

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
2013
CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**

DIRECTOR

TIM ENGELHARDT

BOARD MEMBERS

JIM LANGHUS – CHAIRPERSON, MONONA

JOE IHM - VICE-CHAIRPERSON, GUTTENBERG

DEANNA KRAMBEER- SECRETARY, ST OLAF

LIZ JASTER- GARBER

LARRY STONE – ELKADER

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Executive Summary

The Mission of the Clayton County Conservation Board is to promote the health and general welfare of the people, and to encourage preservation, conservation, education and recreation through responsible use and appreciation of our natural resources and cultural heritage.

This document is a condensed summary of the projects and events the Clayton County Conservation Board has been involved with in the year 2013. The document also contains a summary of meeting minutes and statistics compiled by the Clayton County Conservation Board staff. The purpose of this document is to give the reader a summary of the events and proceedings within this department for the calendar year 2013.

The Clayton County Conservation Board adopted a Five-Year Strategic Plan in 1999. The Plan outlines the Board's values and goals and gives direction to the department as to the development of each of the specific properties entrusted to them. The Strategic Plan is reviewed and updated annually.

Many changes and upgrades occurred in 2013. The Board of Supervisors increased the FY 13 budget to include adding extra insulation and placing vinyl siding on the Osborne Center. The project was completed in the spring of 2013. The sidewalk was torn out and replaced to eliminate the unevenness of the walk. Much needed equipment updates were made and included kayaks, computers, a dump truck and a van. The flower gardens near the parking lot were removed and replaced with the Playscape area. The Playscape has been very successful.

The staff also dealt with two high water events this summer. The first event occurred in May. The majority of the clean-up efforts were completed when a second event occurred toward the end of June. The second event caused several of our county areas to be closed for a few weeks until clean-up efforts could be completed.

A \$5.00 a night camping fee was added to Buck Creek Park and Friedens Park this year. The campers in both of these areas were open to the idea and few complaints were received. A Management Plan was completed for Buck Creek Park and a timber sale was held on the east portion of the park. Trees will be removed in the upcoming year.

Planning continues for the Becker Property. A Management Plan is being completed for the timber ground and a portion of the crop ground has been rented out. Work continues on the hay ground and developing the best use for this area.

The naturalists continue to offer outstanding educational opportunities to the public and schools. They have expanded the programs in the last few years to include more recreational programs and off site field trips to the public and schools. Many of these programs are being well received.

Visitation at the Osborne Center continues to be steady but lower than in the 1990s and early 2000's. The trend is probably based on the fact that more travelers are getting their travel information on line and not stopping at Welcome Centers which is a statewide trend. The website has seen another large increase in usage and needs to be expanded to help educate the public about our natural areas in Clayton County but also educational efforts can be increased through this media as well.

Motor Mill received a lot of attention in 2013 due to the completion of the Bridge. Motor Mill was featured on the Iowa Travel Guide cover for 2013. The distinction was awarded by an on-line vote using Facebook and sponsored by the Iowa Tourism Office. The Motor Mill Site also received the “People’s Choice Award Site of the Year” through Silos and Smokestacks. Again, this was an on-line voting opportunity. It stands to reason that a network of followers and supporters for the work being completed at Motor Mill has a strong support base.

The Motor Mill Foundation also received the “Outstanding Protection in Agriculture Award” voted on by the Silos and Smokestacks Board of Directors. The Motor Mill Foundation received these two awards at their annual Golden Silos Awards Luncheon held in Waterloo on April 3.

On May 4, the Motor Mill Gala was held to recognize all of the partner organizations and to celebrate the bridge completion and all of the work that has been completed at Motor Mill. There were 250 people in attendance, the weather cooperated and we did get some media coverage for the event.

Through all of the extra publicity and the excitement created with the above mentioned awards and recognition, Motor Mill had their busiest year with visitors. The tour guides had their hands full most every weekend. New signage was placed on Hwy 13 and on Grandview Road and Mark Collins donated a Motor Mill Sign for the intersection of Hazel and Galaxy Road.

The Motor Mill website received a lot of attention this year as well with a record number of visitors to the site. More work can and should be done with the website and with Facebook to promote the site and educate the public about Motor Mill and upcoming events.

As 2013 closed out, the Motor Mill Foundation began to focus on more of the educational and interpretive programs that are possible at the site. This work will continue for several years as we move forward with the continued restoration work and educational work. The need for more volunteers to help with the site is also an important component as we move forward.

Finally, I greatly appreciate and I am amazed at the hard work and professionalism of the conservation board, the staff, the Motor Mill Foundation and the rest of the volunteers I have the pleasure of working with. Through the efforts of the entire organization, we are accomplishing great things as we move forward.

Tim Engelhardt
- Director

Staffing

STAFF MEMBERS-Permanent Full-Time

TIM ENGELHARDT – Director

MARTY MULFORD – Operations Supervisor

HARRY LUSTER – Office/Welcome Center Manager

TUCKER ANDERSON- Park Ranger/Special Projects

BRIAN GIBBS- Naturalist I

ABBEY HARKRADER- Naturalist II

STAFF MEMBERS – Permanent Part-Time

WALTER REICHSTADTER – Maintenance Tech.

JOYCE SCHOULTE- Secretary/Receptionist

TAMMIE KRAUS- Administrative Assistant

PAUL & CATHY MARCOTTE – Exhibit Security

SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

SUMMER MAINTENANCE – 5 Individuals

SUMMER NATURALISTS – 2 Individuals

VOLUNTEERS

200 + volunteers help with the naturalist programs, Heritage Days, fishing clinic, hunter education, public programming, Motor Mill Foundation and Welcome Center staffing on weekends and some weekdays. Schools and youth groups also assist with various projects.

