

O'Brien County Conservation Board
June 9, 2021

The O'Brien County Conservation Board met in regular session at the Prairie Heritage Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were: Kathy Luedke, Tom Konz and Sherri Bootsma.

Visitors from the community included Mary Hicks, Molly Hicks, Dave Stoll, Denise Steffen, Lydia Hansen, Claude Struve, Mari Radtke, Richard Radtke, Randy Feekes, Terry Feekes, Lynn Burmakow, Greg Burmakow, Joshua Haack, Zelda Christensen, Sharon Flinders, Mike Flinders and Patty Vollink.

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

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Konz, to amend the agenda to add accepting the resignation of Darwin Dau to new business. Motion carried, unanimous.

The board received comments from Joshua Haack regarding the culture of the organization.

The meeting minutes from May 12 and May 26 stood as presented with no recommendations for change. Monthly expenditures were approved on a motion by Luedke, seconded by Konz. Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Konz, to accept the resignation of board member Darwin Dau with regrets. Motion carried, unanimous.

The board discussed expanding the visiting hours of the Prairie Heritage Center during the summer months when seasonal help is available. Moved by Luedke, seconded by Konz, to have the Prairie Heritage Center open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., in addition to Wednesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., effective through August 31, 2021. Motion carried, unanimous.

The board instructed the assistant director to look into options for having a key faub system installed at the Prairie Heritage Center.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Konz, to pay the Dog Creek Park campground host for Grain Bin Cabin cleaning services at a rate of \$25/cleaning, in addition to the annual stipend that is provided. Motion carried, unanimous.

The board discussed looking into options for taking online reservations for cabins and campsites in the future. The board would like to revisit this item after the 2021 camping season has come to a close.

Email messages addressed to the former director will be forwarded to the assistant director and the board chairman.

A new volunteer application has been created and approved by the county attorney. After discussing, the board determined that background checks shall be required every three years for all volunteers.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Konz, the motion adopted at the special session O'Brien County Conservation Board meeting on May 26, 2021 which reads as "Mary, Joshua and Molly Hicks will be contracted to clean the Prairie Heritage Center once per week for the amount of \$400/month" is amended

to "Mary, Joshua and Molly Hicks will be contracted to clean the Prairie Heritage Center once per week for the amount of \$450/month". Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Luedke, seconded Konz, 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 9:30 p.m.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Konz, to adjourn the closed session. Roll call vote all ayes. The closed session was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Konz, to hire Molly Hicks for the seasonal position at the Prairie Heritage Center at a rate of \$11/hour. Motion carried, unanimous.

Resumes for the director, park ranger, and conservation technician positions will be due by 4:30 p.m. on June 17, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, June 18, 2021 at the Mill Creek Park shop.


