

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
2009  
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- VOLGA**

**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 2009. The document also contains a summary of meeting minutes and statistics acquired 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 2009.

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.

After three years of low visitation numbers to Osborne Park, it seems 2009 the number of visitors to the park are back to 2005 numbers. Several factors which may have influenced the larger return of visitors include lower gas prices over the past year, flood recovery efforts throughout the state, and people staying closer to home on their travels.

We have also seen a large increase in website visits. As we are moving toward a more web society the website could become a very important tool for relaying information on programs and events, promotion of facilities, and possibly more educational material available on line.

Recovery from the 2008 flood continued into 2009 and will continue into 2010. The larger flood recovery projects included getting the Motor Mill Campground seeded and reopened. The Old Osborne Campground and buffalo pen was seeded down in native grasses and flowers and the new road was put in at the archery range with the expectations of developing camping or overnight accommodations near the archery range.

The overnight accommodations may include several cabins in the future. The Board has begun to research this idea by hiring landscape architect Craig Ritland to conduct a feasibility study and cabin layout and design for the site. That project is still underway.

Several flood recovery projects are still in progress at Motor Mill. After the flood we could not get a good test from the well at Motor Mill. The board began the process to drill a new well. The new well is located on the hill behind the white house. The well was drilled during the fall of 2009. Now we are designing a pump house hope to have this project out to bid sometime in the spring of 2010.

A second flood recovery project at Motor Mill is the demolition of the white house. FEMA has changed the funding source and will take the house down themselves. Since the demolition will be using federal funds and there may be historic significant sites located near by a historical and archeological review will have to be completed before the demolition can begin.

The third flood recovery project at Motor Mill is the repair and replacement of the Motor Mill Bridge. It was determined that the bridge pier was damaged as a result of the flood. FEMA has agreed to repair the center pier and replace the north span that was washed out from the 2008 flood.

This project has become part of the Turkey River Corridor Iowa Great Places Grant. Other projects that will be included in the Turkey River Corridor Project is the Turkey River Water Trail, building restoration, educational plan, flood control structure at Motor and a land trail connecting Motor Mill to the Pony Hollow Trail.

The larger Turkey River Corridor Project is connecting Clermont, Elgin, Elkader and Motor Mill with a land and water trail. Each town will also have four large projects each in their community. Each community will have a trail system within their city limits.

The Turkey River Corridor Land Trail Project is still part of a larger regional trail project to connect Clermont to Guttenberg and the Mississippi River Trail and the north from Clermont to Calmer which leads to Cresco and then to the Root River Trail creating a large loop trail.

And finally, the Motor Mill Foundation has been working hard at Motor Mill. The floor joists, flooring and window project is nearing completion. They hope to have the window project completed by late spring of 2010. The flooring project in the mill has been completed. A second large accomplishment this year was the replacement of the roofs on the mill and the inn at Motor.

# Staffing

## **STAFF MEMBERS-Permanent Full-Time**

TIM ENGELHARDT – Director

MARTY MULFORD – Operations Supervisor

HARRY LUSTER – Office/Welcome Center Coordinator

TUCKER ANDERSON- Park Ranger/Special Projects

JULIE BRAZELL – Naturalist I (Resigned July 2009)

BRIAN GIBBS- Naturalist I (Hired October 5, 2009)

ABBEY HARKRADER- Naturalist II

## **STAFF MEMBERS – Permanent Part-Time**

WALTER REICHSTADTER – Maintenance Tech.

JOYCE SCHOULTE– Secretary/Receptionist

PAUL & CATHY MARCOTTE – Exhibit Security

## **SEASONAL EMPLOYEES**

OFFICE STAFF – 1 Individual

SUMMER MAINTENANCE – 5 Individuals

SUMMER NATURALISTS – 2 Individuals

## **VOLUNTEERS**

150 + volunteers help with the naturalist programs, flower gardens, 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 2009

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):	77,964
December-March	1,500
Heritage Days:	12,000
Field Trips:	3,000
Pond/archery range, buses	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,464</b>

### Iowa Visitor Registration for 2009: 7,871

2008: 7,234  
 2007: 7,441  
 2006: 9,330

### Traffic Counter

2008	33,400
2007	41,043
2006	65,334
2005	77,737
2004	44,281 (hole in counter hose)
2003	73,114
2002	68,256
2001	68,182
2000	88,364
1999	76,786
1998	89,161
1997	88,586
1996	95,823

### Website Unique Visitor Numbers

2006  
 2007  
 2008  
 2009

### CCCB

2,335  
 7,394  
 No Data  
 20,777

### Motor Mill

507  
 1,202  
 1,658  
 1,568

## 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 2009 as well as a list of programs and events in which CCCB staff were involved with.