Visitor Numbers for 2013

It is difficult to obtain the exact number of visitors to Osborne Park because of the layout of the park. Numbers are obtained with a traffic counter located at the front gate of the park and numbers are obtained through signatures of visitors who sign the Iowa Visitor Registration Book in the Iowa Welcome Center. The purpose and main focus of the numbers is to show trends from year to year.

Traffic Counter (April-November):	37,384
December-March	2,000
Heritage Days:	16,000
Field Trips:	2,000
Pond/archery range, buses	2,000
Total	59,384

Iowa Visitor Registration for 2013: 7,008, representing 69 Iowa Counties, 34 states and 13 countries

2012:	7,020
2011:	8,063
2010:	8,452
2009:	7,871
2008:	7,234
2007:	7,441

Traffic Counter

2012	57,574	2003	73,114
2011	63,094	2002	68,256
2010	89,120	2001	68,182
2009:	77,964	2000	88,364
2008	33,400	1999	76,786
2007	41,043	1998	89,191
2006	65,334	1997	88,586
2005	77,737	1996	95,823
2004	44,281 (hole in counter hose)		

Website Unique Visitor Numbers

	CCCB	Motor Mill
2006	2,335	507
2007	7,394	1,202
2008	No Data	1,658
2009	20,777	1,568
2010	28,816	1,449
2011	25,914	1,734
2012	30,428	No Data
2013	42,845	5,011

Projects and Events

The staff and board continue to strive to offer the public a wide variety of programs and facilities each year. The following is a list of the major projects that were completed in 2013 as well as a list of programs and events in which CCCB staff were involved with.

PROJECTS

Purchased Kayaks
New Turkeys and Owl
Playscape Area
Motor Mill Signage
Buck Creek Management Plan
Buck Creek Timber Sale
Becker Management Plan
Becker Rental Ground
Motor Mill Trail Project
New Siding on Osborne Center
New dump Truck
New Computers
Water System
Seeding Project Chicken Ridge
New wood stove and shop door
New Van
Repaired Pond Outlet
New Roof on Wolf House
Flood Clean-up Projects
New Sidewalk to Osborne Center
Fee boxes and signage at Buck Creek and Friedens
Roof on Turkey River Park Restroom
Seeding Plan for the EWP Site
Motor Mill Canoe Ramp
TSI work at Bloody Run and Osborne Park
Replace Windows in Cooperage

EVENTS

Hunter Education (2)
Photo Contest
Silos Awards- People's Choice
Frog and Toad Survey
Riverfest
Motor Mill Gala
Operation Releaf
Heritage Days
Eagle Appreciation Day
Holiday Walk
Hosted Volunteer Lunch
Osborne Partners Fund Raising
Monthly Public Program
O.W.L.S Education Series
Archery Shoot (2)
Motor Mill Open for Tours
Trees for Kids
Career Fair
Guttenberg Bald Eagle Day
Audubon Interp Boat Tour
Household Toxic Waste Day
TRRC Safari Scavenger Hunt
Bird Surveys
Motor Mill Memories
Youth/Mentor Turkey Hunt

Hunter Registration 2013

The Clayton County Conservation Board offers bow-hunting opportunities for deer and turkey from a non-permanent tree stand only at Buck Creek Park and the South Side of Motor Mill. In the fall of 2001 the board adopted a registration form to be filled out by hunters before they hunt the start of each season. This is an effort to acquire statistics at each park with regards to hunting.

Buck Creek Park- Had 11 hunters register. 4 Black Hawk County, 2 Dubuque County, 2 Clayton County, 1 Grundy County, 2 Johnson County,

South Side Motor Mill Park- Had 4 hunters register. 1 Black Hawk County, 1 Clayton County, 2 Johnson County

Camping Numbers

	# of Users	# of Nights	Fees
<u>Bloody Run Park</u>			
2007	1005	591	\$4,301.90
2008	1131	736	\$5,186.05
2009	1220.5	800	\$5,814.25
2010	1333	933	\$6,620.85
2011	1129	860	\$6,218.25
2012	1436	917	\$6,573.11
2013	963	659	\$6,646.00
<u>Motor Mill Park</u>			
2007	194	76	\$ 607.00
2008	47	15	\$ 105.00
2009	51	23	\$ 168.00
2010	231	87	\$ 859.00
2011	223	138	\$1,119.00
2012	420	108	\$1,299.00
2013	222	112	\$1,150.00
<u>Joy Springs Park</u>			
2007	211	52	\$ 419.95
2008	205	79	\$ 553.00
2009	162	54	\$ 441.00
2010	149	63	\$ 462.00
2011	133	49	\$ 399.00
2012	214	78	\$ 609.00
2013	60	29	\$ 347.00
<u>Buck Creek Park</u>			
2013	61	91	\$ 480.00
<u>Frieden's Park</u>			
2013	113	62	\$ 515.00
<u>Totals</u>			
2007	1913	966	\$ 7,064.85
2008	1391	832	\$ 5,858.05
2009	1433.5	877	\$ 6,423.25
2010	1713	1083	\$ 7,941.85
2011	1485	1047	\$ 7,736.25
2012	2070	1103	\$ 8,481.11
2013	1419	953	\$ 9,138.00

2013 Clayton County Conservation Board Law Enforcement Report

Routine Patrol of County Parks

Register campers
Pick up garbage, clean restrooms
Public Relations
Education and information distribution
Checked 90 Fishing License
Covered 2 car deer accidents
Investigated 6 incidents in parks
Checked 15 hunting licenses outside deer season
Patrol for spotlighting activity
Conducted 5 Traffic Stops
Assisted 3 vehicles along-side of road
Animal Call -3
Suspicious vehicle-4
Lost Items- 1
PDA- 2
Underage Party- 2

Assist other agencies

Agency	# of times
Mar-Mac	8
Elkader	4
Clayton County	25
Iowa DNR	9
US Fish & Wildlife	1
Delaware County	1
Iowa State Patrol	1
TOTAL	49

Assisting calls consisted of the following:

Traffic Stops	9	Search Warrant	1
Vehicle Accident	9	Stolen Property	1
Fight	3	Meth Lab	1
Hunting Preserve	1	Underage Party	2
Medical	1	Person Search	2
Pursuit/search	1	Building Alarm	1
Criminal Mischief	1	Boating Patrol	3
Fireworks	1	Domestic Disturbance	1
Storm Damage	1	Suspicious Activity	2
Boating While Intoxicated	1	Intoxicated Pedestrian	1
Warrant	1	Special Project	3
Traffic Control	1		

Shotgun Deer Season: Assisted Iowa DNR officers with 123 hunter contacts.

