

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

July 15, 2025

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

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the June 17 meeting as distributed. Elvers seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Slagel submitted the following treasurer's report:

05.18.2025	Beginning Balance	\$108,188.10
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Receipts

06.16 to 07-09	Merchandise (Square)	397.76
06.17	Donation Cash	66.00
	Merchandise Cash	5.00
06.18	Donation PayPal	38.71
06.20	Donation Jim & Sue Osterhaus	250.00
06.23	Blackbaud	20.00
06.25	Donation cash	135.00
	Merchandise Cash	69.00
07.01	Great Give Day (check)	986.06
	Donation cash	118.00
	Merchandise cash	60.00
	Donation Wendland	100.00
07.03	Donation Blackbaud	20.00
07.07	donation cash	387.58
	Merchandise Cash	94.00
07.14	Donation cash	164.00

Donation Larry & Marjory Bushaw	100.00
Merchandise cash	47.00

Total Receipts

3058.11

Expenses

06.17	Alpine	Phone	17.71
06.18	CCC	(pier remediation)	68,543.00
07.09	ACREC	Electric.	81.29
06.13	Essers	Merch	36.00

Total Expenses

68,678.00

07.14.2025 Ending Balance

\$42,568.21

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

OLD BUSINESS

1 – UPDATE ON VIDEO – Van Meeteren asked board members to send her comments on the draft of a water movement animation proposed by RC&D staff. She sent it to board members on July 10. One question is whether to include sound background. Schoen also offered to meet with RC&D staff.

2 - FUND RAISING UPDATE – Slagel suggested we wait to get additional engineering opinions so we can have more information before proceeding with further fund raising.

3 – LEE LENTH MEMORIAL – The event to celebrate Lee's life and work and to unveil a plaque in his honor is scheduled for Saturday, July 26, at 3:30 p.m. Stone has been in touch with the family, many of whom will attend. Stone also is attempting to notify some of Lee's Amish friends. Harkrader has sent a press release.

Stone and Morine will share stories of working with Lee. Others in attendance also will be invited to share memories.

4 – WORKING MODEL UPDATE – Slagel continues to be in touch with Joel Miller, of Bloomington, Wis., who is designing a working model of a bucket elevator and auger.

5 – MUSEUM CRAWL – Harkrader said the Clayton County Museum Crawl held in June attracted more people to Motor. At least 3 people visited all of the 13 participating museums.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – HRDP GRANT UPDATE – Van Meeteren said she received an extension to the end of August of the deadline to sign a contract for the \$50,000 Historical Resources

Development Program grant we could receive to help with pier repairs in the Mill. The board discussed whether we should wait on further repairs to see how the initial work that was done this spring holds up, or if we should immediately move on to permanent repairs.

Jake Shaw, of WHKS engineering, visited the Mill on July 15, and seemed quite interested in the remediation project. He promised to let us know in a few weeks whether he would submit an engineering bid.

Van Meeteren pointed out that the recent project was always considered a temporary fix, and she recommended moving ahead with phase 2 as soon as possible. If we accept the grant now, the work would need to be completed by December 2028. Van Meeteren noted that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) might be expected to extend that deadline if there are extenuating circumstances.

McCorkindale moved to accept the HRDP grant. Morine seconded. Carried.

2 – DONOR APPRECIATION – Metcalf reported on details for the donor appreciation night, which will be at 6 p.m. Friday July 18 at the Stable. About 45-50 people have returned RSVPs.

Zichal and McCorkindale will grill about 40 hamburgers and 30 brats beforehand, then keep them warm in roasters at the Stable. Zichal has arranged for 10 Amish pies. Drinks will include water, soda, and iced tea. Schoen will bring watermelon. Metcalf has ordered potato salad. Other volunteers will bring condiments, plates and forks, napkins, and table flowers.

Volunteers will bring tables and chairs from Osborne to the Stable on Friday morning, July 18.

At the dinner, Zichal will welcome and thank the guests, and Slagel will give a fund-raising report. Mill tours will follow.

3 – CRITTER ERADICATION – Although efforts to trap the ground hog in the Mill were unsuccessful, the animal apparently has left.

4 – STABLE PAINTING – Stone received a bid of \$3,500 from Daniel Miller, of Miller Woodworking, to paint the wooden parts of the Stable. Miller is aware of the need to protect the limestone from paint. Morine asked how much scraping or cleaning the painters would do before painting. Stone will ask.

Slagel Moved to approve the \$3,500 bid. Morine seconded. Carried.

(Follow up call July 16 from Miller confirmed they will scrape and blow away dust. He also said he needs to finish a cabinet project before working at Motor, but will let Stone know when they plan to come.)

5 – COOPERAGE FLOOR CLEAN-UP – Additional cleaning may be needed, even though Schoen has swept the limestone floor. The board discussed whether to use a power leaf blower.

Stone noted that his friend Jean Sandrock, a retired geologist who is familiar with Motor, may be coming to visit later this summer and will help identify areas of fossils.

6 – YACKEL-JULEEN TOURS – Board members were asked to help fill tour guide slots that had been assigned to Mark Jackel-Juleen, who has been unavailable recently.

TRRC – No report

ADJOURNMENT

Elvers moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Slagel seconded. Carried.

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County