### PROJECTS

Clayton County Safety Committee  
Safety committee Self Audit Process  
Flood 2008 Clean up/Repair/Seeding  
FEMA Paperwork  
Water System at Motor Mill  
Conducted several Prescribed Burns  
Seeded Buffalo Pen area  
A new roof was installed on the Osborne Center  
Prairie and Savanna Burns  
Maintained Stand B at Osborne  
Emerald Ash Bore Surveillance  
New Trail head to Savanna  
Repair Pioneer Village Hotel and General Store  
Reopened Motor Mill Campground after Flood  
Motor Mill roof project on Mill and Inn  
Turkey River Trail Corridor  
Turkey River Water Trail  
Kellogg Food and Fitness Initiative

### EVENTS

Hunter Education (2)  
Bald Eagle Survey  
Youth Field Day  
Eagle Surveys  
Frog and Toad Survey  
Mississippi River Festival  
Benton County Field Day  
Off Road Fun Run/Walk  
Heritage Days  
Hawk Watch  
Holiday Walk  
Hosted Volunteer Lunch  
4-H Shooting Sports (6)  
Monthly Public Program  
O.W.L.S Education Series  
Archery Shoot (2)  
Motor Mill Open for Tours  
Trees for Kids  
Chickasaw Co Field Trip  
Mississippi Adventure Day  
Fontana Park Field Day  
EWALU Field Day

## Hunter Registration 2009

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 18 hunters register. 7 Black Hawk County, 2 Bremer County, 4 Clayton County, 1 Dubuque County, 1 Grundy County, 1 Johnson County, 2 Linn County

**South Side Motor Mill Park-** Had 12 hunters register. 2 Black Hawk County, 2 Clayton County, 1 Dubuque County, 1 Johnson County, 2 Linn County

## Camping Numbers

	# of Users	# of Nights	Fees
<b><u>Bloody Run Park</u></b>			
2003	1674.5	943	\$6,713.50
2004	1314	727	\$5,352.00
2005	1316	778	\$5,454.00
2006	1274	692	\$4,963.30
2007	1005	591	\$4,301.90
2008	1131	736	\$5,186.05
<b>2009</b>	<b>1220.5</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>\$5,814.25</b>
<b><u>Osborne Park</u></b>			
2003	1032	302	\$2,147.00
2004	87	32	\$ 228.00
2005	508	244	\$1,736.00
2006	404	213	\$1,498.00
2007	503	247	\$1,736.00
2008	8	2	\$ 14.00
<b>2009</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>		
<b><u>Motor Mill Park</u></b>			
2003	337	140	\$1,064.00
2004	44	11	\$ 77.00
2005	170	74	\$ 552.00
2006	305	117	\$ 955.65
2007	194	76	\$ 607.00
2008	47	15	\$ 105.00
<b>2009</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>\$ 168.00</b>
<b><u>Joy Springs Park</u></b>			
2003	191	76	\$ 532.00
2004	130	50	\$ 383.00
2005	126	55	\$ 384.00
2006	144	57	\$ 396.00
2007	211	52	\$ 419.95
2008	205	79	\$ 553.00
<b>2009</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$ 441.00</b>
<b><u>Totals</u></b>			
2003	3231.5	1463	\$10,456.50
2004	1575	820	\$ 6,040.00
2005	2120	1151	\$ 8,126.00
2006	2127	1079	\$ 7,812.95
2007	1913	966	\$ 7,064.85
2008	1391	832	\$ 5,858.05
<b>2009</b>	<b>1433.5</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>\$ 6,423.25</b>

## Naturalist Report 2009

	<u># of Presentations</u>	<u># of Student Contacts</u>	<u># of teacher/Leaders</u>
<b><i>Classroom Programs</i></b>			
January-December	<b>399</b>	<b>6772**</b>	<b>420</b>
<b><i>Field Trips</i></b>			
Jan-June (26)	189	1,294	158
September-November (9)	43	342	46
<b>FT Totals</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>1636</b>	<b>204</b>
<b>35 Total Visits</b>			
Summer 2009- Totals 21 Programs (June-August)	141	440	85
Public Programs 67 Programs	127	3,258	225
Heritage Days Holiday Walk		12,000 106	
Scout/4H groups	7	126	78
Motor Mill Open 10 weekends		634	
Hunter Education	2	115	20
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>25,087</b>	<b>1,032</b>

### Classroom Visits by Naturalists

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u># Presentations</u>	<u># Students</u>
Central	K-6	50	239
Ed-Co	JK-6	45	283
Garnavillo	5-7 <sup>th</sup>	26	176
Guttenberg	HS-4	37	215
MFL/Mar-Mac	HS-7	100	606
Postville	HS-5	44	297
Starmont	JK-4	33	262
St. Mary's	K-8	32	106
Valley	K-4	22	238
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>389</b>	<b>2,422**</b>

\*\*These numbers differ because nearly all students and teachers saw more than one program. For numbers on top section, each person is counted more than once.

