

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

Aug. 19, 2025

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Those present included: Ken Zichal, Chuck Morine, Brian Balster, Larry Stone, Jay Elvers, Jane Metcalf, Steve McCorkindale, Dan Slagel, Don Venteicher, and Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader. Zichal called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

AGENDA

McCorkindale asked to add discussion about how to camouflage the propane tank at the Inn. Metcalf moved to approve the agenda with that addition.as distributed. Elvers seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the July 15 meeting as distributed. Elvers seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motor Mill Foundation Treasurer's Report August 2025 **Aug 19, 2025**

Date

07.14.2025 **Beginning Balance** **\$42,568.21**

| Receipts | Source | Note | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 07.15-08.18 | Merchandise | Credit/Square | 397.09 |
| | Merchandise | Cash | 339.00 |
| 07.21 | Donation | Delores and Mark Batchelder | 200.00 |
| | Donation | Lawrence Sandhaas | 100.00 |
| | Donation | Fred Frost | 100.00 |
| | Donation | Amos and Fannie Christner | 100.00 |
| | Donation | G Norman and Susan West | 100.00 |
| | Donation | Cash | 122.25 |
| 07.28 | Donation | Cash | 354.00 |
| | Donation | Marlene and Duane Fenstermann | 50.00 |
| | Donation | Blackbaud | 20.00 |
| 08.06 | Donation | Cash | 205.00 |
| | Donation | David and Kathy Swanson | 15.00 |
| | Donation | Chris Schoen/Laura Elsinger | 96.80 (via Charityvest in memory of G. |

Goyette)

| | | | |
|-------|----------|------|--------|
| 08.13 | Donation | Cash | 318.00 |
| 08.18 | Donation | Cash | 95.00 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| Total Receipts | | | \$ 2612.14 |
|-----------------------|--|--|-------------------|

Expenses

| | | |
|-------|--|--------|
| 07.15 | Merchandise (Lisa Finch-Magnets) | 30.00 |
| 07.21 | Heritage Printing (Donor Appreciation) | 192.99 |
| 07.24 | J. Metcalf-Donor Apprec. | 164.31 |
| 08.05 | Merchandise (Essers) | 33.00 |
| 08.13 | ACREC (Electricity) | 85.55 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| Total Expenses | | \$505.85 |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 08.18.2025 Ending Balance | \$44,674.50 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|

Pending Expenses (Checks not yet cleared)

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>Daniel Miller</i> | <i>\$3500 (Stable painting)</i> |
| <i>Alpine</i> | <i>\$46.12 (two months +10 late fee)</i> |
| <i>SPOOM</i> | <i>\$50.00 (annual dues)</i> |

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

OLD BUSINESS

1 - FUND RAISING UPDATE – Slagel had no new report on our fund drive, pending the consideration of additional engineering options.

2 – HRDP APPLICATION - The Clayton County Conservation Board has accepted a \$50,000 HRDP (Historic Resource Preservation Program) grant. The work needs to be completed in 18 months.

3 – VIDEO – Nothing new to report.

4 – TURBINE ENGINEERING – Slagel continues to be in touch with Joe Miller, of Bloomington, Wis., who is designing a working model of a bucket elevator and auger. Slagel played a fascinating video of Miller's initial design. The project may be finished this fall. Slagel hopes that Miller can visit Motor to explain the project in even more detail.

Slagel also has been working with engineering students at Brigham Young University in Rexburg, Idaho, who are studying the design and operation of Motor Mill. They are preparing interactive computer graphics to show the construction and mechanics of the turbines and the Mill. The board was captivated by the examples Slagel shared.

The board held some brief discussions about how to add these interactive videos to our present tours. In particular, the water progression video may be what we are looking for in our redone video. We also raised the possibility of inviting the Idaho group to physically visit the Mill.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – ROAD DUST MITIGATION – Three Rivers FS has agreed to treat the road from the Stable to the visitor parking area with lignin sulfonate – tree sap. The board consensus was that dust control would be important if we have a dry fall and busy leaf season. The cost is about \$350, plus a \$75 late-season fee. Balster moved to have the treatment done ASAP. Elvers seconded. Carried.

2 – MOTOR MILL SHIRTS – Stone contacted Cindy Mueller, of The Stitchin' Post, about ordering shirts with the Motor Mill logo, the website address, and the guide's name. Options were: 100% cotton, polo, no pockets, \$43.32; 100% polyester polo, no pockets, \$35.83; Carhartt pocket polo, 100% polyester, \$65.79; Carhartt button front short sleeve, two button pockets, cotton/polyester, \$75.32.

Board members who want shirts were asked to send their style, size, and color preference to Stone, who will submit the order to Mueller.

Some members also would like magnetic name tags, such as were ordered several years ago. Harkrader will check on the price and availability.

3 – THE CENTURY OF CATERPILLAR - Zichal has talked with John Moyna about his Sept. 12-14 "The Century of Caterpillar" celebration. There may be shuttles that bring visitors to the Motor Mill Historic Site. Zichal asked that as many board members as possible try to be available to help with tours.

4 - PLAGMAN BARN – The board discussed whether to have a presence at the Northeast Iowa Farm Antique Association Plagman Barn Show Days, Sept. 19-21. Based on past experience, when visitors there showed little interest in Motor Mill, the board agreed not to participate.

5 – PROPANE TANK – When Stone talked with Rocky, the Mulgrew propane delivery driver, he had no real concerns about trying to use shrubbery or a fence to camouflage the tank at the Inn, as long as clear access was maintained. In contrast, when Slagel spoke with a Mulgrew representative in Dubuque, he was told emphatically that there could be nothing hiding the tank or near it.

McCorkindale offered to supply several bushes or shrubs to plant. Stone questioned how long it might take to begin to camouflage the tank. He suggested a primitive privacy fence instead.

Elvers wondered whether the hoped-for project to install a hand rail on the ramp to the second floor of the Inn could be combined with screening the propane tank.

The board took no action, but will consult with Jenna Van Meeteren to get the Conservation Board's perspective.

TRRC – There was no August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Balster moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Elvers seconded. Carried.

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County