

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
2011
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 2011. 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 2011.

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.

When the Strategic Plan was reviewed in 2011 some possible additions to the plan were discussed which included: Finances, Fund Raising and Projects and Capital Equipment. These additions were not completed due to time constraints but will be looked at in 2012.

The Turkey River Recreational Corridor Project is moving forward. The section of trail between Clermont and Elgin was completed this past year. Along with the land trail, the Turkey River Water Trail project was completed with the dedication being held during Project AWARE. The Water Trail project includes way finding signs, kiosks, water trail maps and water access signs at each access point.

Project AWARE was held from July 9-16. A total of 429 people participated in this week long river clean up and educational float trip. The enthusiastic group of volunteers floated 88 river miles on the Little Turkey, Turkey and Volga Rivers. They pulled 32 tons of trash out, 625 tires, 96% of the trash was recycled. Each evening the group was able to site in on a variety of educational programs offered each night. Project AWARE was an asset to the Turkey River and gave exposure to the Turkey River Recreational Corridor.

Other Turkey River Recreational Corridor projects include the Motor Mill Bridge, Motor Mill Trail and Building Restoration Projects at the Mill. The Motor Mill Bridge has made slow but steady progress forward throughout 2011. An engineering firm was hired, preliminary plans were developed and reviewed and the plans are moving toward final design. In 2011 the bridge received funding from REAP, UMGC and Iowa Great Places.

The Motor Mill Trail received funding from Statewide Enhancement Grant and the State Recreational Trails Grant in 2011. An engineering firm was hired and preliminary design of the trail is underway. Some resistance from landowners occurred later in 2011 and as we close out the year those issues are still being worked through.

The Building Restoration Projects at the Mill include the removal of silt from the basement of the mill, new roofs on the Stable, Icehouse and Cooperage along with new windows and chimneys on the Cooperage. As we close out 2011, these projects are still in the planning stages with grant funds being sought in 2012.

The Motor Mill Foundation has started the Motor Mill Capital Fund Campaign. The Campaign was started late in the year 2011 and is making progress forward with several thousand dollars raised by the end of the year. The Foundation has started several different marketing avenues to develop interest and awareness of the projects being done at the mill.

The final project at Motor Mill was the removal of the white residential house that was damaged during the 2008 flood. This project required a lot of time and FEMA paperwork but the structure has been demolished and removed from the site. As a result of this process, additional studies were conducted on the site with new historical information just starting to emerge as we close out 2011.

Related to the Turkey River Recreational Corridor is the Pony Hollow Trail. 2011 saw an increase in usage by hosting four different Fun Runs by various groups. The Central School Food and Fitness hosted a run in the spring, the Elkader Fitness Center hosted a run during Sweet Corn Days, the Central Athletic Boosters hosted a run in September and area churches hosted a run in early November.

During 2011, the CCCB staff was able to focus on some needed building repairs. These repairs included replacing the roofs on the Osborne Store, the Depot, the Blacksmith Shop and the School House in the Pioneer Village. Additional repairs were completed on several foot bridges as well. Staff was also able to replace two old air conditioning units at the Osborne Center.

Another large repair was the Osborne water system. Higher than allowable levels of bacteria had been detected in water test samples. After consulting with several experts, the well pump was pulled, the casing scrubbed and the entire water system was shock chlorinated. This procedure seemed to have cured the problem.

Environmental Education has always been the corner stone for the Clayton County Conservation Board. In 2011 the Clayton County Conservation Board was awarded the IAN/ICEC Outstanding Conservation Board Environmental Education Award for their accomplishments in 2010. The Education program continues to grow with 2011 seeing 29,215 people having contact with our educational programs.

A second big boost in 2011 was the beginning of the Osborne Partners for Education Endowment started by Susi Hickey Blair and Roy Blair in memory of her late father Joe Hickey from the University of Wisconsin. The staff and the Blairs are actively pursuing donors for the endowment to reach the \$10,000 goal.

And finally, these activities, events, projects and plans could not happen without a group of dedicated staff and volunteers. The six full time, two part time and eight seasonal staff of the Clayton County Conservation Board is an outstanding group of professionals who are actively involved in the operation and continually seek the highest standards of accomplishments. They are supported by well over 200 volunteers who donated a recorded 3,625 hours of time throughout 2011 for various projects, events and programs.

Tim Engelhardt
- Director

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

BRIAN GIBBS- Naturalist I

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

200 + 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 2011

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):	42,094
December-March	2,000
Heritage Days:	15,000
Field Trips:	2,000
Pond/archery range, buses	2,000

Total **63,094**

Iowa Visitor Registration for 2011: 8,063, representing 79 Iowa Counties, 44 states and 11 countries

2010:	8,452
2009:	7,871
2008:	7,234
2007:	7,441
2006:	9,330

Traffic Counter

2010	89,120
2009:	77,964
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

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

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 2011 as well as a list of programs and events in which CCCB staff were involved with.

