

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
2012
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 2012. 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 2012.

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.

Certainly, the biggest and most exciting accomplishment completed this past year was the construction of the Motor Mill Bridge. Approximately 90% of the funding came from grants which included FEMA, REAP, Great Places and Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation. The remaining funds came from the Motor Mill Capital Fund Campaign and the Conservation Reserve Fund. Motor Mill Foundation will continue the fund raising efforts into 2013 to replenish the Conservation Reserve Fund.

Construction on the bridge started on October 11, 2012 and was completed December 6, 2012. On Saturday December 8, 2012 a Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held to officially open the bridge. Members of the County Engineers Office, Board of Supervisors, Turkey River Recreational Corridor, the Motor Mill Foundation, Clayton County Conservation Board and many family and friends attended the ribbon cutting. The raffle winner to be the first to drive across the bridge completed the ceremony to claps and cheers. A Grand Opening will be held on Saturday May 4th to celebrate the bridge project, other projects at Motor Mill and the entire Turkey River Recreational Corridor.

At the end of 2011, the Motor Mill Trail received funding from a Statewide Enhancement Grant and a State Recreational Trails Grant. An engineering firm was hired and preliminary design of the trail started. Some resistance from landowners occurred late in 2011 and early 2012; no additional work was completed in 2012.

In 1988, Oakland and Irene Becker established a Life Estate on their 373 acres of land near Millville. On Thanksgiving Day, Irene Becker passed away and with her passing, the estate became the property of the Clayton County Conservation Board. In 2002, the Conservation Board developed a management plan to help the board and staff through the transition of acquiring the property. In December, the board met with family members and looked over maps of the property and discussed the status of the land and some of the proposed ideas.

Currently approximately 147 acres are being cropped for hay or corn. The current contracts will stand through the 2013 crop year. A timber management plan was also developed in 2004 and those plans will have to be updated before much work can occur. The plan is to have the property open for the 2013 spring turkey season.

During 2012, the CCCB staff was able to focus on some needed building repairs. These repairs included replacement of the Cat House Roof, painting the school house, trail work on the nature trail, and replacement of the hot water heater in the Old Center. Additionally, plans were developed and bids were sent and approved to have the Osborne Center resided in the spring of 2013. Staff was also able to replace three old freezers in the animal feed room.

Environmental Education has always been the corner stone for the Clayton County Conservation Board. The Education program continues to excel with 2012 seeing 29,000 people having contact with our educational programs.

A second big boost in 2012 was the continuation and growth 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 actively pursued donors for the endowment to reach the \$10,000 goal. The goal has been met and exceeded that by the close of 2012.

Visitors to the Osborne Center had a large drop in 2012. Part of the reason was for the first time, Heritage Days had two cold and rainy days. A second reason could simply be people are taking time before their trips to search the internet instead of stopping at a Welcome Center to find out about events and activities in the area. There is still more potential for our website to be used for educational purposes as well.

And finally, these activities, events, projects and plans could not happen without a group of dedicated staff and volunteers. The six full time, three part time and eight seasonal staff of the Clayton County Conservation Board is an outstanding group of professionals. Several of the staff are also involved in statewide organizations to promote the county conservation system and environmental education statewide. They are supported by well over 200 volunteers who donated 3,210 hours of time throughout 2012 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 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

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 2012

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):	43,574
December-March	2,000
Heritage Days:	8,000
Field Trips:	2,000
Pond/archery range, buses	2,000

Total **57,574**

Iowa Visitor Registration for 2012: 7,020, representing 69 Iowa Counties, 47 states and 10 countries

2011:	8,063
2010:	8,452
2009:	7,871
2008:	7,234
2007:	7,441
2006:	9,330

Traffic Counter

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

Website Unique Visitor Numbers

2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012

CCCB

2,335
7,394
No Data
20,777
28,816
25,914
30,428

Motor Mill

507
1,202
1,658
1,568
1,449
1,734
No Data

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 2012 as well as a list of programs and events in which CCCB staff were involved with.

PROJECTS

Clayton County Safety Committee
Motor Mill Bridge
Becker Property
Eno Property
Conducted several Prescribed Burns
Motor Mill Windows completed
Buck Creek Timber Management Plan
Updated EE Section in 5-Year Plan
Completed and Installed Water Trail Kiosks
Motor Mill Capital Fund Campaign
Pony Hollow Trail Bridge
Garland Property
Remove Walnut Tree in Pioneer Village
Replace Split rail fence in Pioneer Village
Replaced Cat House Roof
Reworked Steps on Nature Trail and old Campground
Painted School House
Osborne Partners for Education Endowment
Worked with 2nd Roads on Galaxy Road
Clayton Ridge Outdoor Classroom Development
New Hot Water Heater in Old Center
Prepared Welcome Center Siding Project
Joy Springs and Buck Creek Outhouse Repair
Garlic Mustard Control

EVENTS

Hunter Education (2)
Photo Contest
Kayak Clinic
Frog and Toad Survey
Mississippi River Festival
Snowfest
Off Road Fun Run/Walk
Heritage Days
Eagle Appreciation Day
Holiday Walk
Hosted Volunteer Supper
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
Osborne Partners Concert
Turkey River Rocks
Household Toxic Waste Day
TRRC Safari Scavenger Hunt
Big Springs Science Field Day
Fishing Clinic
Youth/Mentor Turkey Hunt