Naturalist Report 2013

	<u># of Presentations</u>	<u># of Student Contacts</u>	<u># of teacher/Leaders</u>
<u>Classroom Programs</u>	390	7431**	421
Trees for Kids	8	306	15
CNP Totals	398	7737	436
<u>Field Trips</u>			
Jan-June (28)	178	1150	136
September-November (10)	47	230	27
38 FT Totals	225	1380	163
Summer 2013- Totals	57	227	47
15 Programs (June-August)			
Field Days(13)	33	830	
Public Programs	47	1032	
Heritage Days		16,000	
Holiday Walk	5	67	
Scout/4H groups (4)	8	90	10
Motor Mill Open	431	1492	
10 weekends 8 Special			
<u>Hunter Education</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>21</u>
Grand Totals	813	28,975	667

Classroom Visits by Naturalists

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u># Presentations</u>	<u># Students</u>	<u>Upper Class</u>
Central	PS-6	36	279	18
Ed-Co	JK-8	66	325	
Garnavillo, Clayton Ridge	5-8 th	22	166	
Guttenberg, Clayton Ridge	HS-4	40	212	
MFL/Mar-Mac	HS-8	89	601	
Postville	HS-5	56	365	
Starmont	HS-5	21	320	
St. Mary's	PS-8	30	91	
Valley	PS-5	30	184	
TOTALS		390	2,543**	

**These numbers differ because nearly all students and teachers saw more than one program.

2013 Public Programs

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u># Attended</u>
January 26	Fly Tying Clinic	6+5VIP'S
February 2	Snowfest	Cancelled
March 3	BB Box	25
March 17	O.W.L.S. – NMRMA	14
April 19	O.W.L.S. – Vesterheim/Bily	14
April 26	Arbor Day Walk	3
May 5	Motor Mill Gala Event	250
May 11	Plant sale \$300 + later donations	22
May 16	OWLS – Meier Museum	cancelled
May 24	Frog Party	45
June	Red Hat Ladies	10
June	Motor Mill Memories	28
June 20-	O.W.L.S. –Progressive Luncheon	14
July 7	Turkey River Canoe Trip-Silo's Camp	12
July 13-	Insectigators	11
July 18-	O.W.L.S. –Lansing River Museum	20
Aug 3	Mississippi Backwater Canoeing-	12
Aug 14	Turkey River Canoe trip-Northeast Iowa Nats-	14
Aug 15	OWLS-Heritage Farm/Montauk/Union Sun School-18	
Sept 7	Monarchs	13
Sept 19	O.W.L.S. Maiden Voyage	27
Oct 18	OWLS – Villa Louis and Ft Crawford	12
Nov 21	O.W.L.S.– Dyersville	12
Nov23	Swag and Bow	16
24 programs	Subtotal	598

2013 Outreach (offsite)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>#Attended</u>
January 31	Guttenberg Care Cntr –Survival of fittest	21
▪ Feb 28	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –animal courtship-	18
▪ March 28	Gutt Care Center –Natural Dyed Easter Eggs	15
▪ April 19	Gutt Care Center – Wildflowers	17
▪ April 29	Gutt Library – Edible Wild Plants	8
▪ May 23	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –Frogs-	19
▪ June 5	Elkader library-Burrowers	20 kid/3adult
▪ June 5	Elkader Childcare-Mossy	10 kid/3adult
▪ June 26	Strawberry Point library- Sammy Soil	18 kid/5adult
▪ June 26	Gutt library-Sammy Soil	11 kids/3adult
▪ June 27	Gutt Care Center – “Stars”	21
▪ July 17	Straw Pt library – Burrowers	12 kid/ 4Adult
▪ July 17	Gutt library – Burrowers	15 kid/5Adult
▪ July 17	Garny library – Sammy Soil	25 kid/7Adult
▪ July 19	Elkader Childcare –insects	8
▪ July 26	Gutt Care Center – “Fish Jeopardy”	18
▪ Aug	Marquette Wetland Center-“Scaly & Slimy”	50
▪ Aug 29	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –Monarchs-	19
▪ Sept 29	Gutt Care Center – “Animals of the Night”	20
▪ Oct 2	NEIA Nats Meeting @ White Pine Hollow	10
▪ Oct 25	Guttenberg Care Center –Are You Scared...	11
▪ Nov 22	Guttenberg Care Center–Turkeys-	14
▪ Dec 16	Guttenberg Care Center–Glacier 1940-	24
23 programs		Subtotal
		434

Outreach Events and Field days:

April 12	Wetland Center Field Trip- MFL Mar Mac 6 th -3 sess	62
April 26	ED-CO Field Trip- Kerns 5 th -4 sess	35 +10adult
May 3	Falcon Field Trip- McGregor	51
May 8	Bixby- ED-CO	35 + 15adults
May	FFA Soil Day	55
June 2	Fish Clinic	Cancelled
Feb 16	Guttenberg Eagle Day - Habitat Mural and herps	25
Feb 23	Bald Eagle App. Day - Habitat Mural and herps	120 kids (+80)
March 13	Career Fair – Clayton Ridge HS -4 sessions	~200 (1300event)
May 8-9	Riverfest- 5 sess-boat,fishing,hatchery,lock,shocking,hike	50
July 16	Miss River Adventure Day (pool9)	cancelled
August 7	Mississippi River Adventure Day-	cancelled
Sept 6	Beulahland-Valley/N. Fayette camp-3 sessions EE Games	75
Sept 16-17	Riverfest - Central 10 th , MFL, Clayton Ridge, & Ed-Co 8 th -	8 sess 200 (2@6=24)
11programs/29 Sessions		Subtotal
		813