PROJECTS

Clayton County Safety Committee
Turkey River Trail Corridor
Turkey River Water Trail Development
Water System at Osborne Park
Conducted several Prescribed Burns
Mill Stone Floor Restoration at Motor Mill
Roofed Pioneer Village Blacksmith Shop and School House
Fishing Line Bins
Frenchtown Park Flooding
Motor Mill Capital Fund Campaign
Fixed Asset Inventory
Garland Property
Climbing Cabin/Eagle Scout Project
Eno Property/Management Plan Development
Community Service workers
Motor Mill Bridge/Trail and Residential House
Starmont Outdoor Classroom
Osborne Partners for Education Endowment
Binoculars and Field Guides
Clayton Ridge Outdoor Classroom Development
Continued work with FEMA 2008 Projects
Updating Clayton County Conservation Website
Bloody Run TSI
Garlic Mustard Control

EVENTS

Hunter Education (2)
Bald Eagle Winter Survey
Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring
Frog and Toad Survey
Mississippi River Festival
Central Fishing Program
Off Road Fun Run/Walk
Heritage Days
Eagle Appreciation Day
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
Mississippi Adventure Day
EWALU Field Day
Project AWARE
Christmas Bird Count
Breeding Bird Survey
Big Springs Science Field Day
Fishing Clinic
Youth/Mentor Turkey Hunt
IAN/ICEC Outstanding CB for EE
Award

Hunter Registration 2011

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 12 hunters register. 5 Black Hawk County, 2 Bremer County, 1 Butler County, 1 Dubuque County, 1 Grundy County, 2 Johnson County,

South Side Motor Mill Park- Had 7 hunters register. 2 Black Hawk County, 1 Bremer County, 1 Butler County, 1 Dubuque County, 2 Johnson County,

Camping Numbers

	# of Users	# of Nights	Fees
<u>Bloody Run Park</u>			
2005	1316	778	\$5,454.00
2006	1274	692	\$4,963.30
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
<u>Osborne Park</u>			
2005	508	244	\$1,736.00
2006	404	213	\$1,498.00
2007	503	247	\$1,736.00
2008	8	2	\$ 14.00
2009	CLOSED		
2010	CLOSED		
2011	CLOSED		
<u>Motor Mill Park</u>			
2005	170	74	\$ 552.00
2006	305	117	\$ 955.65
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
<u>Joy Springs Park</u>			
2005	126	55	\$ 384.00
2006	144	57	\$ 396.00
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
<u>Totals</u>			
2005	2120	1151	\$ 8,126.00
2006	2127	1079	\$ 7,812.95
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

Naturalist Report 2011

	<u># of Presentations</u>	<u># of Student Contacts</u>	<u># of teacher/Leaders</u>
<u>Classroom Programs</u>	444	8147**	451
Trees for Kids	<u>8</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>16</u>
CNP Totals	452	8408	467
 <u>Field Trips</u>			
Jan-June (25)	141	971	138
September-November (12)	<u>49</u>	<u>407</u>	<u>68</u>
37 FT Totals	190	1378	206
 Summer 2011- Totals			
25 Programs (June-August)	139	584	123
Field Days	49	1764	
Public Programs	48	1213	
Heritage Days		15,000	
Holiday Walk	5	112	
Scout/4H groups	5	24	10
Motor Mill Open 10 weekends		683	
<u>Hunter Education</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>27</u>
 Grand Totals	 890	 29,215	 833

Classroom Visits by Naturalists

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u># Presentations</u>	<u># Students</u>	<u>Upper Class</u>
Central	PS-6	43	316	40
Ed-Co	JK-6	46	313	
Garnavillo	5-8 th	40	172	
Guttenberg	HS-4	41	218	
MFL/Mar-Mac	HS-8	119	586	
Postville	HS-8	47	403	
Starmont	HS-4	29	423	54
St. Mary's	K-8	31	87	
Valley	K-5	<u>43</u>	<u>206</u>	
TOTALS		442	2,724**	