Hunter Registration 2012

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, 1 Bremer County, 3 Clayton County, 1 Grundy County, 2 Johnson County,

South Side Motor Mill Park- Had 8 hunters register. 3 Black Hawk County, 3 Clayton County, 2 Johnson County

Camping Numbers

	# of Users	# of Nights	Fees
<u>Bloody Run Park</u>			
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
2012	1436	917	\$6,573.11
<u>Osborne Park</u>			
2006	404	213	\$1,498.00
2007	503	247	\$1,736.00
2008	8	2	\$ 14.00
2009	CLOSED		
2010	CLOSED		
2011	CLOSED		
2012	CLOSED		
<u>Motor Mill Park</u>			
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
2012	420	108	\$1,299.00
<u>Joy Springs Park</u>			
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
2012	214	78	\$ 609.00
<u>Totals</u>			
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
2012	2070	1103	\$ 8,481.11

Law Enforcement Report 2012

Routine Patrol of County Parks

Register campers
 Pick up garbage, clean restrooms
 Public Relations
 Education and information distribution
 Noise complaints
 Checked 26 Fishing License
 Covered 2 car deer accidents
 Investigated 3 incidents in parks
 Checked 24 hunting licenses outside deer season
 Checked 16 traps along road ditches
 Patrol for spotlighting activity
 Patrol Turkey River for alcohol related problems
 Conducted 2 Traffic Stops
 Assisted 2 vehicles along side of road
 Worked one Safety Check Point during STEP Week

Assist other agencies

Agency	# of times
Monona	1
Mar-Mac	6
Postville	1
Elkader	11
Strawberry Point	3
Clayton County	27
Iowa DNR	8
Garnavillo	1
TOTAL	58

Assisting calls consisted of the following:

Shoplifting	1	Traffic Stops	6
Underage Party	3	Braking and Entering	2
Fight	4	Vehicle Accident	9
Domestic Disturbance	6	Sinking boat	1
Intoxicated Driver	5	Boating Complaint	1
Building Search	2	Investigation	2
Stolen Property	2	Missing person	1
Person Search	3	Boating While Intoxicated	1
Warrant	1	Traffic Complaint	1
Building Alarm	1	House Fire	1
Gas Leak	1	Medical	1
Suicidal Subject	1		

Shotgun Deer Season: Assisted Iowa DNR officers with 262 hunter contacts.

Naturalist Report 2012

	<u># of Presentations</u>	<u># of Student Contacts</u>	<u># of teacher/Leaders</u>
<u>Classroom Programs</u>	369	7077**	402
Trees for Kids	<u>8</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>16</u>
CNP Totals	377	7338	418
<u>Field Trips</u>			
Jan-June (28)	154	1058	116
September-November (10)	<u>45</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>49</u>
38 FT Totals	199	1339	165
Summer 2011- Totals 25 Programs (June-August)	87	663	107
Field Days	36	1264	
Public Programs	61	1196	
Heritage Days		8,000	
Holiday Walk	4	55	
Scout/4H groups (5)	10	73	10
Motor Mill Open 10 weekends	26	575	
Hunter Education	<u>2</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Grand Totals</u>	916	28,858	826

Classroom Visits by Naturalists

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u># Presentations</u>	<u># Students</u>	<u>Upper Class</u>
Central	PS-6	38	270	22
Ed-Co	JK-6	52	322	
Garnavillo	5-8 th	27	164	
Guttenberg	HS-4	32	210	
MFL/Mar-Mac	HS-8	89	596	
Postville	HS-8	48	351	
Starmont	HS-4	23	324	
St. Mary's	PS-8	25	100	
Valley	PS-5	<u>35</u>	<u>192</u>	
TOTALS		369	2,529**	

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

2012 Public Program Numbers

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u># Attended</u>
January 20	Owl Prowl	cancelled
January 28	Snow Fest-	69
	AM Ski Class = 20 Kids and 10 Adults =	30
	PM Ski Class = 9 Kids and 8 Adults =	17
	AM Snowshoe Class	11
	PM Snowshoe Class	11
February 7	Volga Study Group	10
March 3	BB Box	20
March 12	Silos Camp at MM=	12
March 17	O.W.L.S. – Willow Trellis	9
April 14	Birds Blooms and Mushrooms	9
April 19	O.W.L.S. – foraging for Wild Plants	9
April 26	VIP Supper-Wildflower Walk (Brian)	10
May 5	Willow Workshop	9
May 15	OWLS - IA Driftless Fly Tying Club	9
May 25	Frog Party	14
June 2	Fish Clinic 117kids+ 65 adults	182
	20 sponsors and donators	
	16 VIPs / partner staff (not counting us 2) est	
	70 hours minimum VIP/partner Labor est	
June 9	Kayak Clinic -	7
June 17-	O.W.L.S. –Garden Tour	20
July 7-	Effigy Mounds Teachers Workshop 5sessions	66
July 19-	O.W.L.S. –Campfire Cooking	12
July 27-	Cache the Fun	23
August 11 =	Savanah walk -	6
August 16	OWLS - Canoe Mississippi @ Frenchtown -	14
September 7	Monarchs	9
September 20	Outdoor Photography	18
October 18	OWLS – Maiden Voyage (cold)	Cancelled
October 27	Garden Club –	7
November 16	OWLS – Outdoor Mentors	9
December 1	Holiday Wreath	15
33 programs	Subtotal	637