## 2009 Public Programs

<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b># Attended</b>
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Owl Prowl	0 -30 degrees
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Stones, Bones & Sticks	14
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Cub Scouts Winter Fun Day	150
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Cross County Ski	Canceled no snow
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bluebird Box	16
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Astronomy	27 lovely night
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Baskets	7
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Natures Tykes Hyke	10
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Birds and Blooms	0
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Frogs Sing Songs	45 Holiday Wknd
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Fishing Derby	57 kids/28 parents
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Motor Mill Open House	105
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Garlic Mustard Pull	5
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Night Hike	15
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Motor Mill Savanna Walk	0
August 1	GPS Program at Motor Mill	7
August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Star Party	22
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Stream Stomp-Motor Mill	10
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	5K Fun Run	53
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	Scaly and Slimy- Motor Mill	10
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Memories of Motor	21
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Holiday Wreath	9
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Natural Ornaments	9

**Total** **620**

### O.W.L.S. 2009

March 19 <sup>th</sup>	CWD	3
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Red-Shouldered Hawks	7
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Clamming and C. Fishing	8
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Caviar of the Mississippi River	Cancelled
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Rain Gardens	36
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	Water Canaries	10
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Heirloom Tomato Testing	10
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sherman Swift Tower	18
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	1940 Blizzard	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>

**Grand Total** **727**

## VOLUNTEER HOURS 2009

<u>Area of Service</u>	<u>Hours Served</u>
Iowa Room	246
Garden	520
Field Trips	43
Heritage Days	560
Public Programs	50
Off Road Run	40
Jake's Day and WITO	140
Hunter Education	304
Motor Mill Foundation	2500
Conservation Board Members	<u>180</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,583</b>

## GRANTS 2009

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Funded</b>	<b>Unfunded</b>	<b>Project</b>
January	Alpine		\$1,000	Match for Inn and Stable
February	IDNR Water Trails	\$21,037		Fayette and Clayton County Water Trail
February	Alpine	\$1,000		Motor Roof
February	CCFF	\$1,000		Motor Roof
February	DRA		\$20,000	Motor Roof
October	Silos	\$2,500		Educational Vision Grant
October	Iowa Great Places	To be determined		Motor Mill, Land Trail
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$25,537</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>	

## JANUARY

Board members adopted the Woodland Management plan for Bloody Run Park prepared by Bruce Blair, District Forester, with the help of Tim Engelhardt, Executive Director.

Engelhardt presented four bids on different types of roofing material and labor for the Welcome Center roof. The information was used to help determine expenditures for the roof replacement

After a review the proposed FY 2010 budget, the board approved the salaries, revenue and expenditures.

RC& D of Postville is applying for an Iowa Water Trails Grant covering 114 miles of the Turkey River. This is a three way grant with Fayette County, Clayton County and RC & D and part of a larger project with Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness and the Iowa Great Places Application.

The board approved applying for grants from Alpine Communications and Clayton County Foundation for the Future, each for \$1000 and would be used for the roof at Motor Mill.

The board reviewed the 2008 Annual Report. The 2008 Camping Summary was reviewed.

Clayton County's will host the five-county conservation board meeting. The Kellogg Food and Fitness Initiative will be a good program to share with the other counties.

Jim Langhus and Larry Stone met with Executive Director Tim Engelhardt to share the board evaluations compiled by Jim Langhus.

Engelhardt talked with FEMA regarding status of payment. They were missing four forms that had not been signed. They have now been filed with and payment should be forthcoming. The Motor House and the Osborne Campground Projects are still pending.

IDED has requested a list of upcoming projects within all county departments throughout the state for possible stimulus funding. Engelhardt submitted four projects for Conservation. The county engineer is compiling all projects for the county.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$4,943.87
	Conservation Reserve:	221.27
	Total:	\$5,165.14

**FEBRUARY**

CCCB, through an arrangement with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, will receive property owned by the Beckers in Millville Township upon the termination of the Life Estates presently in effect. Rafe Koopman, County Secondary Roads Engineer asked the CCCB to consider the placement of a new county shop on the North edge of the Becker property. After discussion, it was decided to talk to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to see if there are criteria, restrictions, or suggestions about this process.

