

O'Brien County Conservation Board
November 11, 2020

The O'Brien County Conservation Board met in regular session at the Prairie Heritage Center at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were: Sherri Bootsma, Royd Chambers, Kathy Luedke, Jack Wallinga and Darwin Dau.

Visitors from the community included Richard Radtke, Denise Steffen, Sharon Flinders, Molly Hicks, Mary Hicks, Joshua Hicks, Kari Kathman, Andrew Kathman, Kevin Brassler, Mary Helfter, John Farrell, Donna Farrell, Dave Stoll, Jolene Hultgren, Keith Rohwer, Patty Vollink, Carolyn Bootsma, Lynn Burmakow, Claude Struve, Craig Johnson, Jeff Nagel, Tom Konz, Ruth Konz, Tim Rohrbaugh, Terry Feekes, Randy Feekes, Zelda Christensen, and Lydia Hansen.

An idea for a project that would provide a self-guided walking tour of Mill Creek Park using QR codes was presented by Mary Helfter and Kevin Brassler. The board would like to continue to gather information regarding the logistics of this proposal, and invited Helfter and Brassler to provide more details on the project for further discussion.

Public comments were received regarding horseback riding being permitted at areas managed by the board. A representative from the Back Country Horsemen's group expressed willingness to help the board gather volunteers to work on horse trails in the future, if desired. The board will continue to research the topic for further discussion. A working document that was prepared by the Assistant Director which contains research about multiple usage areas in surrounding counties will be posted on the O'Brien County Conservation Board's website.

On a motion by Bootsma, seconded by Dau, the minutes from the October meeting were approved. Motion carried, unanimous. Monthly expenditures were approved on a motion by Dau, seconded by Luedke. Motion carried, unanimous.

The board discussed the weekend visiting hours for the Prairie Heritage Center in the coming months. The Prairie Heritage Center will be closed on the Saturdays that immediately follow the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays. The center will be open on all other Saturdays. The Assistant Director has been instructed to reach out to volunteers to see if they would be interested in working at the center beginning in January.

Moved by Wallinga, seconded by Bootsma to enter into a closed session as was requested pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i) to discuss the director position. Motion carried, unanimous.

The closed session was adjourned on a motion by Bootsma, seconded by Dau. Motion carried, unanimous. On a motion by Luedke, seconded by Wallinga, The O'Brien County Conservation Board awards Terry Boltjes \$3000.00 and his service weapon in recognition and appreciation for 32 years of dedicated service. Motion carried, unanimous.

On a motion by Bootsma, seconded by Wallinga, Brian Schimmer is appointed as Interim Director until the director position is filled. Motion carried, unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at the Prairie Heritage Center.



Royd E. Chambers