2012 Outreach (offsite)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>#Attended</u>
January 27	Guttenberg Care Cntr –Armistice Day Blizzard 1940-	20
February 23	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –an courtship-	17
March 5	Pikes Pk Scouts–Make Paper, BB Boxes, tracks=	19+9 others
March 19	Gutt Care Center – Birds	17
March 21	Career Fair – Clayton Ridge HS 2 sessions=	50
April 19	Gutt Care Center – Nature in Art	20
May 31	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –Frogs-	16
June 6	St Paul’s Day Camp– Post -5 sess (Abbey & Jenna)	51kids+9adults
June 9	Strawberry Days - Herps	70
June 27	Garnavillo library-Nocturnal Animals	18 kids +7adults
June 27	Edgewood library-Nocturnal Animals	15 kids +5adults
June 27	Strawberry Point library-Campfire Tales	20 kids +10adults
June 28	Gutt library-Frogs	6 kids +3adults
June 28	Gutt Care Center – “Bats”	20
July 5	Straw Pt library – Noc Animals	28 kids 10Adults
July 5	Gutt library – Noc Animals	12 kids 6Adults
July 26	Gutt Care Center – “Noc Animals”	18
August 7	Turkey River Canoe trip-Silo's Camp	14
August 30	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –Monarchs-	23
Sept 29	Gutt Care Center – “Fall Splendor”	17
Oct 25	Guttenberg Care Center –Pumpkin Carving-	8
Nov 29	Guttenberg Care Center–Turkeys-	cancelled
Dec 27	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –Blizzard 1940-	21
	28 programs	Subtotal 559

Outreach Events and Field Days:

February 25	Bald Eagle App. Day - children crafts and herps	152
April 3	Mar Mac 6th-8thTrumpeter Swan Assembly – w/ Ann Burns	180
April 4	Chicago HS Boys Service Project-Sister Julia Walsh	10
April 17	Wellness Fair – Guttenberg	125
May 4	Falcoln Field Trip- McGregor	47
May 8	Riverfest 5 sessions-boat,fishing,hatchery,lock,shocking,hike	90
May 9	Riverfest	80
May 9	Benton Co Field Day (Hike, Tracks)	80
July 16	Mississippi River Adventure Day (pool 9)	200 kids &parents
August 9	Mississippi River Adventure Day-	140 kids &parents
August 11	Turkey River Rocks 60 paddlers, 25non-paddlers	85
Sept	Big spring 4 sessions fishing	75
	36 Sessions/programs	Subtotal 1264

2012 Scouts/4H

March 27	Boy Scouts –tour & Hike	11
April 21	Boy Scouts –tour	10
July 28	Delakee Cub Scout Camp- Bloody Run	45 5 sess
Fall	Girl scouts	8
November 14	Webelos – Forestry Badge	9
10	scouts/4H	83

Environmental Equipment Loaned out

May Fishing poles borrowed 2x	32 & 40	72		
Sept Big Springs 4 sessions	fishing	75	Poles student contacts w/ others	157
August Silos borrowed all canoes				
September FCCB borrowed canoes				
April FCCB borrowed GPS			GPS contacts with others	40

VOLUNTEER HOURS 2012

<u>Area of Service</u>	<u>Hours Served</u>
Iowa Room	246
Garden	520
Field Trips/Public Programs	63
Heritage Days	450
Community Service	34
Off Road Run/Fishing Clinic/Holiday Walk	119
Youth Mentor Turkey Hunt	60
Hunter Education	321
Motor Mill Foundation	1217
Conservation Board Members	<u>180</u>
	3,210

GRANTS 2012

Date	Sponsor	Funded	Unfunded	Project
January	CCFF	\$ 1,000		EE Programs for Schools
May	REAP HRDP		\$50,000	MM, Roofs, Masonry, Silt
Total		\$1000	\$50,000	

JANUARY

Officers remained the same: Jim Langhus, Chair, Joe Ihm, Vice Chair, and Deanna Krambeer, Secretary.

Tim Engelhardt reviewed the map of the proposed regional trail system. Discussion followed on potential benefits and issues with trails. Ron McCartney encouraged the CCCB to actively solidify the need for trails. The Board noted the priority of completing the proposed trail system of the TRRC, including the potential section from Elkader to Motor Mill. The bridge replacement at Motor Mill is a strong component to facilitate completion of that trail. The route for the proposed TRRC trail from Elgin to Elkader is not finalized. Funding for trails is likely very limited for several years due to budget constraints.

The Clayton County Conservation Board has received a grant of \$250,000 to complete the trail from Motor Mill to Elkader as part of the (TRRC).

A \$1,000.00 grant will be submitted to the Clayton County Foundation for the Future to cover field trip costs of schools using the Osborne Outdoor Education Program under the name of the Clayton County Conservation Board.

Jim Langhus reported that he compiled evaluations done by the Board and shared the result with Tim Engelhardt, Executive Director. Jim Langhus reported the evaluations were positive and the written comments were helpful.