Tim Engelhardt was notified by the Board of Supervisors that the raises approved by the CCCB for the staff for FY 2010 were unacceptable. They were recently informed that a projected loss of approximately \$900,000.00 is expected. After a review of the proposed FY 2010 budget, the board voted to approve. Engelhardt and Luster have also submitted adjustments to our FY 2009 budget due to the flood to the Auditor at his request.

After review of the seven bids for the replacement of the Osborne Visitor Center Roof, the bid from Strawberry Building Supply was accepted. Installation of the shingles will be done by Justin Fry.

The director was authorized to request bids for three bid items to replace the 1991 blue Dodge pickup: separate bids on a pick-up; an 8-foot snowplow; and a bid for the snow plow, pick-up combination with the plow installed.

The Parks and Facilities portion of the 5 year plan was reviewed with some changes suggested. Updates will be added to the plan.

Engelhardt was authorized to apply for grants to use in the repair of the Motor Mill roof from the Dubuque Racing Association. The assessment report from Doug Steinmetz for the Inn and Stable at Motor Mill is currently being reviewed.

The Sheriff and Engelhardt will be meeting in the near future to discuss a berm between the county shooting range and Pony Hollow Trail.

Engelhardt and Harkrader will try to meet once a week for an hour to look at ways to develop the educational programs and ways to promote the Motor Mill site.

The Motor Mill Foundation will be hosting “Fundamentals of Interpretation” training on Saturday, February 21 with Ken Block of Effigy Mounds as the presenter.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$6,043.00
	Conservation Reserve:	5,500.00
	Total:	\$11,543.00

**MARCH**

Five bids were received for a new pick-up, snow plow, and pick-up and snowplow combination with snow plow installed. The pick-up and snow plow will be purchased from Brown’s in Guttenberg.

The updated 5-year Parks and Facilities Plan which included the suggestions from last meeting was approved.

The well water at Motor was tested and coliform bacteria were found, making the water unsafe. The consensus was that a new and deeper well is likely the best long-term solution to safe water at the site. The board authorized the Executive Director to investigate a new well at Motor.

Engelhardt spoke with Mark Ackelson of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, which brokered the agreement between the Beckers and the CCCB, about the possibility of using some land on the Becker property for a county shop at some future date. Engelhardt was authorized to inform the County Engineer and Supervisors that after consulting with INHF, it would not be appropriate to use the property for anything other than wildlife and recreation.

Doug Steinmetz has completed the assessment report of the Inn and Stable at Motor Mill. A copy of the final report was handed out and reviewed.

The board agreed to continue with the Media Com advertising package, partnering with Fayette County Conservation, using the same ad as last year.

Engelhardt was authorized to submit a project application to RC & D for the Osborne Park and Campground. RC & D may be receiving a portion of the federal economic stimulus money; the only way to access this financial resource would be as an accepted project of R C & D.

Engelhardt has met with FEMA for a close out meeting. The federal share has all been paid; once all of the projects have been completed, then we can apply for the remaining 10% of state money.

IACCB has launched the new website [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com) .

Twenty people from NE Iowa, including Engelhardt, traveled to Texas for a Kellogg Foundation meeting. They were recognized for the work they have accomplished, their ability to communicate, the plans and goals to the future and our youth. Because of these things, the NE Iowa Region has been offered the opportunity to submit a Letter of Intent to be a site to be included in the 2010 Transportation Bill to develop alternate forms of transportation.

The IDNR Water Trails grant for signage and access for the Turkey River through Fayette and Clayton County was approved.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$8,165.97
	Conservation Reserve:	190.00
	Total:	\$8,355.97

**APRIL**

Three well drillers said the well at Motor would be considered a public well and would need an engineer to design the well; the low bid of Erdman Engineering for the well design was accepted.

We have received an approval letter from FEMA to move the Osborne Campground to the area behind the pond. The request for this project is approved pending the following items: environmental review and floodplain review. FEMA will send a review team to do this. The Osborne Park has been accepted as an RC&D project, which may provide a source of funding through federal stimulus funds. Discussion followed on the best course to follow in developing the campground area.

The Clayton County Development Group is applying for a \$10,000.00 grant from Eastern Iowa Tourism for advertising Clayton County out-of-state. The grant requires a dollar for dollar match. The CCDG has pledged \$1000.00 and is asking the CCCB and other county communities to pledge \$500.00. The board approved pledging \$500.00 if the CCDG is awarded the grant. Engelhardt will send a letter to CCDG in support of the grant application.

