

O'Brien County Conservation Board
September 8, 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, Greg Burmakow and Dan Verrips.

Visitors from the community included Mary Hicks, Molly Hicks, Denise Steffen, Mike Flinders, Sharon Flinders, Lynn Burmakow, Carolyn Bootsma, Zelda Christensen, Patty Volland, Dave Stoll and Mari Radtke.

The minutes from the August 19, 2021 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Luedke, seconded by Burmakow. Motion carried, unanimous.

Monthly expenditures with the addition of the utility bills from MidAmerican Energy which are still coming were approved on a motion by Burmakow, seconded by Luedke. Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Burmakow, seconded by Luedke to approve the following stipends for the 2021 campground hosts: \$2600 to Bob Ruden, host at Mill Creek Park; \$2600 to LuCinda Siekman, host at Dog Creek Park; \$2600 to Kim Remillard, host at Douma Park. Motion carried, unanimous.

The board discussed the value and the services that the campground hosts provide to our park patrons. The director and the chairman will be reviewing ideas that the hosts have for improving different aspects of our campgrounds.

Moved by Burmakow, seconded by Luedke to offer free camping at Mill Creek Park for the night of October 2, 2021 to those campers who decorate their sites and hand out candy for the trick-or-treat event that will be held that evening. Motion carried, unanimous.

The opportunity to sell or trade in law enforcement equipment that is no longer being used was discussed. Moved by Burmakow, seconded by Verrips to trade an old protective vest in towards the purchase of a new vest that will be custom fitted for the park ranger that is to be hired. Motion carried, unanimous. The board will continue to discuss the sale or trade of handguns at a future meeting.

Volunteer duties and opportunities were reviewed. Applications for those wishing to volunteer are available at the Prairie Heritage Center and on the Conservation Board's website. Staff and volunteers will be required to have a background check completed.

The director provided an operations report to the board and reviewed current and upcoming projects and goals. Staff has been busy with maintenance work in the parks. Toilets, faucets, outlets, water leaks and restroom doors have been repaired. The director and technicians are working to map out the location of waterlines in preparation for winterizing the parks.

A hunter safety field day will be led by Travis Ginger at the Crosbie Wildlife and Nature Youth Center this coming weekend. The Conservation Board, Mark's Pump Sales and Service and the O'Brien County Sportsmen's Club will be hosting a youth pheasant hunt at the Crosbie area on October 23, 2021.

The director and assistant director will be interviewing park ranger applicants at the end of the month.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Burmakow to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at the Prairie Heritage Center.