2013 Scouts/4H

July 27	Delakee Cub Scout Camp-Bloody Run	50 5 sess
Nov 18	Cub scouts – Fishing	7
October 30	Cub Scout Recruitment-Archery	16 kids +10 Adults
Nov 18	Cub scouts – Conservation Badge	7
	4 groups/8 programs	90

Environmental Equipment Loaned out

May Fishing poles borrowed 2x 33 & 40 73
October fishing poles borrowed 2x 120 & 40 160 Poles student contacts w/ others **233**

FCCB Borrowed Canoes for Camp at Beulahland
FCCB Borrowed Canoes in May

VOLUNTEER HOURS 2013

<u>Area of Service</u>	<u>Hours Served</u>
Iowa Room	246
Garden	250
Field Trips/Public Programs	161
Heritage Days	450
Fishing Clinic/Holiday Walk	54
Youth Mentor Turkey Hunt	60
Hunter Education	321
Motor Mill Foundation	987
Conservation Board Members	<u>180</u>
	2,709

GRANTS 2013

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Funded</u>	<u>Unfunded</u>	<u>Project</u>
January	CCFF		\$ 1,000	Promotion for Gala
February	McElroy	\$3,200	\$ 1,800	Miss. River Festival
March	UMRCC	\$ 250		Miss. River Festival
March	Upper Iowa Audubon	\$ 500		Miss. River Festival
	Totals	\$3,950	\$2,800	

JANUARY

The motion was made to keep the present group of board officers; Jim Langhus as Chair, Joe Ihm as Vice-Chair, and Deanna Krambeer as Secretary. Motion carried.

The board will acknowledge 2013 rental rates of the Becker property, as required by Iowa law/policy. Discussion was held on the need to offer the grain bins to the public via sealed bids. The request for some of the Becker property for the purpose of building a secondary roads shop was discussed. The supervisors have requested a meeting with CCCB to discuss this issue.

Fees for out-of-county students coming for field trips will be reviewed.

After a review of the proposed FY 2014 budget, the Board approved the proposed budget.

The Fiscal Year 2014 Decision Packaging includes four items; a new shop, paving the parking lot at Osborne, finishing the 3rd floor at Osborne Center, and constructing six rental cabins.

An MOU with the Iowa DNR and Alliant Energy to participate Operation ReLeaf was approved.

The total cost of the Motor Mill bridge was \$1,078,764.00. Construction cost was \$931,864.00 and engineering cost was \$146,900.00.

The 2012 Camping Summary, Summary of Activities for the Motor Mill Foundation, and Summary of Activities for the Clayton County Conservation Board were reviewed.

Naturalists have been busy with classroom programs. Gibbs completed 3 Christmas Bird Counts for Audubon Society. Gibbs attended ICEC Strategic Planning Meeting Jan 4-6th. Harkrader has started to set up public programs for winter. One field trip came to visit in December and one had to cancel due to the weather.

Clayton County CAN and Freedom Bank donated to the Osborne Partners.

The deer have been inspected for our annual inspection. .

The sledding hill has been used heavily. The cross country ski trails have not been groomed. We need about 2 more inches of snow to make a good first track.

The new pickup has the emergency lights and radios installed. The rest of the equipment will be set up this week.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 3,606.55
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 490,605.32
	Total	\$ 494,211.87

FEBRUARY

Information was presented and discussed on a number of topics concerning the Becker Property, including rental rates, the riparian buffer along the river, timber land, the CRP contract.

The board approved to change the fee for field trips from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per student for out-of-county schools.

The snowshoe rental agreement was presented. There are 25 pairs of snowshoes available for rental.

As a review of the 5-Year Plan, Tim Engelhardt presented updates and discussion was held on the areas of Chicken Ridge, Lover's Leap, Eno property, Buck Creek, and Garland property. A camper survey on the possible addition of electrical sites to Bloody Run Park was reviewed. A list of fourteen items to complete on the Becker property was presented. The review of the activities proposed in the 5-Year-Plan reveals the need for an additional staff person as a deputy director or project manager, who could assist with grants, development of management plans, project development, fund raising, volunteer coordination and other duties.

Director Tim Engelhardt received a highly positive evaluation from the board.

Engelhardt has talked with John Eno's attorney regarding the will of John Eno and his property.

On January 26 a Fly Tying Clinic was held. Snowfest was scheduled for February 2, but was cancelled for lack of snow. Naturalists have been in the classrooms, Four field trips have come out recently. Harkrader is working with Lorna Troester on the NRCS program "Who Buddies" to all 3rd grades.

Gibbs made three Conservation presentations at the University of Northern Iowa. Gibbs has helped conduct Mid-Winter Bald Eagle count for the Army Corps and IDNR.

Engelhardt is working with the DOT for directional signage along Hwy 13 to Motor Mill via our new route.

We will be acquiring a Great Horned Owl from Iowa State University Wildlife Clinic on February 18th.

The planning committee for the Motor Mill Grand Opening Celebration has met and has started the process to begin planning for the May 4th event.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 10,185.27
	REAP	\$ 10,498.29
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 46,593.25
	Total	\$ 67,276.81

FEBRUARY SPECIAL MEETING

The Clayton County Conservation Board met at 1:10 PM, February 20, 2013 at the Clayton County Office Building on Gunder Road. Present were Dennis Freitag, County Auditor, Gary Bowden, Ron McCartney and Larry Gibbs, Clayton County Board of Supervisors (BOS), Mark Bolsinger of Secondary Roads, Mark Ackelson and Brian Fankhauser of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), Tim Engelhardt, Executive Director of the Clayton County Conservation and Clayton County Conservation Board (CCCB) members Jim Langhus, Larry Stone, Joe Ihm, Deanna Krambeer and Liz Jaster.