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

2011 Public Program Numbers

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u># Attended</u>
Jan 14	Owl Prowl	2
Feb 5	Snow Fest	
	-Skiing	36
	-Snow Shoeing	31
March 5	BB Box	21
March 17	O.W.L.S. – Ruff Sugar Bush	12
April 2	Basket Making	3
April 4	Apple Grafting	30
April 7 & 9	Peregrine Falcons	7
April 21	O.W.L.S. –G. Meier Museum	14
May 3-	VIP Wildflower Walk	9
May 14-	Wildflower Walk	4
May 20-	O.W.L.S. –Seed Savers	14
May 28-	Frogs Sing Songs	27
May 28	Garlic Mustard Pull(seasonals)	0 2 Staff
June 4	Fish Clinic	110 -66kids/44 adults
June 17-	O.W.L.S. –Top Deck Holsteins	10
June 20	Project Aware Meeting-here---	25
July 23-	Night Hike	3
July 21-	O.W.L.S. –Geothermal Home Tour	12
Aug 12	Stargazing Party for Perseid Meteors	18
Aug 13-	Stream Stomp	4
Aug 18-	O.W.L.S. –Maiden Voyage	26
Sept 15	OWLS – Nading Orchard	18
Sept 27	Ind.Garden Cl.–Fam.Conservationists&tour	14
Oct 20	OWLS – Pikes Peak(cold?)	Cancelled
Oct 27	Garden Club	7
Nov 6	Holiday Wreath	0
Nov 6	Holiday Recycled Crafts	10
Nov 16	OWLS – Eagle’s Land. Winery	9
Dec 16	Hosted NE IA Naturalists Swap	11
	30 programs	Subtotal 487

2011 Outreach (offsite)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u># Attended</u>
January 27	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –Scaly and Slimy- Brian-	20
February 24	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –animal courtship-	18
March 19	Gutt Care Center – Lil Green Monsters	10
March 15	Edgewood Conv. Home – Scaly and Slimy	16
April 28	Gutt Care Center – Wildflowers	17
May 26	Gutt Care Center – Frogs	19
May 26	Elkader Care Center – Wildflowers	13
June 25	Teacher’s Workshop (June 25) -	55
July 28	Gutt Care Center – “Bats”	17
August 13-	Americorps project-Installed Fish line Bins	6
Aug 17	Straw Pt Lutheran – “Monarchs”	23
August 25	Gutt Care Center – “Monarchs”	16
September 30	Gutt Care Center – “Motor Mill”	21
September 30	Good Samaritan Care Center – “Motor Mill”	13
October 27	Guttenberg Care Center –Are you Scared?-	23
November 14	Guttenberg Care Center–Turkeys-	19
December 29	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –Blizzard 1940-	21
	17 programs	Subtotal 327

Outreach Events and Field Days:

February 26	Effigy Mounds Eagle App. Day - children crafts, herps	200 (of 968)
April 7	Perigrine Falcoln FT w/ MarMac 4th	62
May 6	Mossy Glenn with Langhus’ class	30
May 10 & 11	Riverfest – Abbey, Brian, Sam - GPS, birding	
	8 programs x 2=16 programs	347
	(9 NE Iowa Schools and 4 Wisconsin Schools)	336
May 12	Benton Co – Abbey, Brian, Sam Mammals & Trail	120
	5 sessions each w/ 10-12 kids	
May 13	Clayton County Safety Day	234 kids
July 18	Mississippi River Adv. Day (pool9) 6 progs x 2birds/inverts	200 kids + parents
Aug 1	Mississippi River Adv. Day (pool10) 6 progs x 2 birds/herps	160 kids + parents
Sept	Big spring 4 sessions fishing	75
	41 Sessions/programs	Subtotal 1764

July 9-16 **9th Annual Project Aware** **429**
 Little Turkey, Turkey & Volga Rivers
 River Miles: 88 miles
 Sponsors: 104
 Trash Recycled: 96% (62,082 lbs)
 Total Trash Removed: 64,722 lbs (32 Ton)

Environmental Equipment Loaned out

May Fishing poles borrowed 2x	36 & 16	52		
Sept Big Springs 4 sessions	fishing	75	Poles student contacts w/ others	127

July DNR borrowed all canoes
 August FCCB borrowed canoes
 August Silos borrowed all canoes
 September FCCB borrowed canoes

June FCCB borrowed GPS			GPS contacts with others	120
August FCCB borrowed GPS				
September FCCB borrowed GPS				

VOLUNTEER HOURS 2011

<u>Area of Service</u>	<u>Hours Served</u>
Iowa Room	246
Garden	520
Field Trips/Public Programs	127
Heritage Days	450
Community Service	49
Off Road Run/Fishing Clinic/Holiday Walk	128
Youth Mentor Turkey Hunt	60
Hunter Education	237
Motor Mill Foundation	1628
Conservation Board Members	<u>180</u>
	3,625

GRANTS 2011

Date	Sponsor	Funded	Unfunded	Project
January	Statewide Enhance	\$605,576		Motor Mill Trail
September	REAP	\$462,869.75		Motor Mill Bridge
September	UMGC	\$ 20,000		Motor Mill Bridge
September	Kodak		\$2,500	Motor Mill Trail
October	State Recreational	\$250,000		Motor Mill Trail
Total		\$1,338,445.75	\$2,500	

JANUARY

Jim Langhus was elected Chair, Joe Ihm Vice-Chair, and Deanna Krambeer Secretary.

