

Motor Mill Foundation
Minutes (DRAFT)

April 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Those present included: Ken Zichal, Dan Slagel, Chris Schoen, Jay Elvers, Larry Stone, Lee Pool, Steve McCorkindale, Brian Balster, and Chuck Morine, as well as Clayton County Conservation Board deputy director Ean Popenhagen and naturalist Abbey Harkrader. Zichal called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Morine asked to add an item on a box of Motor information he has received. Stone asked for a discussion of options for a memorial for the late Ruth Grau. Slagel moved to approve the agenda. McCorkindale seconded. Carried

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Slagel presented the following treasurer's report:

Motor Mill Foundation Treasurer's Report			April 2026
Beginning Balance (03.16.2026)			33,593.69
Receipts			
3/18/26	Donation (Freedom Bank)	10,000	
3/18/26	Donation (Margaret and Larry Stone)	2,000	
3/30/26	Donation (Eugene Wehrheim)	100	
3/30/26	Donation (Wells Fargo/Blackbaud)	<u>20</u>	
Total Receipts		12,120.00	
Expenses			
3/26/26	Meuser's (Workshop materials)	626.60	
3/24/26	Bluff Country Ad (via George Maier)	149.75	
3/25/26	ACREC (electric)	67.23	
3/7/26	Meuser's (Workshop materials)	278.40	
4/9/26	Alpine (phone)	17.77	
4/20/26	Esser's (Merchandise)	<u>748.50</u>	
Total Expenses		1888.25	
Ending Balance on hand through (4.20.26)			43,825.44

CD

11.19.2025 FreedomBank 182-day CD @ 3.9% (Acct. # 1754935). Maturity 5.20.26. \$40,000

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

OLD BUSINESS

1 – SIDE BY SIDE CLUB – Elvers said members of the Clayton County Side-by-Side Club met with some Motor Mill Foundation members on April 7. The Side-by-Side club plans a county-wide ride on July 31, with a stop at Motor Mill. As of now, 71 units are registered, but more are expected. The SxS club will order ice cream. The club also spoke of helping with the bridge lighting in November. Elvers also has been in contact with a member of a Delaware County SxS club.

The Clayton County club supplied maps with SxS routes. Maps will be available for Mill visitors. Elvers suggested that the Motor Mill Foundation purchase an ad to go on next year's map.

2 – STOREROOM – Slagel reported that work to build a storeroom on the second floor of the Mill is essentially complete. Roger Buchholz has donated a table for a work bench. Volunteers will be moving holiday lights and many other items into the storage room and out of visitor view.

3 – RAILING FOR INN SIDEWALK – Zichal met with the Clayton County Conservation Board on April 14 to voice his concern about the need for a hand railing along the sidewalk to the second floor of the Inn. The Conservation Board was receptive, and asked Zichal and the Foundation get some cost estimates.

4 – IOWA EATS – Jane Metcalf was unable to attend the board meeting, but she shared an email with a report on the April 11 Iowa Eats event. She and Sandra Walter served 351 muffins. The crowd was smaller than last year. Walter and Metcalf had some good conversations and gave out a number of Motor Mill rack cards. She will submit a bill for \$51 for posters. Other expenses were minimal.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – ENGINEERING UPDATE – The board discussed observations by Arne Johnson, the engineer who visited Motor on March 27. Some of his suggestions included: taking regular 3-D laser measurements to monitor any possible changes in the Mill structure; getting a geotechnical survey to better assess the stability of the bedrock; investigating possible insect damage to Mill timbers; replacing the missing basement beams to guard against lateral movement of the support posts. The board's consensus was the highest priority is to use a laser level to frequently monitor for any changes.

McCorkindale moved to authorize Slagel to purchase a laser level for about \$100. Stone seconded. Carried.

2 – PEST MANAGEMENT – Board members questioned whether insect pests are a problem in the Mill. Slagel will research what potential pests might occur. Popenhagen suggested contacting other old mills to learn whether insects are a problem elsewhere.

3 – MOTOR MOTOR 5/10 K RUN – About 90 people participated in the March 21 race. Popenhagen said it worked well to have registration in the Stable with restrooms available at Inn. Better signs may be needed at some trail junctions.

4 - ROOF REPAIR – Slagel has contacted an Amish roofing crew but has not heard back. The board agreed that it would be best to have the repairs done in warmer weather. Depending on the roof condition, it may be necessary to replace the roof, rather than just do repairs. If that turns out to be the case, we'd likely have to rent scaffolding, as when previous shingling was done about 15 years ago. We should be planning other projects – such as tuckpointing – that could be done while the scaffolding is in place. Popenhagen will research what grants might be available for roof repairs.

5 – TOUR SCHEDULES – Harkrader distributed schedules for volunteer tour guides. Slagel has arranged for Dan Beck to lead a tour guide orientation at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, at Motor. All guides and foundation members are urged to participate.

6 – ELVERS MILL VISITS – Elvers visited a stone-grinding mill at College of the Ozarks, near Branson, Mo., where they sell stone-ground flour. He also visited Licking Roller Mill, where the local FFA chapter provides volunteers.

7 – DONATION OF BLOCK LETTERS – Doug and Julie Wolfe have donated a set of block letters from Julie's father, the late Jon deNeui. The Wolfes also donated a framed "bird's-eye-view historical re-creation print by the late Gordy Callison. The print is an earlier version of one of the two drawings that the Foundation has made copies of.

8 – RUTH GRAU MEMORIAL – Stone has been in touch with Ruth Grau's family about ways the Foundation could recognize her and her family for their long-standing support of the Motor Mill Historic Site. Some suggestions were planting a group of trees at the campground, a single tree between the Inn and the Stable, or a new sign by the road at the beginning of Grau Savanna Trail. The board's consensus seemed to favor the trail sign. Stone will continue the discussion with Chris Grau.

9 – DONATION OF TOOLS – McCorkindale's son-in-law may be able arrange a donation of Milwaukee power tools to Motor. McCorkindale moved to create a committee to decide what tools might be useful. Morine seconded. Carried. Elvers said we will need to store any battery-powered tools carefully, due to the fire hazard of the batteries.

ADJOURNMENT

McCorkindale moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Slagel seconded. Carried.

Larry A. Stone, secretary
Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County