

O'Brien County Conservation Board
May 26, 2021

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

Many visitors from the community were present.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Wallinga, to appoint Sherri Bootsma as the chairman pro tem. Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Dau, seconded by Wallinga, to accept the resignations of Brian Schimmer, Ryan List, Andrew Kathman and Zane Roberts with regrets. Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Wallinga, to enter into a closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(i). Roll call vote all ayes. The closed session was opened at 7:04 p.m.

The closed session was adjourned on a motion by Dau, seconded Luedke. Motion carried, unanimous. Moved by Luedke, seconded by Dau, to approve the vacation payout of Conservation Director Brian Schimmer of 362.4 hours for a total of \$10,802.31; Ranger Ryan List of 228.95 vacation hours and 19 comp hours for a total of \$6,349.90; Ranger Zane Roberts of 90.87 vacation hours and 43 comp hours for a total of \$3,282.39 and Ranger Andrew Kathman of 105.24 vacation hours and 17 comp hours for a total of \$3,130.52. Motion carried, unanimous.

Public comments were received regarding the resignations of the Director and the Park Rangers.

Moved by Konz, seconded by Wallinga, to authorize the assistant director to temporarily issue refunds for cabin or lodge renters who experience water, electricity, sewer or air conditioning problems that are not repaired within a reasonable amount of time. Motion carried, unanimous.

Park Ranger, Conservation Technician, Seasonal Park Employee, and Seasonal Prairie Heritage Center Employee positions will be posted. Resumes will be reviewed and discussed by the board.

Moved by Konz, seconded by Wallinga, to contract with Garrett Hunt at a rate of \$25/hour to supervise seasonal park employees and oversee work at the parks and recreation areas. Motion carried, unanimous.

On a motion by Luedke, seconded by Konz, Mary, Joshua and Molly Hicks will be contracted to clean the Prairie Heritage Center once per week for the amount of \$400/month. Mary, Joshua and Molly Hicks will also be contracted at a rate of \$20/hour to clean the restrooms at Mill Creek Park on the weekends two times per day – once before 9:00 a.m. and once before 9:00 p.m. Motion amended by Luedke to include cleaning and inspection of buildings including cabins and the lodge at Mill Creek Park. Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Konz, seconded Wallinga, to contract with Lynn Burmakow at a rate of \$20/hour to clean the restrooms at Mill Creek Park on the weekends two times per day – once before 9:00 a.m. and once before 9:00 p.m. – and to clean and inspect buildings including cabins at the lodge at Mill Creek Park. Motion carried, unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at the Prairie Heritage Center.