The budget for 2012 was approved.

Staff has prepared a summary of activities for 2010, which was reviewed at the meeting.

The board accepted VJ Engineering’s bid of \$147,000 for the preliminary study, bridge hydraulics and final design of Motor Mill Bridge. Approval was given to begin fundraising for the bridge and trail project.

Board Chair Jim Langhus met with Tim Engelhardt on December 24 to review the evaluation completed by the board members. Board evaluations were positive.

The board was asked to review the 5-year plan, especially the sections on Facilities and Land Acquisition and Values, Goals and Objectives. The Turkey River Recreational Corridor Project needs to be included.

Engelhardt was authorized to discuss a potential easement through a corner of Osborne Park property with Paul and Cathy Marcotte to allow access to their property.

Naturalist Brian Gibbs was given approval to apply for a Clayton County Foundation for the Future grant for \$1000 to purchase eight tents for to be used for the Junior Naturalist Program and public/family programming. Gibbs received an Alpine grant for \$500 toward the purchase of binoculars for field trips.

A short discussion was held on the future maintenance of the Turkey River Recreational Corridor Trail. Final decisions have not been made by the committee.

Cross Country ski trails have been groomed and used. The sledding hill and shelter house has been heavily used for recreational activities. Staff has pushed, blown, and scooped snow several times in December.

Naturalists have been in the schools, one field trip, and a couple of care center programs. A new program has been developed Sammy Soil/ Ruby Raindrop program with Lorna Troester. Snow shoe programs started last week. Snow fest will be Saturday February 5th and will include both cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

The Clayton County Conservation Board’s environmental education program will be receiving the IAN/ICEC Outstanding Conservation Board Environmental Education Award in 2011.

Brian Gibbs was elected to serve as IAN Workshop Coordinator on the Executive Committee.

The Conservation Easement we have with Guttenberg needs to be reviewed because a portion of it is placed on private property. The owner is negotiating with the US Fish & Wildlife to sell it but it cannot be purchased with this easement attached.

Engelhardt has sent proposed management plans to John Eno and has begun talking with INHF regarding educational efforts on the sedge meadow.

Claims: Total \$ 6,209.30

FEBRUARY

The Board agreed to correct the property description in the Conservation Easement with the City of Guttenberg to reflect the actual property boundaries.

A contract was received from VJ Engineering and was reviewed by the County Attorney. The contract covers the scope of work, the schedule, payment and general terminology was reviewed and accepted. FEMA funds cover part of the design fee, and FEMA consultants requested an “Improved Project” process be implemented; this has been done. FEMA funds cover \$42,000 of the design fee of \$147,000.

After the review of the 5-Year Plan by the CCCB Engelhardt suggested the addition of current projects, a review of the section on Evaluation of Land Acquisition Criteria and a section on Finances that would include information for potential donors and fundraising. The Goals and Objectives section of the Plan was reviewed and discussed with some additions. The proposed use of the 5 –year Plan was also discussed.

Tim Engelhardt and Deanna Krambeer met with the Clayton County Board of Supervisors to discuss the CCCB budget for 2012. After a review by the Board of Supervisors of the proposed FY12 Budget, the Conservation Board revised actions previously approved at the January 2011 meeting. The CCCB Budget FY12 was submitted to County Auditor with a budget explanation as requested.

John Eno will give the CCCB an additional 17 acres which includes a portion of the wetlands and the schoolhouse site. Eno requested Engelhardt develop a MOU between the CCCB and the INHF for the use of the rest of the wetlands.

Engelhardt expressed his appreciation for the Board’s support of continued education and training for staff. Several staff attended Winterfest in Waterloo on January 24-26. The IACCB Conference agenda for September 15-17 in Independence Iowa was included for review.

A request was made to FEMA for the bridge project as an Improved Project. Engelhardt and deNeui met with the Board of Supervisors and County Engineer to discuss and update on bridge and trail project.

The MMF has started to develop a Fund Raising/Capital Fund Drive for the trail and bridge. The Campaign is “Stories in Stone”. Motor Mill Newsletter was written and sent out. The Iowa DOT has notified the CCCB that the Motor Mill Trail project has been approved to move forward for FY11. The first step is to have it placed on the Regional Transportation Plan for their meeting in March.

Staff has attempted to maintain cross country ski trails as best we can. Snow removal has been constant this year. Naturalists have been busy with classroom programs and re-scheduling programs as well. Binoculars and field guides have arrived and the CCFE grant was written and submitted for the tents. Snowshoe programs have gone well with lots of positive comments. We have had a field trip to Osborne in January.