Jim Jansen with the Iowa DNR spoke with Engelhardt about the 25-year agreements the CCCB has with the DNR about managing the Pony Hollow Trail and the Elkader Wetlands, which are owned by the Iowa DNR. The agreements have both expired; the DNR will re-write the agreements and present them to the CCCB.

Staff has been working on the Savanna at Motor Mill, treating garlic mustard and continuing to remove ironwood and maple on the hill top.

Pony Hollow Trail has been closed for a period time for the trail to dry out. We also had horse track damage on the trail that has been repaired. Grau Logs removed 11 logs from along the trail out of the Wilke Property to allow access to the trail.

We were awarded \$1,000 through the Alpine Communications Charitable Giving Program for the Motor Mill Foundation for roof replacement on the mill and inn. Harkrader has been working with the MMF members with schedules and promotion of the site.

Brazell and Harkrader attended the spring IAN in Linn County in March. Naturalist Brazell has received a 2008 Professional Development Certificate through the IAN. Brazell attended the NAI conference in SD.

The six CCB directors met with RC&D and Upper Explorer Land to put together a regional trail plan and set up priority sections. Rails To Trails 2010 Campaign is still a go; we are on their radar screen nationally. The region will be submitting a Case Statement in the next two to three weeks.

Luster and Engelhardt will be meeting with the auditor to figure out our FY 09 budget with the flood money involved with income and expenses. We will need to amend the budget.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$8,071.08
	Conservation Reserve:	668.20
	Total:	\$8,739.28

**MAY**

Kevin Hanson of Volga gave background information on a continuing project by Pattison Mining Co. to mine silica sand near Clayton and Frenchtown. The operation has expanded from an underground mine at Clayton to strip mines in bluff tops between Frenchtown and Clayton. Earlier this year, the Clayton County Board of Supervisors approved Pattison’s request to close and re-grade Mississippi Road as a means to dispose of spoil from the nearby mining operation. After objections from the Iowa DNR, Pattison and the supervisors agreed to avoid excavation on the adjacent north-facing hillside until it could be determined whether the site was habitat for the jeweled shooting star, a threatened species in Iowa; in early May shooting star colonies were found at the site. It is uncertain whether the project will proceed, or what alternatives might be proposed. Stone and Engelhardt were authorized to prepare a letter expressing the Board’s concerns to the BOS, the Planning and Zoning Commission and other interested parties.

Engelhardt and Luster reviewed the status of the FY 2009 budget. The budget is on track to balance, with a cushion of almost \$800, by June 30.

John Foels has sold his land adjacent to the Kleve Fen to Mark Nelson. Engelhardt will contact Nelson to discuss access and management issues, and any possible changes that might benefit both parties.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has told Engelhardt that INHF is working on a conservation easement with a landowner near Bloody Run Park. INHF would like CCCB to hold the easement after it is finalized. The board agreed that Engelhardt should pursue the arrangement with INHF and the landowner.

Silos and Smokestacks will be initiating a new grant to help members with planning, layout, and design for displays. Engelhardt said this should be well suited for projects at Motor.

Staff has been continuing with flood repairs. The work includes the fence at Motor Mill between the Reimers and the Inn; the campground has been tilled and seeded. Areas left to be seeded include the old buffalo pen, old campground at Motor Mill, old Osborne Campground and the area north of the Motor Mill Campground. All of this will be with native seed.

The Volunteer Lunch and Program was a great success. We served over 100 people and folks seemed to have really enjoyed the event.

Pony Hollow Trail is open and all gates have been fixed. The out parks are being prepped for the summer season: picnic tables and trash cans put out and areas picked up. This week is the first full week of mowing.

Brazell worked with Central High School on the Basics of Fishing. This was conducted through PE classes; it is the first time to work with this group. Both Julie and Abbey have worked with scout groups this month.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$72,404.04
	Conservation Reserve:	150.08
	Total:	\$72,554.12

## JUNE

The board approved the submission of two grant applications through Winneshiek County Solid Waste: an education grant and a grant for a Household Toxic Waste Day.

Board members received a copy of a letter sent to the Clayton County Supervisors expressing concern about the proposed road at the Pattison mining site. Ihm, Engelhardt and others met with the Supervisors on May 27 to express concerns about the road project. Ihm was present when the DNR representatives and Kyle Pattison, owner of Pattison Sand, met at the site. The board will compose a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Clayton County Supervisors and news media about the controversy, acknowledging the compromises made by Pattison to reduce the impact on the area, but expressing the need for more dialogue to better deal with future issues in the county.

