

O'Brien County Conservation Board  
February 10, 2021

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

Visitors from the community included Zelda Christensen, Carolyn Bootsma, Denise Steffen, Mary Hicks, Molly Hicks, Dave Stoll, Lydia Hansen, John Farrell, Donna Farrell, Mari Radtke, Mark Drefke, Cole Drefke, Dan Friedrichsen, Kevin Brassler, Tom Konz, Randy Feekes, Terry Feekes, Zane Roberts and Andrew Kathman.

On a motion by Wallinga, seconded by Dau, the minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting were approved. Motion carried, unanimous. On a motion by Luedke, seconded by Bootsma, the minutes from the January 16, 2021 meeting were approved. Motion carried, unanimous. Monthly expenditures were approved on a motion by Dau, seconded by Wallinga. Motion carried, unanimous.

Kevin Brassler provided an update to the board on the proposed Mill Creek Park walking trail interpretive signage project. Goals and timelines were discussed. The chairman thanked Mr. Brassler and all others that have been involved with this project, and instructed them to please do whatever is needed to keep moving forward.

A discussion was held regarding horseback riding at the McCormack area. The director informed the board that he would like to see horseback riding permitted as a designated use at that area. The board read an ordinance that would establish regulations for horseback riding. Moved by Dau, seconded Luedke, to adopt the ordinance dealing with horseback riding at the McCormack area. Motion carried, unanimous.

An exemption letter for the Hannibal Waterman Wildlife area has been prepared. The letter requests that horseback riding be allowed as a designated use at that area. Moved by Bootsma, seconded Wallinga, to move forward with requesting an exemption to allow horseback riding at the Hannibal Waterman Wildlife area. Motion carried, unanimous.

On a motion by Wallinga, seconded Bootsma, the board will discontinue cabin and lodge rental refunds requested due to COVID-19, and revert back to the standard refund policies. Motion carried, unanimous.

A public records request policy was reviewed. On a motion by Luedke, seconded by Dau, the public records request policy was approved as written. Motion carried, unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at the Prairie Heritage Center.



Royd E. Chambers