Engelhardt will be meeting with MJ Smith and our donors from WI on Saturday Feb 19 to discuss a challenge endowment.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 5,234.41
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 1,315.57
	Total	\$ 6,549.98

MARCH

Tim Engelhardt presented possible additions to the 5-year-plan: Finances, Fund Raising and Projects It was suggested a section be added for Capital Equipment.

Because of the purchase of additional diesel powered equipment, the Board approved the purchase of a 300 gallon barrel with electric pump for diesel.

Susi Hickey Blair and Roy Blair would like to start an Osborne Partners in Education Endowment fund for education about nature to be administered by the CCCB with a donation \$2,000. A letter to potential donors inviting them to meet and discuss the project has been prepared.

A list of potential donors for the Motor Mill Foundation Capital Fund Drive has been identified. They will be contacted by letter, followed up by a visit from a MMF member. A packet of information to give to contacts was reviewed by board members.

The contract with VJ Engineering is signed. VJ will set up a meeting with the stake holders including, Conservation, County, FEMA, VJ, MMF, and State Historical to discuss the project.

FEMA is looking into the possibility of just having an archeologist on site when white house is taken down.

Support letters were sent to our four congressmen in Washington requesting support for the RC&D program to be funded. The RC&D funding was taken out of the President’s and the House’s budget.

Naturalists have attended River Fest meeting, NE Iowa Naturalist meeting and Effigy Mounds Eagle App. Day. The February 5 Snow Fest program had 36 participants attend the skiing and 31 attend the snowshoeing workshop. March will be the last month for the winter class room programs.

Our Hunter Education Classes are now online through the Iowa DNR website. Students can sign up on line now and sometime in the future this will make the process easier.

For February there was still a large amount of snow removal along with dealing with ice build up around doors. The big section of Bloody Run Park has been closed off until the area dries out more to reduce damage to the grounds. Repair work on picnic tables and cleaning of parts of the animal exhibit has started.

The Elkader Fire and EMS conducted an ice rescue class in February at the Osborne Pond. Engelhardt presented at the Clayton County Farm Bureau Board meeting regarding the projects at Motor Mill and the TRRC and is starting to meet with landowners regarding the Motor Mill Trail.

Youth Mentor Turkey Hunt is being organized by some of the staff. Plans are to use parts of Osborne Park and cooperating neighbors. Plans are to post a sign near the pond and nature center parking lots explaining the day. The Youth Season is April 8-10th.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 4,049.61
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 79.75
	Total	\$ 4,129.36

APRIL

The Board approved the demolition of the flood-damaged white house at Motor Mill per Iowa State Code 331.384, Abatement of public health and safety hazards. The Board also approved the resolution adopting the Clayton County, Iowa Multi-Jurisdictional (MJ-19) Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Two 24-year old air conditioning will be replaced. The roofs on the Osborne store, the depot and the blacksmith shop in the Pioneer Village at Osborne will be replaced We have also discussed the Welcome/Nature Center needs some siding replaced and painted again in a year or two. Staff will be looking at aluminum siding as an option.

CCCB will cooperate with adjacent landowners using Driftless Land Stewardship to do the prescribed burn at Bloody Run Park.

Clayton County Conservation will enter into partnership with the TRRC and Fayette County to purchase ads from Media Com.

After discussion, it was decided to have summer meetings at 2:00 PM, with the June meeting touring Bloody Run to see the effects of the prescribed burn. Other field trips will be decided in the future.

A thank you from the Youth Mentor Turkey hunt was read. 7 kids participated. All kids saw and heard turkeys and enjoyed a good day hunting. They bagged 1 bird, 1 coyote and had a lot of fun.

The Board congratulates Naturalists Abbey Harkrader and Brian Gibbs for receiving the award for Iowa’s Outstanding Environmental Education Program from the Iowa Association of Naturalists/ Iowa Conservation Education Coalition. We appreciate the work of the naturalists and all the staff of CCCB.

The Whistlin’ Bit Saddle Club donated signs for Pony Hollow Trail about widely accepted etiquette for trail use. The CCCB expressed appreciation to the Whistlin” Bit Saddle Club for the signs which will promote safety on the Pony Hollow Trail.

A meeting will be held with VJ Engineering at the Supervisors Office to discuss the Motor Mill Bridge Project. Several organizations are scheduled to be represented.

Engelhardt submitted the Concept Statement to the DOT for the Trail on March 23.

Winter classroom programs are complete. Gibbs has been monitoring Eagle Nest, Frog and Toad and Bluebird boxes. Prep work for Junior Naturalists Camp has started. Silos and Smokestacks had a spring break camp come to Osborne. Abbey is prepping for the Trees for Kids Program and working with Backbone Lake Friends group for the Fishing Clinic in June. Naturalists have an Ed-Co senior student helping them for 1 ½ hrs., 4 days a week for the month April.