Introductions were completed and Tim Engelhardt began the meeting stating the CCCB has been asked twice previously about the possibility of building a shop to house Clayton County Secondary Roads equipment and personnel on the Becker property. This shop would serve the Millville area. These requests were prior to the CCCB having ownership of the property. Shortly after the death of Irene Becker, he was again approached about the possibility of a county shop being built on the property.

Oakland and Irene Becker owned a farm at Millville that they placed in a life estate, with the property being transferred to the management of the CCCB after their deaths. They arranged this using their attorney and the INHF.

Jim Langhus reviewed the Becker's wishes for the use of the property; "Said property to be used for demonstration of conservation practices, enhancement of wildlife habitat and public recreational use and benefit, after termination of the life estates."

Mark Ackelson (INHF) explained the particulars of the life estate. The Beckers decided they wanted to preserve and protect their farm and through the INHF established a life estate and determined criteria for preservation of the property. He noted the Beckers were "deeply rooted in the land, it was very important to them." The land is volatile and subject to dry and wet conditions, with potential for erosion. The Beckers wanted the land to be conserved. Loss of habitat was a concern for them and they recognized the importance of protecting the land along the Great River Road, along with a portion of the old town of Millville on the property. The Beckers envisioned money obtained from renting the farm land to be used to manage and maintain the property. He noted there is a moral obligation to honor the Beckers wishes for the future use of the land. The use of the land for construction of a shop would not be part of the mission envisioned by the Beckers. Failure to honor the intended use of the property will discourage future donors from donating land or other items for public use. Several other CCCB members expressed this concern during the meeting.

Larry Gibbs did state during the meeting that they will not pursue a shop on the property. The other two Supervisors seemed to agree with his statement. No formal motion was made by the Supervisors.

Discussion about the use/rental of the farmland followed. Criteria about the use of rental land will be developed by the CCCB.

MARCH

The board adopted the updated Five Year Parks and Facilities Plan and the Motor Mill Foundation 2013 Visioning Plan.

Tim Engelhardt presented information on activities he has completed related to the Becker property.

The board approved the CCCB pay \$5,000.00 for a share of the funding of a Turkey River Recreational Corridor Coordinator.

Brian Gibbs, CCCB Naturalist, submitted an application for a \$5,000.00, two-year grant from the R.J. McElroy Trust for the Mississippi Riverfest.

Field trips to Buck Creek in June and to the Becker Property in July and August were planned. Meeting times will be changed to 2:00 PM and the dates of meetings may be changed to Wednesday.

Engelhardt has nominated the Motor Mill Site for Silos and Smokestacks People's Choice Award. This will be voted by the people through on-line voting.

The CCCB acquired a Great Horned Owl through the ISU Wildlife Clinic.

Engelhardt has worked through all of the requirements and finished up the paperwork for FEMA funding for the Motor Mill bridge. We are required to place a bronze plaque on the bridge, which has been ordered.

The committee continues to work through plans for the Motor Mill Gala scheduled for May 4th. The program will be held at 1:00 PM.

Paperwork for the Motor Mill Trail has been sent to the DOT. Engelhardt has opened communication with landowners along the Motor Mill trail route.

Gibbs has been able to conduct several snowshoe programs for schools. We have hosted several field trips, lots of school programs, and Harkrader is starting to plan for the next season of OWLS. Harkrader assisted with Guttenberg Eagle Days and Bald Eagle Appreciation Day in Prairie.

Gibbs and Stone were able to attend REAP Day at the capital to promote REAP and the IWILL funding.

A \$250 from a Volunteerism Always Pays Grant was received through Wal-Mart. Lorna Troester wrote this in the name of the CCCB.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 6,782.47
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 387.60
	Total	\$ 7,170.07

APRIL

Tim Engelhardt has contacted the DNR Wildlife Division for assistance with RFP/ contracts for the Becker Property. They are planning on meeting at the site to offer their input. District Forester Bruce Blair and Tim Engelhardt walked the west property. Bruce Blair will have a draft of a Woodland Management Plan at the May meeting.

John Nikolai also stated that Motor Mill site is in need of volunteers for guided tours and others interested in serving on the Foundation Board.

As the siding project is progressing a number of change orders are anticipated. Marty Mulford gave information about possible change orders. The board authorized the staff to make appropriate change orders as the siding project proceeds.

After discussion, Larry Stone moved to approve the bid from Swales Concrete to replace the sidewalk for \$6,650.00

The Motor Mill site has received a number of honors. The photo of a canoeist approaching the Mill on the Turkey River has been chosen for the cover of the 2013 *Iowa Travel Guide*. Silos and Smokestacks awarded the Golden Silo Award for Outstanding Preservation in Agriculture to Motor Mill and the People's Choice Award for Site of the Year. The Board deeply appreciates the effort and dedication of the volunteers, the Motor Mill Foundation, Executive Director Tim Engelhardt and Clayton County Conservation staff for their work in preserving this historic site.

The Highway signs for Motor Mill Park have been approved from the DOT. The signs have been ordered and should be installed before the Motor Mill Gala event.

We used Larry Stone's story and did a county wide press release on the Becker Property.

Harkrader held a Bluebird workshop and the first OWLS program for the season. Trees for Kids letters have gone out to the schools for scheduling dates. Naturalists attended an IAN workshop in Dubuque, where Brian Gibbs presented. Staff has ordered and picked up new life jackets. Several staff members attended Hunter Education Instructor training in March.

The RC&D will be putting the updated Clayton County Conservation brochure together as a service because we will include the Scenic By-Way in the brochure.