The Summary of Activities of the Clayton County Conservation Board, 2011 was reviewed. The Summary of Activities, 2011 Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County, was reviewed. Appreciation was expressed for the extensive work done by volunteers inside the Mill as well as all the other volunteer activities.

After much discussion, the FY2013 budget was approved.

Mulford and Engelhardt met with Board of Supervisor Ron McCartney at Osborne to look at the buildings, discuss the shop issue and discuss long range planning of the facility.

The Bald Eagle in the Wildlife Exhibit has died. Body had to be shipped to Colorado.

Clayton County hosted the Northeast Iowa Naturalists Swap. The Holiday Walk had a 112 people participate. Naturalists have been in the classrooms. Harkrader is setting up 2012 Public Programs.

The outhouse at Buck Creek Park is getting a facelift this winter. With no snow yet, extra trail work and brush cutting has been able to be done.

Gibbs completed three Christmas Bird Counts.

Don Dunbar of Volga will be awarded the IAN/ICEC Volunteer of the Year Award. He will be receiving his award at this year’s Winterfest in Waterloo.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 22,093.09
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 10,385.00
	Total	\$ 32,478.09

FEBRUARY

Discussion was held on the budget submitted to the Board of Supervisors and their role in relation to our budgeting process.

Only one bid for the tuck pointing for the north and south abutments and the center pier of the Motor Mill Bridge was received and subsequently rejected. VJ Engineering believes they will have the plans for the entire project, including the bridge, by March 1st and recommends sending bids out for the entire project.

Renewal of the 28E agreement with the Iowa DNR for the Elkader Marsh through December 31, 2036 was approved. Any work done on the property by the CCCB will need approval of the DNR.

Board members received information on finances, projects, and the Turkey River Recreational Corridor, possible items to include in the Five year plan.

Congratulations to Larry Stone for receiving the ICEC/IAN Aldo Leopold Lifetime Environmental Education Award for 2012 and to Don Dunbar who received Iowa’s Outstanding Conservation Volunteer Award for 2012. Both were honored at Winterfest this year.

Engelhardt will be serving as the VP for District 6 this year and its representative to the IACCBE Board and Winterfest Planning Committee.

A letter was submitted to FEMA requesting an Improved Project for the silt removal in the mill basement.

MJ Smith and staff are working to develop a brochure for the Osborne Partners for Education Endowment.

Luster has now set up a Capital Campaign Fund for the Motor Mill Projects in the Conservation Reserve account. This will help staff better track the money and donors and see where our target amount is yet.

Naturalists have been busy with classroom programs, Winterfest conference and Winter Solstice Conference. Two schools have been out for winter field trips. The Snow Fest Public Program was very well attended with a total of 69 participants in cross country skiing and snowshoeing activities.

Gibbs submitted the CCFF grant for \$1,000 for Outdoor Field Trips. He also wrote and submitted an iPad editorial article in the CR Gazette and DM Register and has received further interest in the article.

We closed off Bloody Run Park driveway. Some snow removal, but with less snow this year, several outside projects and maintenance work has been accomplished.

The CCCB will attend a Wellness/Resource Fair at the Clayton Ridge High School on April 17 from 4-7.

Engelhardt attended a meeting in Volga to discuss the possibility of creating a trail from Volga Lake Rec Area through Volga City to Osborne Park. Volga City would like to become an equestrian friendly city.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 8,534.53
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 3,837.50
	Total	\$12,372.03

MARCH

A resolution was adopted to authorize the director to solely execute any contracts, amendments thereto, or any other documents on behalf of the Clayton County Conservation Board regarding demolition related activities at the Louis and Louisa Schroeder House at 23022 Grain Road, Motor Mill Site in Clayton County, Iowa as per request of The Iowa Homeland Security Demolition Team.

The Board approved the priority of projects as recommended by the staff in the Fiscal Year 2013 Decision Packaging report.

Board members received some updated reports to review prior to the meeting. After review, reports will be added to the Five Year Plan and will also be included on the CCCB Web site.

At the request of the CCCB, Harry Luster has provided figures for salary options for CCCB staff. The Board of Supervisors has approved the CCCB budget for 2013 with a 2.5 % salary increase, and the addition of \$40,000 to the budget for siding on the Visitor Center. The CCCB had recommended a 5.5% salary increase. It was noted that the overall total of the approved 2013 budget would not be increased, but any additional staff salary increases would need to be balanced with decreases in other line items in the budget.

Tentative schedule for the Motor Mill Bridge: March 9 bids go out to contractors, March 27 pre bidders meeting, April 5 bids due, April 9 bids are opened and reviewed April 10 recommendations for hire made to the CCCB at meeting.

Capital Fund Campaign moving forward. Information is on the theater ad, radio program, Facebook and website.

The agreement with Iowa DNR and CCCB for the Elkader Wetlands has been signed and mailed back.

The Golden Eagle has died. With the help of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, birds were located in Northern WI for replacements.

A couple of field trips have come to Osborne Park this past month. Spring field trips are being scheduled and are filling up. Winter Classroom programs are still in full swing. Only a few reschedule due to weather conditions. Harkrader helped with Bald Eagle App. Day in Prairie. She had 152 kids come through her table for crafts. The OWLS program series will begin in March. Staff is working with the Iowa DNR regarding a swan release scheduled for April 3th.