Staff burned the Osborne campground/buffalo pen on Tuesday April 12.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 14,370.23
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 327.00
	Total	\$ 14,697.23

MAY

At last month’s meeting the Board approved the purchase of roofing material for the depot, Osborne Store and the Blacksmith Shop. Due to increases in cost of materials and the addition of the labor costs, the Board approved spending the additional funds to finish the projects in Pioneer Village with Strawberry Point Lumber providing material and labor.

Summer field trips were discussed. On June 14, the CCCB will tour Bloody Run Park, with the meeting beginning at 2:00 PM. The July 12 meeting will be at Motor Mill with the time to be set at the June meeting. In August, the Board plans to tour the proposed trail between Motor Mill and Pony Hollow Trail.

Harry Luster attended Welcome Center Training by ICN this year at the Keystone AEA.

Joyce and Tammie attended My County Parks training at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. Tammie also attended a Facebook Class at Alpine.

The Volunteer Event was held on Tuesday May 2 with about 40 volunteers attending.

The Naturalists attended meetings for Project AWARE, USFWS Dinner, and Riverfest Mtg., hosted 4 public programs and three outreach programs, finished up classroom programs, Trees for Kids and a variety of Press releases. In addition Field Trips are being scheduled, and are starting, JNP presentations and prep for camp has started and the newsletter has been printed and sent out.

Kelsey Bockenstedt, Senior at Ed-Co Schools is working on a work study program for 1 ½ hours 4 days a week.

The Field Trip Scholarships have been handed out Ed-Co, Central, and Clayton Ridge Schools.

Gibbs is involved in Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring, Frog and Toad Survey, and the checking the bluebird trail.

Parks are being prepped for summer and camping season. Mowing will start this week. We have been able to do only a couple of burns due to the weather which includes prairies at Osborne and the south side of Motor Mill. The burn at Bloody Run will not happen due to unfavorable weather conditions. The well at Motor Mill has been hooked up and is open. We have started our weekend patrols of the parks.

Engelhardt is researching some new trail guidelines through Department of Justice. It is my understanding that we need to conduct trail assessments and attempt to make them accessible to anyone through any mode of transportation.

The Motor Mill Trail project has moved forward. The Concept Statement has moved to other departments within the DOT and other state agencies.

The new website for the Clayton County Conservation Board was launched on Saturday.

The Osborne Partners for Education has grown by another \$1,000 donation.

Claims: Total \$ 18,778.28

JUNE

Five Engineering firms have been contacted to submit an RFP (Request for Proposal) for the Motor Mill Trail, the first major step for working through the DOT Statewide Enhancement Grant process

The Board approved applying for a Kodak American Greenways Grant for the Motor Mill Trail; no matching funds are required. The Board also approved contracting with Lora Friest of RC&D to write a State Recreational Trail Grant for \$250,000 for the Motor Mill Trail Project.

In conjunction with Project AWARE week, the Turkey River Water Trail Dedication will take place on July 13 at the Gilbertson Nature Center. Board members are encouraged to attend. The Water Trail signs are being installed at river access points by the Secondary Roads Department.

The group arrived at Bloody Run Park at 3:10 PM. A driving tour of the park was completed. The group walked to the top of the hill to see a goat prairie.

Board members reviewed a map of the Eno property. John Eno plans to enroll a wetland area adjacent to the site of the buildings into the CRP or a Wetland Reserve Program. The Director was authorized to negotiate with Eno to have the CCCB manage the 6-8 acre wetland/CRP area when enrolled in the program

Hunter Ed Classes will be held at the Osborne Center June 20, 22, 24 and 25 and August 8, 10, 12, and 13.

The Iowa DNR conducted the annual water system inspection for the Osborne Center. We have just a few minor adjustments to make to the system.

All of the parks have now been opened after high water events earlier this spring. Frenchtown was the last park opened. A lot of extra work was completed and the drive graded to get it back into shape.

Clayton County Conservation is on Facebook and is working on updates with MyCountyParks website. In addition, Clayton County is working on updating their new website. Clayton County has started a technology team and budget to get an inventory of computers and printers, purchase larger quantities and updates at the same time and linking departments together.

Luster completed the IACCB Individual County Asset Inventory and the Clayton County Fixed Asset Inventory.

Staff has started to install the water trail signage along the Turkey River. We are working with Fayette County on placement of bridge signs for the water trail.

Naturalists have had a very busy May.

Motor Mill has been open for tours, staffed by volunteers and seasonal staff.

FEMA will develop a MOA for the white house to have an archeologist on site during demolition. Within the agreement will be the mitigation costs for the destruction of a historic structure.

