

O'Brien County Conservation Board
December 9, 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 Denise Steffen, Jolene Hultgren, Lynn Burmakow, Lydia Hansen, Patty Vollink, Zelda Christensen, Brian Gunnerson, Dave Stoll, Mark Hicks, Joshua Hicks, Molly Hicks, Donna Farrell, John Farrell, Mari Radtke, Claude Struve, Craig Johnson, Jeff Nagel, and Tom Konz.

On a motion by Wallinga, seconded by Dau, the minutes from the November 11, 2020 and the November 20, 2020 meetings were approved. Motion carried, unanimous. Monthly expenditures were approved on a motion by Luedke, seconded by Dau. Motion carried, unanimous.

Public comments were received regarding horseback riding being permitted at areas managed by the board. The board was informed that the Interim Director has been contacted by two members of the Habitat Stamp Grant Fund Committee regarding incompatible use issues that may arise if horseback riding is permitted on the Hannibal Waterman Wildlife Area. This area was purchased, in part, using Habitat Stamp Grant funds in 1989.

The Interim Director was instructed by the Chairman to find the exact language used in both the Habitat Stamp Grant that was awarded for the Hannibal Waterman Wildlife area, and the NAWCA grant that was awarded for the Waterman Wildlife Addition area. The language used in these grants will be reviewed at the next meeting, and the board will continue to research the topic for further discussion.

On a motion by Luedke, seconded by Bootsma, Royd Chambers was elected as Chairman for the upcoming term. He will serve as Chairman until December, 2022. Motion carried, unanimous.

The board was provided a copy of the minutes from the Little Sioux Valley Conservation Association meetings held in October and December. A copy of the recently amended by-laws of the association was also provided to the board. On a motion by Bootsma, seconded by Wallinga, Brian Schimmer will serve as the Little Sioux Valley Conservation Association liaison until further notice. Motion carried, unanimous.

A draft copy of the annual report will be distributed to board members for their comments and suggestions prior to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at the Prairie Heritage Center.