Chuck Lawson, owner of Buck Creek Log Cabin Company of Garnavillo presented pictures of cabins the company has built. The Board continued discussion about road, placement of cabins, drilling of a well and septic issues for the new Osborne Campground. Janet Ott, from Planning and Zoning, will be consulted. The board authorized the Director to contact an architect for assistance in layout/design of the proposed campground.

Osborne Park has been a monitoring site for potential infestation of the emerald ash borer. Officials from the DNR and the USDA have spent time evaluating the ash trees at Osborne and have found no sign of disease. A five-mile area around Osborne Park will now be monitored for the emerald ash borer beetle. Informational meetings for the timber industry and for the public will be held.

Board members toured the new berm between the shooting range and Pony Hollow Trail. This resolves an issue of concern about trail walkers and shooting range users being in close proximity.

Julie Brazell has accepted a naturalist position at Custer State park, in South Dakota. She will remain on staff through June. The board authorized the Director to pursue the replacement of this naturalist position.

The permit and siting for the well at Motor Mill has been completed. The permit has been approved by the DNR. The engineering firm can now begin to develop the specifications for the well.

Harkrader and Betty Buchholz attended an Interpretive Writing Workshop sponsored by Silos.

KCRG channel 9 came to Osborne Park filmed for a series called Our Town Road Trip. The program will be aired in July.

Several Department Heads and the Board of Supervisors have been reviewing and updating the Employee Handbook. The updated book should be in place sometime in the fall.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$27,445.97
	Conservation Reserve:	210.81
	Total:	\$27,656.78

## JULY

The board approved a grant application to Silos and Smokestacks for an Interpretive Planning Grant at Motor Mill. The grant would be used to hire someone to prepare a plan for development of displays at Motor Mill.

The board approved sending a letter requesting LP bids for the winter.

The group traveled to a cabin near Buena Vista and were given a tour by Chuck Lawson. He answered questions and provided information. Engelhardt is lining up appointments with Landscape Architects to put together a proposal for the Osborne Campground/Cabin area.

The group left to tour the Becker property, an area of approximately 375 acres in the Life Estate of Mrs. Becker. There was discussion of possible uses for the property when it is received by the CCCB

The supervisors are considering a proposal to widen Sandpit Road which goes past the county office building to a rock quarry. The county engineer proposes to widen the road approximately 20 feet at the base, which would take approximately 30 feet off the top of Lovers Leap. This would create a stair step to the bottom of the bluff. It would also destroy the area known as Lovers Leap. The Executive Director was directed to send a letter to all interested parties stating the CCCB's opposition to this plan.

John Moyna has offered to give the CCCB a tour of the Pattison Mine area at our August board meeting. It will need to be a daytime meeting; board members agreed to do this.

Engelhardt shared a letter from John Pollack about the good camping experience he and his group had at Frieden's Park on Memorial Day. The group enclosed a check for \$1000.00.

Naturalists have been working with JNP Camps for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Seasonal naturalists have been working with daycare groups, libraries, and Camp EWALU along with camps and surveying the bluebird trail.

Engelhardt met with the wildlife section of the IDNR and looked at the Elkader Wetland. The DNR will develop a management plan later this fall for the site.

We have received the site location permit from the IDNR for the well at Motor. A construction plan will be developed and submitted by the end of July. Once that permit has been received it will be time to bid out the project.

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on July 8, they voted to install a hiring freeze in all county offices.

The DNR shocked the pond and only collected 1 bluegill and two got away. We are looking at the option of killing out the pond and restocking this fall yet.

Secondary Roads has installed a culvert at Bloody Run to help get the water off the camping area better.

Claims:                      General Basic:                      \$13,142.82

## AUGUST

The board accepted the bid of Three Rivers FS for \$1.078 per gallon.

Only one architectural proposal was returned for the potential rental cabin complex. Gardner Architecture of Strawberry Point and Craig Ritland Landscape Architects, Waterloo, chose to give a combined proposal. CCCB accepted the proposal of Ritland and Gardner for with clarification of what is included in Phase III.

The CCCB arrived at the Pattison Mine area, broke into small groups and toured the area.

The board approved the 25-year agreement, ending December 31, 2034, for Pony Hollow Trail that the DNR presented. The agreement can be cancelled by either party with a 30-day notice.

Tim Engelhardt reported there are 32 applicants for the naturalist position. A number of applicants have extensive experience which merits a starting salary of \$35,000.

