

O'Brien County Conservation Board

July 14, 2021

The O'Brien County Conservation Board met in regular session at the Prairie Heritage Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were: Kathy Luedke, Tom Konz, Sherri Bootsma Jack Wallinga and Greg Burmakow.

Visitors from the community included Mary Hicks, Molly Hicks, Dave Stoll, Denise Steffen, Mari Radtke, Richard Radtke, Randy Feekes, Terry Feekes, Lynn Burmakow, Zeldia Christensen and Patty Vollink.

Moved by Wallinga, seconded by Burmakow to appoint Sherri Bootsma as the chairperson pro tem through the August 11, 2021 meeting. Motion carried, unanimous.

Monthly expenditures were approved on a motion by Wallinga, seconded by Luedke. Motion carried, unanimous.

Cindy Schwarz had previously asked to be on the agenda for this meeting. Schwarz was not in attendance, and no information was provided.

A discussion was held regarding partnership events with the Little Sioux Valley Conservation Association, moving forward with the gift shop, and the ownership of the bison. An agreement between the Conservation Board and Dave Stoll will be drafted to clarify the fact that the Conservation Board owns the bison cows, Dave Stoll owns the bison bull, and the bison meat that is harvested will be shared between the Conservation Board and Stoll.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Konz to amend the June 29, 2021 motion which read, "Moved by Luedke, seconded by Konz, to make the following one-time payments for additional services rendered: \$4500.00 to Amber Wetherell, \$4500.00 to Abbie Parker, \$500 to Luke Jenness, \$500.00 to Bryce Batien," to read "Moved by Luedke, seconded by Konz, to give a \$1000.00/year raise to Amber Wetherell and Abbie Parker effective July 1, 2021, and a \$2.00/hour raise to Luke Jenness and Bryce Batien effective July 1, 2021." Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Konz, seconded by Luedke to offer Candidate J the director position at a starting salary of \$65,000/year with a six-month review and the potential to be bumped to \$67,000/year, contingent upon the candidate passing a pre-employment physical and relocating to live within thirty miles of the Prairie Heritage Center. Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Konz, seconded by Burmakow to offer Candidate A the park ranger position at a starting salary of \$49,000/year with a six-month review and the potential to be bumped to \$51,000/year, contingent upon the candidate passing a pre-employment physical. Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Konz, seconded by Burmakow to offer Candidate F and Candidate G the conservation technician positions at a starting salary of \$38,000/year with a six-month review and the potential to be bumped to \$40,000/year, contingent upon the candidates passing a pre-employment physical. Motion carried, unanimous.

The job offers will be extended via telephone by board members Konz and Bootsma. Each candidate will be given until July 16, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. to contact Konz to either accept or decline the offer.

Moved by Konz, seconded by Wallinga to no longer sell camping coupon books for Dog Creek Park or Mill Creek Park effective July 15, 2021. Coupons that have been sold before July 15, 2021 will be honored until the expiration date stated on the camping coupon. Motion carried, unanimous.

A discussion was held regarding purchasing a key faub system to control entry for the Prairie Heritage Center. This topic was tabled to be further discussed at a future meeting.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Konz to accept a quote from Alpha Wireless, with the help of the O'Brien County Information Technology Director, to purchase security cameras for the Prairie Heritage Center and Dog Creek Park contingent upon the Board of Supervisors approving the expenditure of American Rescue Funds to finance the project. Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Burmakow, seconded by Wallinga to amend the O'Brien County Conservation Board Park Rules and Regulations which read "Domestic animals – No privately owned animal shall be allowed to run at large in any county park or preserve area under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Board. Such animals shall be carried, led by a leash not exceeding six feet in length, or kept confined in or attached to a vehicle. No animal shall be tied to any tree or shrub, nor in such a manner as to cause injury to public property. No pets are allowed on the beach at Mill Creek or Dog Creek Parks" to include "Only cats or dogs which are carried, led by a leash not exceeding six feet in length, or kept confined in or attached to a vehicle are permitted in any picnic, play, beach or camping areas". Motion carried, unanimous.

The use of the conference room at the Prairie Heritage Center was discussed. This topic was tabled for further conversation at a future meeting.

The status of the exemption letter for the Hannibal Waterman Wildlife Area was discussed. The assistant director provided an update to the board about the information she had received from Todd Bishop of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Moved by Wallinga, seconded by Burmakow to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at the Prairie Heritage Center.