Claims: Total \$ 42,114.35

AUGUST

The selection committee of Rafe Koopman, Ron McCartney and Tim Engelhardt interviewed three consultants for the Motor Mill Trail. The recommendation of the selection committee has been forwarded to the DOT for confirmation.

Welcome Center staff met with LuAnn Reinders, IDED and completed the Welcome Center Review.

Brian Gibbs has completed the Frog and Toad and Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring surveys. He spoke as a panel member regarding environmental education in our schools in Iowa on Talk of Iowa.

Project AWARE was a huge success. 38 tons of trash removed with 90% recycled, 625 tires, 415 participants. Reputably from Event Staff and participants the 9th annual Project AWARE on the Turkey River was the best event ever and has raised the bar for future events!!! Some of CCCB staff helped with several days on Project AWARE. The Turkey River Water Trail Dedication was also a huge success and very well attended. Thank you to all board members who able to attend.

Naturalists have conducted a variety of public programs and outreach programs. They included a night hike, OWLS, plus a total of 6 library and care center programs plus our staff worked with the Mississippi River Adventure Day at pool 9.

Engelhardt met with Brian Fankhauser with the INHF. We discussed many projects and spent a lot of time talking about the Eno property. He will be great asset to Northeast Iowa.

The CCCB received a \$300 donation from the Mar-Mac VFW post for improvements at Bloody Run Park.

The Next Hunter Safety Education Class is scheduled for August 8, 10, 12 and 13.

We are continuing trying to update CCCB website with new pictures and updated information.

Heavy rains occurred in southern Fayette and Clayton Counties on the evening of Wednesday July 27. The Volga River was bank full. Joy Springs Park had the stream come out, but no damage.

A public notice will be in the Clayton County Register the week of August 3 regarding the demolition of the Motor Mill White House. The public has 15 days to comment on the proposed action to FEMA and then a MOA will be developed by FEMA, SHPO and the CCCB. The project worksheet will be revised with updated cost estimates and then we can go to the next step.

Motor Mill Well problems have been solved.

A lot of work has been done on the south and north sides of Motor Mill in the prairie area. The trails have been trimmed and maintained as well. Work crew has been busy with trimming brush in out parks, painting projects, checking Pony Hollow Trail, mulching areas, and generally making the parks look nice.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 17,671.75
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 21,387.50
	Total	\$ 39,059.25

SEPTEMBER

The recommendation of the selection committee from Clayton County for Consultant for the Motor Mill Bridge was Tekippe Engineering; the DOT has confirmed Tekippe Engineering as the choice.

Engelhardt presented information about wetland mitigation banks. By developing present land into wetland, the CCCB could conceivably use the wetland developed as wetland credits that could be purchased by those needing to mitigate destroyed wetlands. The wetland would continue to be owned by Clayton County. Tre Wilson, of Snyder and Associates from Ankeny, met with Engelhardt to review possible sites to develop wetlands on CCCB property.

Engelhardt has been working with Brian Fankhauser of the INHF on the Garland property located in Millville Township which currently has a conservation easement held by the CCCB due to unique features on the property. The property is for sale. A potential plan for purchase of the property by INHF, with future plans for CCCB to purchase the property from INHF, has been developed. Engelhardt and Fankhauser also met with John Eno to discuss and look at the property. Eno would like the board to consider long term care of the Eno cemetery if funds are provided.

The water system at Osborne Park is experiencing higher than accepted coliform bacteria levels. Repeated water samples show elevated coliform bacteria. The DNR has been notified. Engelhardt has prepared a Public Notification of the problem; the drinking fountains and water supply at the Visitors Center are posted as well. The consensus of the CCCB was that the Director continue to pursue the cause of the problem.

Engelhardt met with FEMA and associated parties regarding the demolition of the white residential house at Motor Mill. The request for asbestos survey RFP has been sent. The MOA with the agencies was sent to CCCB members for review.

The local chapter of White Tails Unlimited would like to make a donation to have the Motor Mill Canoe ramp re-worked to its original state.

Luster has completed surveys for IACCB to use to develop a platform for what CCBs provide for the state of Iowa and the investment counties have made to the state’s outdoor recreational infrastructure.

Gibbs has conducted 10 classroom presentations on Monarch butterflies and is making preparations for the Osborne Off-Road Fun Run. Naturalists conducted 3 public programs and 5 outreach programs. Fall Field Trips are being scheduled and planned. Heritage Days planning and prep work is well underway.

The MMF will develop a capital fund campaign to center around the Motor Mill Bridge to be kicked off in September with a media blitz, individual letters and individual visits.