Staff has closed several parks and the Pony Hollow Trail due to wet conditions. We have received the new camping fee boxes. They are now being professionally painted for better quality than what staff could do. Boxes will be installed as soon as conditions allow.

Claims:	General Basic	\$27,305.14
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MAY

Bruce Blair, District Forester, presented a draft of the timber management plan proposed for the West Becker property. Discussion was held on possible management of the site, but no action was taken at this time.

CCCB approved continuing participation in the advertising campaign with Fayette County and the TRRC with OnMedia.

The board approved the purchase of seven kayaks for use in educational programs. They also approved to pay \$5,000.00 for the TRRC coordinator out of this fiscal year's budget.

Approval of the purchase of 10 additional fire rings for the county parks which will be used to replace old rings was given by the board. Purchase of rock for the drive into the old campground was approved. Staff has made several sign orders to update signage in the parks.

Tim Engelhardt has received a written request from an individual regarding a tractor given to him located on the Eno property that he would like to remove. CCCB does not have the authority to release any property at this time.

Jim Langhus presented a copy of a letter from Roger Koster, who worked with Oakland and Irene Becker on conservation practices on their farm. He suggested conservation practices for the fields presently available for rental.

We have added one tom and two hen turkeys to the Wildlife Exhibit.

Frenchtown Park has been closed for several weeks due to high water.

The Motor Mill Gala was a great event as well. The road signs along Hwy 13 and Grandview were installed before the Gala event at Motor Mill.

The April OWLS program had 14 people attend. Class room programs spilled into April along with field trips in April. Harkrader conducted her Trees for Kids program toward the end of April. Gibbs has been promoting the Junior Naturalists Program to the schools.

The new camping boxes and signage for Buck Creek and Friedens Park has been completed. The out parks are ready to go for the season, tables and trash cans have been hauled out, some brush work and general picking up has been done.

On Monday May 20th Marty Mulford will be honored for 25 years of service and Joyce Schoulte will be honored for 10 years of service by the Clayton County Supervisors.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 41,031.14
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 8,488.75
	Total	\$ 49,520.25

JUNE

The board approved the purchase of a 2002 van from Tom Chandler. After discussion, it was decided to advertise and get bids on the old Ford 1991 van. They also approved the purchase of the dually pickup, including the dump box, if it becomes available.

Bruce Blair met the group at Buck Creek Park for a walking tour of a portion of the woodland. Options for management of the older mature forest were discussed. The Board was encouraged to develop a long-range goal for the forest and manage for that goal. The possibility of a work session to look at the entire group of parks and woodlands was discussed.

Swales have been delayed due to the weather on the sidewalk project. The siding project will be nearly completed.

We have had some damage to several parks due to bad weather.

Engelhardt looked into the CRP program for the Becker property. An inspection was completed by ICAP insurance carrier.

Mowing is in full swing throughout the county park system. The wildlife exhibit has been gone through mowed and trimmed. Archery Range was trimmed as best could be done due to wet conditions. The shoot occurred on Sunday June 2nd.

Brian Gibbs has been conducting Bald Eagle nest monitoring and the Frog and Toad survey from March through June. Spring field trips were completed on June 4th. Naturalists are preparing for the Junior Naturalist Camps coming up. Harkrader conducted a Frog Party public program with 45 participants. The seasonal staff is on board and learning the ropes.

The playscape is almost finished. The area has been used during field trips and on the weekends by youth. The fence is being installed. The flower areas are being worked on to finish the project.

Staff has turned in storm damage numbers to FEMA and waiting to see if the storm will be declared.

The Motor Mill Foundation hosted a “Memories at Motor” event on Tuesday June 11th; they had about 20 guests present telling stories and answering questions.

Engelhardt met with Tristin Meyer of McGregor area for an Eagle Scout Project. The project will consist of expanding the hiking trail on the north side of Motor Mill.

Engelhardt is working with Pheasants Forever on budget items for our parks.

Claims:	General Basic	\$33,790.95
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JULY

The board approved the purchase of a 2011 Ford F350 dump truck.

Tim Walters currently rents the barn and yard at the Eno farm. He would like to know the intent of the board regarding this rental. The CCCB does not have authority to make decisions about the property at this time.

The tube in the Osborne pond dike is leaking around the outside of the tube and somewhere in the middle. Tim Engelhardt was authorized to spend up to \$5,000.00 on repairs without seeking bids.

Bruce Blair presented options for the management of the 126 acres of timber on the Becker West property. The possibility of a low-maintenance walking trail was discussed. The property is well-suited for hunting. Developing parking lots and signage is a high priority.

We had 37 students attend a Hunter Education Class in June.

Engelhardt and Lora Friest with RC&D toured the MRT route from Clayton Hills Campground to Pikes Peak in preparation for submitting a Trail Grant application.

Engelhardt met again with representatives from White Tails Unlimited to discuss the canoe ramp at Motor Mill. Engelhardt met with Pat Schaffers of NRCS to look at the seeding at the EWP site by Elkader and to look at the pond dikes at the Becker Property

Due to heavy rains, Bloody Run Park and Buck Creek Park are both closed for several weeks.

The siding project at the Osborne Center has been completed. The roof on the Osborne Center is leaking. Engelhardt has met with the contractor who did the roof. We are assured the roof will be fixed to our satisfaction.

The kayaks have been received and have been a huge hit at Junior Naturalists camps. 6th Grade camps have been completed; 7th grade camps have started. The Naturalist staff conducted five library, care center and childcare center programs. The seasonal naturalists have been helping with tours at Motor Mill.

A new steel roof has been installed on the Wolf and Coyote house. Work is well underway for the summer. The landscaping for the new sidewalk is nearing completion. The steps by the Blacksmith Shop have been replaced. Storm damage repair has started this week

Engelhardt received a call from the Iowa DOT for a possible wetland mitigation site. Staff discussed an area at Osborne near the archery range that might work.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 39,870.36
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AUGUST

The board received one bid for the 1991 Ford Econoline van for \$400.