The Naturalists helped with the USFWS Mississippi River Adventure Day at Harpers Ferry and have had 8 programs with care centers, libraries and child care centers this month. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade camps have been completed.

Engelhardt was involved in helping write the Iowa Great Places application being submitted by Clermont, Elgin and Elkader as part of the Turkey River Corridor. Engelhardt wrote a support letter for the application.

Moyna has submitted a proposal for the access road to the archery range. Cost is \$10,000 to grade and rock. Proposal also includes pulling the road away from the fence line and putting a bend in the road and building a berm to create a screen between the housing development and campground.

The Osborne Pond will be shocked again to see what is there for fish. The DNR will also run nets through the pond to see what they can find that way. Then based on this information, we will determine our next course of action.

Engelhardt is working with Jim Jansen on two possible properties for the EWP program. The state has some funds available to purchase these properties outright. One property is along the Volga River and one property is along the Turkey River.

Motor Mill and Bloody Run both received damage to the sod by someone spinning through each of the parks. The driver of the damage at Bloody Run was identified and charged. We have no leads on the damage from Motor Mill.

The Motor Mill Foundation received some mill equipment from Potter's Mill. We had help from Jackson County in loading it.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$13,018.12
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## SEPTEMBER

A discussion was held with the Planning and Zoning Board about bluffland protection.

Brian Gibbs from Boone, Iowa, has been hired to fill the vacant naturalist position. His start date is October 5, so he will be here for Osborne Heritage Days.

Engelhardt will be meeting with Lora Friest of RC&D to look at the campground and possible grants.

The grant for Silos has been submitted for the interpretive planning grant. Consultant Thomas Woods from Wisconsin submitted a proposal to help with the visioning portion of the planning process.

Engelhardt met with Ritland and his planning team. We looked at the site and had some preliminary discussions. TeKippe Engineering will go ahead with the mapping with the maximum cost of \$2,500.

The Great Places Application for the Turkey River Corridor will be presented to the Great Places Board on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Food and Fitness is bringing in Mark Fenton for three days to work with the region. Fenton has a show called America Walking. He is also involved in the 2010 Transportation Bill.

Engelhardt will be going off the Regional Food and Fitness Team, but still will be involved on the Active Living Regional Subcommittee.

Engelhardt will be attending the IACCB Conference in Decorah on September 11 and 12.

The playground equipment has been removed from the Osborne Campground and is being stored for now.

45 trees were thinned out from the tree planting by the dock shelter house at the pond.

Harkrader has been working on the Osborne 5K Run scheduled for Saturday, September 19. She has started the planning of Heritage Days scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 10 and 11. Naturalists have been working with a variety of groups during the month of August along with scheduled public programs. Seasonal Naturalists have been a huge asset to Abbey during this time of change over.

We had a very good camping Labor Day weekend in our county parks. 4 of the 5 sites at the campground at Motor Mill were used over the weekend

Bids went out for the well at Motor Mill.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$6,898.77
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## OCTOBER

After discussion, the Board decided to facilitate a discussion of zoning regulations. CCCB members are asked to come up with a list of names of interested parties they will personally invite to hear this speaker. The public will also be invited to the presentation.

The road between Pikes Peak State Park and McGregor is scheduled to be resurfaced in the next several years. The county engineer has requested the CCCB sponsor a bike lane from Pikes Peak to McGregor. Funding for the bike trail would be separate from the resurfacing, but occur simultaneously. The board authorized Engelhardt to proceed with the discussion with Rafe Koopman and Matt Tschirgi.

Bids were sent out to three well drillers for the well at Motor. The board accepted the bid of B & B Well Drilling of Edgewood and Brown's Pump of Arlington, submitted as one bid.

Clermont, Elgin and Elkader have worked together to begin the application for an Iowa Great Places Designation for the Turkey River Corridor. The board approved the continued work with the land and water trail. The Turkey River Corridor Great Places project was awarded an Iowa Great Place designation.

The Fall IACCB Conference was held in Decorah on September 11 and 12.

Allamakee County is hosting the annual Five County Conservation Board Meeting on November 5, 2009 at the Old Rossville Store.

Engelhardt is working with Iowa Homeland Security about the white house at Motor Mill. FEMA will remove the house, but not through the Project Worksheet that was written. There are many issues with the house and the best solution is to do the project this way.

Engelhardt and Anderson were in Des Moines for CCPOA training. Engelhardt and Anderson also participated in a mock disaster drill of an active shooter at Mar-Mac school on Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Engelhardt has been asked by McGregor/Marquette Great Places Committee to serve on a Stake Holders Advisory Committee. Their project includes a Driftless Area Wetland Learning Center, a trail system and an observation tower.