The Volunteer Event is scheduled for Thursday April 26th at 5:30 with a wildflower walk held at 5:00 PM. This is scheduled before the Big Blue Sky Concert held on Saturday April 28th.

A Youth/Mentor Spring Turkey Hunt will take place again this year on Saturday April 7th. One location for the hunt will be as in the past near the archery range at Osborne Park.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 4,900.93
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 25,956.25
	Total	\$ 30,857.18

APRIL

After discussion, the board authorized the Executive Director to apply for the REAP HRDP grant for work at Motor Mill in the estimated amount of \$110,000.00.

The CRP contract for the Hunter Ed range prairie area expired April 6th; no application was submitted for CRP on the Hunter Ed range.

CCCB has utilized FSA education funds in the past to divide among local schools to defray field trip costs.

The Turkey River Recreational Corridor (TRRC) is selling ads from Mediacom promoting visits to Clayton County with profits going to the TRRC. The board authorized utilizing this ad technique.

An updated *5-Year Plan* packet was approved by the board.

Brian Gibbs shared information about his upcoming unpaid Leave of Absence. From approximately May 18 to September 15, he will be working as an Interpretive Ranger at Glacier National Park.

Staff has been able to burn several areas at the end of March first week of April. A burn will be attempted again at Bloody Run Park contracted with Driftless Stewardship Council along with neighbors.

Abbey Harkrader has received the 2011 Professional Development Certificate.

Harkrader is working with a group planning the Turkey River Rocks event to be held in August and is a legislative float trip promoting the Turkey River, land management practices, and the TRRC. Several public programs included BB Boxes, Silos Camp at MM, OWLS and a Boy Scout tour and Hike. Outreach programs included Pikes Peak Scout group, Guttenberg Care Center, and a Career Fair at Clayton Ridge. Classroom programs are wrapping up. Plans for Trees for Kids are underway. Naturalists are working on planning for the New Mississippi River Fest program that the USFWS canceled. Spring Field trips are being planned, Junior Naturalists Camps are being planned, the newsletter is written and will be coming out soon. Gibbs is also working on Bald Eagle nest, Frog and Toad, and Bluebird Box monitoring. Brian Gibbs was successful in the CCF Grant he wrote for \$1,000 for EE programing with in County Schools.

Bridge bids out April 5th. Pre bid meeting on April 19. Bid opening on May 3rd and Board approval May 8th.

Engelhardt is now on the Rivers and Bluffs Scenic By-Ways Board. The board is actively trying to promote the by-way to attract more visitors and keep more visitors in the area longer.

We have received the Archaeological Report for the Motor Mill house. Along with that a large bill which the reimbursement is underway.

The Endowment Brochures have been printed. A banner has been ordered to help promote the endowment as well. A Big Blue Sky Concert and Silent Auction will be held on April 28th.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 19,069.66
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 5,792.50
	Total	\$ 24,862.16

MAY

The bid from Minnowa Construction for the Motor Mill Bridge for \$ 906, 322.90 was accepted.

The revised 2013 budget was approved.

Suggestions for the spring field trip board meetings include driving the proposed Turkey River Recreational Corridor (TRRC) trail route from Big Springs to Elgin/Clermont, Volga White Pines, Joy Springs and the Stone Pine Plantation, and tours of Guttenberg.

Larry Stone sent a summary of proceeds and expenses for the Osborne Partners for Education concert/silent auction held on April 28. A total of \$2,679.00 was collected for the Osborne Partners for Education Fund.

The buck deer was put down due to age and health issues. Staff is in the process of locating a new one.

Engelhardt attended the Clayton County Wellness Fair held at the Guttenberg School on Tuesday April 17. Volunteer Supper was a success held on Thursday April 26th. We had 42 volunteers and 8 staff present.

Lora Friest, director RC&D presented a program at the Historic Preservation Conference in Decorah on April 27. Her topic was successful historic restoration projects, one project she presented on was Motor Mill.

Engelhardt has been working with MMF members and Wapsi Valley Archaeology on the REAP HRDP grant which is due May 15th.

Five field trips came to Osborne in April. Naturalists have started JNP presentations in the schools. Applications have started coming back in for camp. Gibbs has put together the newsletter which has been sent out. Plans are well underway for the Mississippi River Festival programs. Gibbs attended the Clayton County for the Future Awards Banquet in Marquette on April 19.

Several public programs were offered April. Trees for Kids program has been happening the last week or so. The summer tour schedule has been set for Motor Mill. The motormill.org website has been reworked.

Staff was able to slide in a couple of burns this spring. Staff started mowing in early April. The majority of the out parks are ready for the summer season. Routine trimming and checks on Pony Hollow Trail has started.

Routine Park patrol has started. Camping season has been slow, but we have had a few incidents already relating to law enforcement.

Time extensions for the Motor Mill Bridge and the Motor Mill Basement silt removal project have been requested from FEMA.

The Board of Supervisors is planning a Toxic Waste Cleanup day Saturday June 2 at the Osborne Center.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 19,431.66
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 17,601.50
	Total	\$ 37,033.16

JUNE

The steel has been ordered for the bridge and will arrive the week after Labor Day. Project completion date is December 5, 2012. He also shared handouts on the budget of the Motor Mill Bridge and restoration of buildings projects. A list of 36 grants applied for Motor Mill restoration projects was given.