Our REAP grant application for the Motor Mill bridge ranked 9th out of 21. As a result we received what funds were left after awarding the first 8 grants plus one county returned unused funds from the 2010 grant round. We have now received \$462,869.75 for the Motor Mill Bridge.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 8,458.06
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 1,620.00
	Total	\$ 10,078.06

NOVEMBER

Engelhardt and Luster presented salary options and a list of needs identified by the staff. The Board approved the replacement of the transmission for the '99 Dodge. Jim Langhus will contact the Board of Supervisors about the role of the CCCB in preparing the budget, to aid the Board of Supervisors and the CCCB in the budgeting process.

The River Bluffs Scenic By-Way Board and the RC&D are in the process of developing a Corridor Management Plan, which will include Osborne Park and Motor Mill Park. Engelhardt was contacted by the Scenic By-Way Board regarding additional trails money that would have to be used on the Great River Road. He and the County Engineer are looking into the possibility of a trail connecting McGregor to Pikes Peak.

Engelhardt, deNeui, Rafe Koopman and VJ Engineering met to review the preliminary design plans for the Motor Mill Bridge. After discussion and a few modifications an agreement was reached to go to final design. The Contract with Tekippe Engineering and the CCCB has been approved by the DOT. Engelhardt has met with Tekippe engineer to set the proposed route. Landowners are in the process of being contacted.

A large press release is planned for the entire TRRC projects in mid-November.

Progress on the white residential house at Motor Mill is moving forward with the completion date for demo being December 15. An Archeological Firm has been hired and along with an abatement firm.

The Motor Mill Capital Fund Campaign has been kicked off.

The Ghost Hunters visited Motor Mill on the evening of October 12. They experienced activity during the evening. A full report has not yet been received.

After consultation with the board chair, staff decided to go with the Decra Shingles that have a wood shingle look for the additional \$500 for the school house.

A meeting promoting the Osborne Partners for Education Endowment will be held on Thursday November 10 at the Osborne Center. Susie and Roy Blair will be present to share their story about Dr. Joe Hickey and MJ Smith will present on how endowments work and their advantages.

The well house at Motor Mill, the archery range and Friedens Park have been closed for the season. The out parks are being winterized, along with many of the projects that require winterization around Osborne Park.

Fall field trips at Osborne are coming to an end; winter classroom programs are being scheduled. Gibbs is working with Clayton Ridge School on their outdoor classroom and with Starmont School to develop their outdoor classroom area. He is also working with ICEC Winter Solstice Planning Committee and helping coordinate Fall IAN conference. Harkrader presented two radio programs and is working on the Holiday Walk. A garden club came to the Osborne Center for a program. Guttenberg Care Center had 23 residents attend a Halloween program. Harkrader also had programs for cub scouts and brownies.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 9,055.90
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 8,310.00
	Total	\$17,365.90

DECEMBER

Donna Kinley and Dawn Colsch gave a presentation on the Driftless Area Wetlands Centre being built near Marquette, Iowa, as part of the Iowa Great Place project.

Neal Schroeder, CPA with the firm that audits Clayton County’s books, presented information about the proposed method of budgeting, 0% based budgeting and decision packaging, requested by the BOS.

Engelhardt and Luster presented information on the 2013 proposed CCCB budget. No action was taken.

Engelhardt had a good discussion with the Board of Supervisors and county engineer about developing a trail on the Great River Road connecting Pikes Peak State Park and the City of McGregor, but there was not sufficient time to develop and implement the plan before Scenic By-Way funding ran out.

The Clayton County Sheriff’s Office has started the change over on their radio system from wide band to narrow band, which by federal law needs to be completed by Dec 2012. The Board approved the purchase of one 100 watt radio and one 45 watt radio, including installation, for updating the radios in the vehicles.

All board members turned in their completed evaluations to Jim Langhus, Board Chair. He will compile responses and share them with Tim Engelhardt. Engelhardt said he has completed evaluations of the staff and was impressed with the number of activities completed by naturalists and other staff.

After brief discussion, Larry Stone agreed to another five-year term.

A lunch was held with Roy and Susi Blair to promote the Osborne Partners for Education Endowment on Nov. 10. Big Blue Sky will host a concert in the summer of 2012 with proceeds toward the endowment.

Progress has been made on the demo of the residential house at Motor Mill.

Engelhardt has met with Joleen Jansen of Jansen Products to discuss updates to the Motor Mill website. He is also researching solar panels for the Osborne Center to reduce electric costs.

Anderson and Engelhardt have been working with the State DNR Officers on several nights this fall.

The vet was out to treat the bobcat for a kind of parasite which is reportedly hard to treat. The roof on the school house is completed. The snow plow has been installed.

The Classroom Naturalists Programs are in full swing along with some scheduling left to be done. They have attended a couple of workshops and committee meetings this past month. A holiday craft workshop and the last OWLS program for the season in were held in November. The Holiday Walk was held on Thursday December 1.

Had contact with INHF about the details with Garland property.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 25,299.14
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 20,327.10
	Total	\$ 45,626.14