the Community Foundation's "Great Give Day," which is May 21. Foundations that raise at least \$300 will be eligible for matching funds up to an additional \$250.

4 – MUSEUM CRAWL UPDATE – The Motor Mill Historic Site will participate in the Clayton County Museum Crawl from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday in June. People who visit at least six of the 13 participating museums will be eligible for a drawing for a \$325 prize. More details are on Facebook.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1 – OPENING WEEKEND – Van Meeteren said a wedding party has reserved the Inn and the Stable for May 22-25. Foundation volunteer guides will be on site May 24, 25, and 26.

2 – HISTORIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (HRDP) GRANT – The application deadline is August 31. The board must decide whether to apply this year, or to wait until we have time to evaluate phase one of the pillar repair.

3 – MONDAY STAFFING MAY 26 – Zichal and Elvers have volunteered as guides.

4 – STABLE PAINTING – The board discussed the need to paint parts of the Stable and to install as many battens as possible. It was suggested that we contact Amish painters for their estimate.

5 – VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS – Lumber stored in the Cooperage has been removed. There is a need to shore up the first floor of the Mill near the basement stairway. The traffic counter should be installed on the bridge soon.

6 – DISPOSITION OF ITEMS FROM MENKEN FAMILY – The board discussed ways to raise money from the sale of art and other items donated by the family of the late Don Menken. Ideas centered on a silent auction, perhaps in conjunction with Heritage Days, or a donor recognition event at the Mill. No decision was made.

7 – OFFER TO DONATE A LADDER – Van Meeteren pointed out the liability concerns of volunteers or others using an old wooden ladder. McCorkindale will thank the prospective donor but explain why we must decline the offer.

8 – PLAQUE IN HONOR OF LEE LENTH – The family of Lee Lenth will be in the Elkader area for Sweet Corn Days, July 24-26. The board will coordinate with Verna Lenth to arrange a dedication then.

9 – REPORT ON SEDIMENT REMOVAL – Schoen shared images from the report he is preparing for the Office of the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Office to document the 2020 sediment removal. The report includes details about Motor Mill history and the wooden turbines that were discovered. Board members will receive copies when the report is finalized.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Metcalf seconded. Carried.

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County