Scott Geno with Pheasants Forever and White Tails Unlimited met with Tim Engelhardt at Motor Mill and looked at sites for a new canoe ramp. These groups are willing to pay for the development of a new ramp.

Susi Nehls and Roy Blair, who initiated the Osborne Partners for Education Endowment Fund, requested a letter of appreciation to Larry Stone be read at the CCCB meeting.

Clayton County is hosting a District VI IACCB meeting on June 14. Attendees are usually directors and staff of County Conservation Boards. All CCCB members are invited to attend this District VI meeting.

Board members boarded the van about 2:40 PM for a driving tour of the potential trail route from Clermont to Big Springs. Pros and cons of this potential trail were discussed.

Luster has been working with the County Safety Committee on county building safety inspection audits.

The INHF will be closing soon on the Garland Property. Once that is complete a discussion will occur between the INHF and the CCCB for possible purchase and funding sources.

The June Hunter Education Classes will be held June 18, 20, 22 and 23.

Clayton County hosted a Household Toxic Waste Day with the drop off site being Osborne Park on June 2. The event went well with 40 residents bringing items.

The REAP HRDP grant was submitted with the final request being \$50,000 and the total project cost at \$102,000.

We have received our check from FEMA for the Motor Mill Residential House work. Once the historical research portion is completed will receive the final 10%. This may be next winter some time.

The TRRC is having a Safari Scavenger Hunt this summer, with 16 locations throughout the TRRC.

Naturalists finished up the spring field trip season. They are now planning for camps. First camp is June 12th. Most camps are full. Kids Fishing Clinic was at Backbone Park. They had record numbers this year.

CCCB hosted a Visitor Protection Workshop open to all seasonal staff from across the state, sponsored through CCPOA.

The Archery Shoot was held on Sunday June 3.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 7,756.35
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 17,295.10
	Total	\$ 25,051.45

JULY

The INHF is working with Mr. Garland on the purchase of approximately 73 acres in Clayton County which contains a site of historical importance. The CCCB will then purchase the land from INHF.

The board toured the Volga White Pines area. This 22 acre area along the Volga River contains white pines roughly 140 years old, along with a variety of mixed hardwood species.

The Niewoehner family has donated memorial money in memory of LaVern Niewoehner who was a neighbor and volunteer to the park. The funds purchased a display board which will be mounted on the end of the wolf exhibit in the Nature Center.

The Iowa DNR shocked a portion of Bloody Run Trout Stream on June 20.

We have had several comments, requests and complaints in the past few weeks about the Osborne Campground and other areas that have changed due to past flooding issues. Staff has done their best to explain reasons behind these changes.

Many of the out parks have been trimmed and have had the once over. The shelter house of the old Osborne Campground has been opened for day use. The bathroom at Buck Creek Park has been reroofed and painted. Split rail fence by the Osborne Cabin has been replaced. The roof on the cat exhibit building has been replaced from shingles to a steel roof.

We have acquired two male fox pups from Fayette County for our exhibit.

The Fishing Clinic held back on June 2 at Backbone Park had 117 kids and 65 adults. A kayak Clinic had 7 participants. The OWLS garden tour had 20 participants. Naturalists have had a busy June with Junior Naturalist Camps, church day camps, library programs, and care center programs.

Staff discussed campgrounds usage, electric sites, cabins, past flooding issues, and raising the price of camping next year at our staff meeting. The staff would like to request a board discussion on camping rates to increase next year. Staff also discussed the bird exhibit. We will investigate what is required to bring the exhibit area up to standards. Once we find out what is needed, it will take board action to make changes.

Engelhardt will be meeting with FEMA and SHPO to look at the Motor Mill Basement project. The meeting is to help SHPO understand the situation and develop a resolution to the problem.

We did not receive the REAP HRDP Grant for the Motor Mill Projects.

The County EWP Property near Elkader has been sprayed and seeded and the trees were removed.

The Enhancement Committee is working to have a Northeast Iowa Economic Impact of Natural Resources Study completed. This information is needed to continue to develop recreational opportunities in NE Iowa.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 9,823.11
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 2,956.01
	Total	\$ 12,779.12

AUGUST

Three bids were received for the two wire corn cribs for sale. The bid of Chuck Fisher for \$156.60 for the two cribs was accepted.

Brian Fankhauser of the INHF presented information about the INHF’s purchase of the Garland property, and the potential purchase of that property by the CCCB. The goal is to maintain the site in its present state while allowing public access for low-impact recreational use such as hunting. Grants for the CCCB to consider for purchase of the property were reviewed and the need to do inventories (such as plants, etc.) of the property for use in grant application were discussed.

A bid specification sheet has been developed for the siding of the Osborne Center, and this was reviewed. An ad will be put in the county papers requesting bids and bid specifications will be sent to local contractors.

A bid sheet of specifications for a new patrol pickup was reviewed. This truck will replace the 2007 patrol truck presently used.

Two options exist for the \$6,500.00 FEMA funds for silt removal and masonry work in the Motor Mill basement. Option one is to request funds go toward an alternate project at the site. Option two is to request the funds be de-obligated, which means the money will be returned to FEMA.

Engelhardt met with Lonnie Kuehl to discuss the fence line along our two properties at Buck Creek Park.

