

O'Brien County Conservation Board  
January 13, 2021

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, Kathy Luedke, Jack Wallinga and Darwin Dau.

Visitors from the community included Denise Steffen, Patty Volink, Zelda Christensen, Carolyn Bootsma, Mary Hicks, Joshua Hicks, Molly Hicks, Dennis Vanden Hull, Lynn Burmakow, Lydia Hansen, Terry Feekes, Randy Feekes, John Farrell, Donna Farrell, Mari Radtke, Keith Rohwer, Jeff Nagel and Craig Johnson.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Dau, to amend the new business section of the agenda to include an item of business concerning the appointment of a chairperson pro-tem due to the absence of Chairman Royd Chambers. Motion carried, unanimous. Moved by Dau, seconded by Luedke, to appoint Sherri Bootsma as Chairperson Pro-Tem for the January, 2021 meeting. Motion carried, unanimous.

On a motion by Wallinga, seconded by Dau, the minutes from December 9, 2020 meeting were approved. Motion carried, unanimous. Monthly expenditures were approved on a motion by Dau, seconded by Jack. Motion carried, unanimous.

A discussion was held regarding the incompatible use issues associated with riding horses on land purchased using Habitat Stamp Grant and/or NAWCA funds. Moved by Luedke, seconded by Wallinga, to not move forward with equestrian riding at the Waterman Wildlife Addition area. Motion carried, unanimous. Moved by Luedke, seconded by Dau, to not move forward with equestrian riding at the Hannibal Waterman Wildlife Area, and to further explore other avenues for equestrian riding within other O'Brien County Conservation Board properties. Motion carried, unanimous.

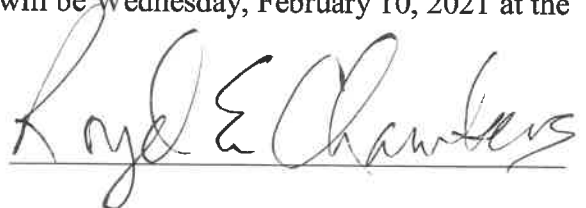
The board was informed that 116 beavers have been received and \$4060.00 of the \$5000.00 bounty has been paid out to date.

The annual report was reviewed. On a motion by Wallinga, seconded by Dau, the annual report was approved as written. Motion carried, unanimous.

The fiscal year 2022 budget was reviewed. Moved by Wallinga, seconded by Dau to approved the fiscal year 2022 budget as presented. Motion carried, unanimous.

The board moved into closed session pursuant to Iowa code section 21.5(1)(i) to discuss candidates for the director position. All candidates that were interviewed for the position requested that the discussion be held in closed session. Chairman Royd Chambers joined the closed session discussion via phone. On a motion by Dau, seconded Luedke, the closed session was ended at 8:59 p.m. Motion carried, unanimous. Moved by Luedke, seconded by Dau, to hire Brian Schimmer as the Director of the O'Brien County Conservation Board. Motion carried, unanimous. The board informed Mr. Schimmer that they would like for him to review the job duties of all employees to insure that the Conservation Board is operating as efficiently as possible in order to prevent having to re-hire for the Operations Supervisor position immediately. The salary for the director position will be \$62,000/year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at the Prairie Heritage Center.



Royd E. Chambers