CCCB purchased 400 bags with the CCCB logo on it for give away through an educational grant from the Winneshiek County Landfill.

Much work has been completed at Motor Mill. The Foundation's fund raising efforts are moving forward. The raffle ticket sales have been coming along and they should raise well over \$1,000 for their efforts.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$11,565.65
	Conservation Reserve:	6,023.24
	Total:	\$17,588.89

**NOVEMBER**

The board approved the purchase of a rifle and accessories for use by the rangers.

Shawver Well Company has requested the opportunity for the Board to review the bid for the Division II work, the pump and piping, at Motor Mill.

The speaker for the initial meeting for bluffland protection and zoning is not available in November, so will be asked to speak after the first of the year. An invitation list needs to be developed. The Clayton County Supervisors support the idea and want to be involved.

The board approved applying for a grant for the Motor Mill Foundation from Home Depot that can be used for tools such as saws, planers, jointers, etc. and supplies.

At meeting with the Great Places Staff in Des Moines, the local group was encouraged to include Motor Mill in the application; therefore a project for Motor Mill would need to be included in the work plan.

Luster presented information regarding the FY11 budget. A staff list of needs for possible inclusion in the budget was reviewed.

Jim Langhus’ appointment to the CCCB expires Dec 31, 2009.

Stone shared information from the November 5<sup>th</sup> five-county meeting with elected officials at Rossville. A brochure about “My County Parks” website and information about a possible Wetland Center to be created in Marquette as part of their “Great Places” project was also shared.

The chimney work at Motor has been completed. The roofs on the mill and inn have been started. Work on the well was started on Monday. Engelhardt talked with REC regarding power for the well.

Engelhardt has signed an extension for the Osborne Campground road project through FEMA for one year. He has also started the process to move the Motor Mill White House project from a PW to a 403 project through FEMA. Demolition has been halted until a historical and archaeological review can be completed.

Naturalists have started scheduling winter classroom programs with the teachers. They are finishing up with school field trips to Osborne and will be attending the fall IAN workshop in Woodbury County.

Maintenance staff is getting parks ready for winter. Tables and trash cans brought in, sledding hill and cross country ski trails mowed and vehicles are being checked over.

A group of bow hunters from Black Hawk County have installed a new fire ring at Buck Creek Park. This is part of a memorial for a hunting buddy who died from cancer last year.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$ 7,338.07
	Conservation Reserve:	10,821.60
	Total:	\$18,259.67

## DECEMBER

After consulting with the Assistant County Attorney the board rejected both bids of the Phase II well project because of changed circumstances. The project will be rebid with the additional requirements.

After further research into departmental rifles, the board approved the purchase of two rifles, one for each officer.

A proposed budget for 2011 was handed out to board members to review and discuss again in January.

All board members turned in completed evaluation forms to Jim Langhus, Chair, who will compile the information and meet with Tim Engelhardt on Wednesday, December 23, to discuss the results.

Engelhardt was authorized to apply for a grant through the Environment Program of Alliant Energy Foundation, to match the Silos and Smokestacks Motor Mill Interpretive Grant.

A meeting will be held Tuesday, January 26, 2010 to provide information to the public about bluffland protection and zoning, time and place for the meeting to be determined.

Tim Engelhardt presented information on the Iowa Great Places Turkey River Corridor project. He also shared information about the proposed trail between Clermont, Elgin, and Elkader.

Jim Langhus has agreed to serve another five-year term on the Board, pending approval of the Board of Supervisors.

Engelhardt and Jon deNeui met with FEMA at Motor and looked at additional projects from the flood of 2008. The well, roof and chimney work at Motor Mill has been completed.

Moyna has completed work on the road to the archery range.

The pond was sprayed with rotenone on Monday November 30 to kill all of the fish out of the pond.

The sledding hill and cross country ski trails have been mowed and are ready for snow. The buildings and animal exhibit have been prepped for winter.

Motor Mill Foundation held a program called Memories of Motor. They were looking for living memories of Motor Mill to further develop an oral history of the site. They had 21 people attend on November 14.

Winter classroom programs are in full swing with both naturalists going in two different directions most days. The Holiday Walk is scheduled for Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year's theme is Dr. Seuss. Fifteen people attended the O.W.L.S. program in November on the 1940 Armistice Day Blizzard.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$ 5,697.47
	Conservation Reserve:	65,450.97
	Total:	\$71,148.44