Turkey River Rocks canoe float trip will be held on Saturday August 11.

MMF members have been working parades and promoting the bridge project. Funds are coming into the Capital Fund Account regularly as a result.

Archery shoot will be held Sunday August 12.

The crews have cleaned trees off of Pony Hollow Trail several times after some high winds have come through the area. Mowing was slowed due to dry conditions, staff occupied their time with a variety of other projects including watering some of the younger trees several times a week. The steps in the back campground area were removed due to flood damage. The trail has had lime surface added to it.

Staff worked with 2nd Roads department to remove trees on Galaxy Road on the south side of Motor Mill.

For the month of July the Naturalists have had 4 public programs, 4 Outreach programs, JNP, summer field trips with Daycares, and Ewalu plus planning for the Turkey River Rocks programs. Staff is starting to plan for Heritage Days and the Osborne Off-Road Fun Run/Walk. Turkey River Rocks canoe float was a huge hit which was held Saturday August 11th.

Staff has been requested to begin looking at options available to improve the Osterdock Canoe Ramp.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 16,661.15
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 3,515,00
	Total	\$ 20,176.15

SEPTEMBER

Meuser Lumber was awarded the bid for the siding of the Nature/Visitor Center; they noted on the bid sheet they would likely do the project in the spring of 2013.

The board accepted the bid of \$22,105.00 for the Dodge Ram truck from Torkelson Motors of Elgin.

The bid from Viafield, Clermont, Iowa was accepted for LP.

The board authorized the Executive Director to obtain bids for the 2007 Dodge Dakota pick-up.

Tim Engelhardt and Bruce Blair toured the Buck Creek Park on September 6 to discuss a timber management plan. A neighbor, Lonnie Kuehl wants to replace the fence bordering the property on the East in the next few years, and would like to reduce the possibility of CCCB trees falling on the fence. The area was divided into five management sites, with potential harvest of timber in several sites, including near the fence. The CCCB needs to decide the goal of management of the wooded area to help Bruce Blair develop the woodland management plan. After discussion, it was decided to have Tim Engelhardt ask Bruce Blair if it's economically worth it to do a harvest along the fence line, and if so, to mark the trees to be sold.

After further investigation with FEMA officials for the Alternate Project for the Motor Mill Basement Project, the best solution was to withdraw the project. That paperwork has been started.

A support letter was submitted for a Great Places application for the cities of Elkader, Clermont and Elgin for trails inside the city limits.

Engelhardt will be meeting with Bruce Blair and Brian Fankhauser to look at the Garland Property and then Blair and Engelhardt will look at Buck Creek Park.

Naturalists have been working with lots of larger groups including Mississippi River Adventure Day, Turkey River Rocks, OWLS canoe float on the Mississippi and a Silos Canoe Trip on the Turkey.

As we have been finishing out the summer crews, staff has completed many smaller maintenance projects.

The Archery Shoot held in August had 150 shooters and the club was happy with the numbers.

The water trail sign was placed at Motor Mill near the restroom.

Sunday of Labor Day the neighbors at Motor Mill had a truck mud event. Campers were upset and have received two complaints by email plus several that evening.

Minnowa Construction is planning on starting September 24 or October 1 with the masonry work. The steel will arrive October 22. Work will be completed by December 5. They will come back in spring to finish off any grading and shaping and reseeding area.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 8,310.91
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 4,655.00
	Total	\$ 12,965.91

OCTOBER

Deanna Krambeer received a 10-year Service Award.

The board agreed to allow the 4-H Shooting Sports program to hold an overnight campout at Osborne and an opportunity to squirrel hunt. There will be less than 12 students and around 4 to 5 adults. Hunting would occur in the archery area, which is closed to archers beginning October 1.

Written information from Bruce Blair, District Forester, on the sale of trees along the fence line of Buck Creek Park was reviewed. Bruce Blair and Tim Engelhardt will mark 30 to 50 trees for sale. Because of the small number of trees and current markets, it is unlikely there will be a large number of loggers interested.

We have received the check from the Iowa Great Places from last year’s grant for the Motor Mill Bridge.

The Osborne Center siding project will occur in March or April of 2013. Final price for the 46 mil is \$37,363.96. This is excluding discussed change orders.

Work on the Motor Mill Bridge is scheduled to start Monday October 8th.

Clayton County is looking into a computer program/service to help with grant research and administration of grants. This program would be available to several departments including conservation.

The EWP field near Elkader has been mowed by PF Habitat Crew. Cost was around \$500. After further discussion with NRCS and a tour, NRCS is requesting the seeding to start over.

On Saturday October 22 Deer Run Campground had tractor and wagon tours down Pony Hollow Trail. On Sunday October 23, Central Community School used the trail for an evening fun run to kick off Homecoming Week.

Engelhardt and Anderson have attended several Law Enforcement Training classes. All were good with hands on activities and classroom materials.

Heritage Days planning, some set up, parking and final questions are being answered.

Luster has been working with the county safety committee on building inspections throughout the county.

Fall field trips are underway and several more are schedule before the end of the fall season. Gibbs has been presenting several programs on his summer experiences in Montana. The Osborne Fun Run Walk went well. We had roughly 50 participants. A short kayaking trip is being planned with Central School on the Turkey River. Naturalists presented a program at White Pine Hollow for the Upper Iowa Hydro-Geology Class. Harkrader had a Monarch program with 9 folks and an OWLS program on photography with 18 participants.