The purchase of a new heating stove and overhead door for the shop was approved.

The lettering on the Osborne Center needs to be replaced after the new siding was installed. The bid from Mark Collins, Signs-N-Frames in Elkader was approved.

The board met with Jake Smith, of Guttenberg, who expressed interest in farming the Becker agricultural land. The board will be issuing some guidelines and asking farmers to submit proposals later this year.

After a tour of the Becker East property, the board discussed a number of management options, including public hunting, savanna restoration, and prairie seeding under a power line and in former pastures. Invasive species – especially multiflora rose – will be a problem. The staff is working on posting the property boundaries and plans for parking areas.

Unofficial water tests have shown high coliform levels in the Osborne well. Technicians from Shawver Well have suggested a number of potential causes. The board approved an effort to trace the problem as suggested by Shawver: shock chlorination of the well and system, then re-inspecting the entire system.

A new Motor Mill directional sign has been installed at the intersection of Galaxy Road and Hazel Road. The sign has been designed and donated by Signs-N-Frames.

Engelhardt has met with the DOT regarding the wetland mitigation site at Osborne Park. They liked the site and project and will get back to us for project completion in 2015.

The Turkey River Recreational Corridor volunteers received the volunteer of the year award from the Clayton County Development Group at their annual meeting.

Nick Koehn replaced the pipe on the pond dike.

Engelhardt talked with Matt Erickson regarding the rental issue on the Eno property. Walters has the lease until March of 2014.

The naturalists have worked with many groups during the month of July. Naturalists have completed JNP camps. Seasonal Naturalists each got to present a radio program.

The Motor Mill Foundation received a \$50 donation from Schwab Charitable Fund on behalf of an anonymous donor.

The Turkey Valley Sportsmen made a \$500 donation.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 20,811.62
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SEPTEMBER

At the suggestion of Shawver Well, the Osborne well was shock chlorinated. Unofficial water samples taken after this showed coliform counts over the recommended threshold. Tim Engelhardt, Executive Director, will notify the state of the elevated counts. Shawver has suggested several possible solutions. Engelhardt will report to the Board after his meeting with Easton Water Conditioning.

Management plans were reviewed in preparation for the work session on September 24, 2013. Tim Engelhardt reviewed the plans developed with the input of the District State Forester. The CCCB has visited these sites in the last several years. Board members discussed the increase in the scope of management of the properties of CCC. There is adequate work for a full-time position for land management.

We have received two donations, one from the Whistling Bit Saddle Club for \$100 to help with Pony Hollow Trail and \$500 from Turkey Federation for projects at the Becker Property. Lease Termination letters have been sent certified mail to the renters at the Becker Property.

The Labor Day weekend was rather slow in the campgrounds. We had campers but were not full.

Running boards have been installed on the new van.

The pond dike has been completed and area has been dressed.

This past month staff has spent a lot of time with routine mowing, trimming, and minor repair to equipment.

Engelhardt and Anderson were able to attend a couple of different training sessions that were very good.

Naturalists have been scheduling field trips and some class room programs already. They are organizing the Mississippi River Festival. Gibbs has attacked the knotweed at Motor Mill. Gibbs was published in the Iowa Outdoors. Naturalists hosted the Northeast Iowa Naturalists meeting at which they canoed the Turkey River. OWLS went to Heritage Farm Park and Montauk. Several outreach programs for Care Centers and Home Schools.

The Holiday Walk will be at Motor Mill this year being held on November 14.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 21,703.38
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SEPTEMBER SPECIAL MEETING

Buck Creek Management Plan - Discussion centered on the following ideas:

- The creek bottom will be left to passive management, to develop naturally without intervention.
- Both hillsides visible from the creek could be lightly harvested, but keeping intact woodland visible from the creek and fishing areas is important.
- A group of cedar trees east of the creek provide wildlife habitat, especially in the winter, and should be released from surrounding trees to encourage their growth.
- The upland area corresponding to Site 3 is overstocked and needs to be thinned to promote growth of walnut. This area could be selectively harvested in 5-10 years or selective harvesting could be done with the timber sale planned on Site 1 & 2.
- The area along the east fence line, corresponding to Site one and two, has trees that are mature and over mature. The area along the fence line needs to be cleared of problem trees for new fence to be installed. Discussion centered on the harvest of the large mature trees in Site 1 & 2. Trees will be marked for harvest. Ash trees throughout the park will also be marked for sale.
- Regeneration of oak in Site 1 & 2 was discussed, but the time, effort and staff are not available to do the work required for oak regeneration.
- Woodlands in this park are suitable for regular timber harvests. Information about the scope, plan, and process of the timber sale at Buck Creek Park will be made to the public prior to the sale.

Becker Property West - Discussion centered on the following:

- Use of the area for wildlife habitat, hunting, trails, and habitat for songbirds.
- There would be minimal harvesting of trees. The area has a number of oak trees that provide mast for wildlife, so maintaining the oaks is important. One method is to use fire to reduce the maples and promote the growth of oak.
- The present hay field has moderately eroded slopes and the possibility of planting this area to trees was discussed. Roger Koster will be asked about conservation practices related to farming this field.
- Jon Stravers will be asked for suggestions on how to provide habitat for upland songbirds.

Becker Property East - Discussion centered on the following:

- This area is viewed from Highway 52, so that factor must be considered in the use of the area next to highway. Woodland would be a pleasing view for travelers.
- A riparian buffer was planted along the Little Turkey Creek, and pros and cons of increasing or maintaining this buffer were discussed.
- This area is less suitable for fire, so crop tree release would be done by contracted individuals.
- The possibility of renting and enrolling the bottomland fields, which are frequently flooded, in a CRP program for bottomland woodlands was considered. More information on this program will be sought.
- Open areas high on the ridge provide appropriate wild turkey habitat and good places for hunters.

For the Becker properties, it will be necessary to hire a contractor to do Timber Stand Improvement (TSI).

OCTOBER

The bid of Fauser Energy Resources for was accepted for LP.

The board accepted the proposal from Ricoh for a 5-year lease fee

A safety audit was done on the Motor Mill Building. Areas of concern were shared with the MMF.

Engelhardt was authorized to proceed with the chlorination system from Easton's Water Conditioning for a continuous chlorination system.

The Executive Director was authorized to contact Bruce Blair and proceed to mark the trees for a timber sale in the eastern side of the Buck Creek property, and to let bids for the purchase of these trees according to the Buck Creek Management Plan.

The board authorized the Executive Director to proceed to finalize the lease agreements as approved by the CCCB and send out bid requests pending discussion with Alan Heavens, Terry Hanfield, Ron McCartney, and Pat Schaffer.

Signs have been ordered to be placed along Pony Hollow Trail stating that a shooting range is near the trail. We have been requested to do so for visitors in the area.

Some TSI work has been completed on the hill top above the campground at Bloody Run. This work has opened up the goat prairie at this location. Engelhardt has contacted Jon Stravers to discuss bird populations in the Bloody Run area and the effects the current management plan would have on those populations.

Engelhardt has been working with the NRCS office and the company that seeded the EWP site by Elkader. The site has been declared a failure in the seeding and we are trying to come to an agreement for reseeding the area.

The naturalists hosted River Fest this year. Jim Langhus expressed appreciation for the Clayton County Conservation staff who have taken on the task of presenting Riverfest.

Naturalist staff also helped Fayette County with a large group in Beulahland. Several public programs included Monarchs, O.W.L.S. Maiden Voyage, some care center programs, and a special program for the Clayton County Insurance group. Field trips are underway, including a fishing program and a kayak class at Central and a fishing class at Clayton Ridge. Naturalists led a field trip for the naturalist meeting at Bixby and White Pine Hollow, along with an interpretive boat ride for Upper Iowa Audubon.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 11,692.78
	Conservation Reserve	\$ 399.29
	Total	\$ 12,092.07

NOVEMBER

The board accepted the three-year bid of Mike Duwe for the Becker East Property. A discussion was held about the Becker West Property. Due to the number of alternatives and suggestions obtained, it was agreed to spend more time to find the best use of this resource with no rental leases sent out. Work continues for signing the Becker Property.

The staff of Clayton County Conservation has prepared, reviewed and prioritized a list of items needed. The budget proposal for FY 2015 will be reviewed next month.

The purchase of a 'Heavy Duty African Mahogany Amadinda', an outdoor wooden musical instrument to be used in the play scape was approved. It will be hand built after it is ordered and should be here next spring.

The gazebo overlooking the grain elevator and Mississippi River was for sale; Engelhardt chose not to pursue the property, .4 acres, due to the condition of the site and structures.

Engelhardt and Bruce Blair have completed marking trees for sale in about half of the site at Buck Creek. The bid sheets will be due at the December meeting.

The Chicken Ridge area has been prepped for seeding. Still working with NRCS and the company in charge of seeding the EWP site by Elkader.

The Motor Mill Canoe Ramp has been redone with financial help from the White-Tails Unlimited. The organization will continue to help with maintaining the site.

Engelhardt is doing some extra work on Safety policy for the entire county for the safety committee.

Polk County came for a visit of the Nature Center. They are building a new center and wanted to see other centers throughout eastern Iowa. Brian, Abbey and Tim showed them around and answered questions.

The Holiday Walk will be at Motor Mill this year on Thursday November 14.

Naturalists have had several field trips yet and they are starting to get their schedules filled for Winter Classroom Programs. Clayton County Naturalists met with the new Allamakee County Naturalists to discuss programing ideas and to help with their efforts. The naturalists had a job shadow student from Luther College.

Luster attended an Iowa Homeland Security Grants Management Training for doing much of our FEMA paperwork on line.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 10,643.67
	Conservation Reserve	\$ 413.50
	Total	\$ 11,057.17

DECEMBER

Four buyers submitted bid for the Buck creek timber sale, with the high bid coming from Grau Logs and Lumber of Elkader. That bid was accepted by the board.

The board approved a salary schedule for FY 2015 of a 3% cost of living increase and a 2% longevity increase. Other budget items were discussed, including the need to replace the shop. The director was authorized to discuss the shop proposal with the Board of Supervisors, and to investigate possible loans or other funding options.

In 2010, the Clayton and Fayette County Conservation Boards received a \$234,000 grant for the Turkey River Corridor through the U. S. DOT Regional Enhancement Fund. The Clayton County Conservation Board agreed to allow the Fayette County Conservation Board to proceed to use the Enhancement grant funds.

The board authorized the director to apply for a Clayton County Foundation for the Future grant to pay for part of the cost new kiosk signs for the animal exhibit and for the playscape.

Jaster's term on the board will end this year. The Board of Supervisors will be asked to reappoint her for a five-year term.

Several of the staff attended the River and Bluffs Scenic By-Way Stake Holders meeting held in Elkader.

The Classroom Naturalist program is in full swing. The Holiday Walk was held at Motor Mill in November. We had 67 participants and the event went well. The final OWLS program for the season was held with a trip to Dyersville. The Swag and Bow workshop had 16 participants plus a scout group and a care center had programs.

Engelhardt will be meeting with Lyle TeKippe regarding the preliminary survey work on the Motor Mill Trail. After completion, options will be discussed with landowners.

The parks, buildings and animal exhibit have all been winterized.

The Turkey River Corridor will ask the two counties and three cities for funding again in January.

Staff is getting ready to start renting the snowshoes. That program should be ready to start next week. Rental will be for one day at \$5 a day with \$150 deposit. Depending how it goes this year we may look at a weekend rental next year.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 6,678.87
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