A new trail kiosk sign and brochures has been developed for the trails at Osborne Park.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 8,922.31
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 1,798.20
	Total	\$ 10,720.51

NOVEMBER

Engelhardt presented a day-by-day photo progression of the work on the Motor Mill Bridge. Mark Bolsinger of 2nd Roads and Engelhardt shared information and answered questions about the construction and progress.

The staff has been reviewing and prioritizing future needs. Budget figures will be reviewed in future meetings. The 2013 Decision Packaging plan contains six items requiring major funding.

Staff proposes raising the primitive camping rates at Bloody Run, Motor Mill and Joy Springs from \$7.00 per night to \$10.00 per night. Frieden’s Park and Buck Creek are currently free and proposals are to charge a \$7.00 per night primitive camping fee.

To provide a clear 75-foot fence line, Bruce Blair and Tim Engelhardt marked 44 trees for cutting for sale with 11 trees marked as cull trees. The board authorized the Executive Director to contact a custom logger to cut the marked trees at Buck Creek Park, move them to the road, and then get bids from timber buyers.

Heritage Days was a wet one. Numbers were certainly down due to the weather. This is the first time in 38 years were both days had bad weather.

The new patrol truck arrived.

Staff plans to conduct a burn on the ridge tops at Bloody Run the week of November 5th.

10 Decorah Eagle prints were donated by the artist Jonathan Wilde to the Osborne Partners for Education Endowment. The prints will retail for \$100 or will be given to anyone who donates \$1,000 or more toward the endowment.

Naturalists are working with teachers setting up winter classroom programs. Naturalists had two late fall field trips this year. MFL Mar-Mac had a cleanup day at Sny Magill and Central had a Kayaking class. Naturalists will be at IAN November 7-9. Gibbs working on Chicken Ridge Interpretive signs with Larry Stone and Jean Prior. The OWLS program during October was cancelled due to bad weather. The event was a Maiden Voyage trip on the Mississippi River. Naturalists also had a field trip down to Motor Mill.

Staff will be updating the Clayton County Conservation Brochure and printing a run of new brochures this coming winter. Staff will apply for a grant to help with cost.

The TRRC received Iowa Great Places grant for \$150,000. This is to be split three ways for trail work in Elkader, Elgin and Clermont.

During the last IMWCA Work Comp insurance inspection it was noted by the loss control agent that Clayton County has come a long way in our safety program. Compliments all around to Board of Supervisors, Department Heads, foremen and all of the county employees for their efforts and strong commitment toward a safe working environment.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 35,651.55
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 141,241.26
	Total	\$ 176,892.81

DECEMBER

Oakland and Irene Becker, working with INHF, established a Life Estate on 373 acres of land they owned near Millville in 1988. With Irene’s death on November 22, 2012, the land was transferred to Clayton County Conservation. A Management Plan for the property was prepared by CCCB in 2002 and updated in 2010. The District Forester prepared Stewardship Management Plans for both sections of the property in 2004. Contracts for the rental of cropland for 2013 are in effect and will remain for 2013. The plan for the use of the property in the Management Plan was reviewed with the guests and Board. Tim Engelhardt informed the CCCB that Rafe Koopman, County Engineer, requested a portion of land on the Becker property for construction of a much-needed new county shop. The CCCB will meet with the Supervisors and other interested parties in January to discuss the issue.

A tentative budget for Revenue, Administration, and Operations for 2014 was reviewed. The revised Decision Packaging includes four items; the shop, paving the parking lot at Osborne, finishing the 3rd floor at Osborne Center, and constructing six rental cabins.

The Board moved to raise the camping fees to \$5.00 at Frieden Park and Buck Creek Park and to \$10.00 at Joy Springs, Bloody Run and Motor Mill Park. Frenchtown Park will remain a free camp site.

The Buck Creek timber sale was tabled. The meeting with a potential logger was not able to be completed before the meeting.

The Motor Mill bridge was completed on December 6. The ribbon cutting was held on December 8, with a good crowd attending the ceremony. A grand opening is planned for the spring, with help needed for the program. There is a need for more funding for the bridge, approximately \$84,000.

Staff conducted a burn on the ridge top at Bloody Run Park. Burn went well and did what we hoped it would do for the area. Staff was able to burn several brush piles during that time as well. Staff has gone through the WRP field by Elkader and has cleaned out junk, filled holes and removed logs and tires that were in the area.

Anderson and Jerry Farmer presented the final OWLS program of the year on Youth Mentor hunts that they are involved with. Naturalists have been working with Classroom programs. Holiday Walk was held on Thursday December 6th with 41 participants.

Staff discussed the future of the volunteer flower gardens. The gardeners will be contacted and the staff plans to develop the area into a Natural Play Scape area for youngsters. The staff is starting to update the Clayton County Conservation Brochure.

The Welcome signs located on the side of the building will be moved inside and a display developed this winter and coming spring due to the siding project of the Osborne Center.

Clayton County CAN donated \$1,000 toward the Osborne Partners for Education Endowment.

Claims:	General Basic	\$ 28,888.93
	Cons. Reserve	\$ 265,066.15
	Total	\$ 293,955.08