

O'Brien County Conservation Board
January 12, 2022
Meeting Minutes

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: Jack Wallinga, Tom Konz, Dan Verrips, Greg Burmakow and Kathy Luedke.

Visitors from the community included Lynn Burmakow, Carolyn Bootsma, Patty Vollink, Randy Feekes, Denise Steffen, Sharon Flinders, John Farrell, Trevor Fiddelke, Dave Stoll, Debra Wetherell, Kay Godfredsen, Mary Hicks and Molly Hicks.

The minutes from the December 13, 2021 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Burmakow, seconded by Verrips. Motion carried, unanimous.

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

John Farrell, President of the O'Brien County Sportsmen's Club, addressed the board and thanked them for allowing the Sportsmen's Club to be a part of the Youth Pheasant Hunt event that was held at the Crosbie Wildlife & Nature Youth Center in the fall of 2021. The Sportsmen's Club would like to plan additional events at O'Brien County Conservation Board areas, and looks forward to working with county conservation in the future. The chairman thanked the Sportsmen's Club for their support. The Conservation Board is very grateful for the partnership with the Sportsmen's Club.

The director reviewed the work planned for the future as recorded in the 2020-2021 annual report. The five-year plan will remain on the agenda.

The chairman addressed an item of business titled "Involvement and Relationship with the Little Sioux Valley Conservation Association, Volunteers and the Community". The chairman discussed personnel issues in relation to volunteers.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Burmakow, to approve the annual report for 2020-2021 as presented, with one minor addition for clarification. Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Wallinga, seconded by Verrips, to approve the fiscal year 2022 re-estimated budget numbers. Motion carried, unanimous.

Moved by Wallinga, seconded by Luedke, to approve budgeting for an eight-percent raise for all staff members in fiscal year 2023. Ayes: Wallinga, Luedke. Nays: Burmakow, Verrips, Konz. Motion failed.

Moved by Burmakow, seconded by Verrips, to approve budgeting for a three-percent raise for staff members beginning July 1 and an additional three-percent raise for staff members beginning January 1 "if they earn it," with the exception of Abbie Parker who will be granted the full six-percent raise on July 1 because she has worked for the board for one full year. Ayes: Burmakow, Verrips, Konz. Nays: Wallinga, Luedke. Motion carried.

An item of new business titled "Discuss monthly rate increase and adjusting rules for long-term campsites" was tabled.

An item of new business titled "Discuss adding tent campsites and nightly fee" was tabled.

An item of new business titled "Discuss extending the 2022 camping season" was tabled.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has notified the board that the exemption request submitted in 2021 for the Hannibal Waterman Wildlife Area has been denied. The chairman voiced his opinion that the area should be managed like it was the prior 30 years. The Director stated that the piece of property had been put in a spotlight and that he felt the DNR would be notified if any restrictions were violated.

Moved by Luedke, seconded by Verrips, to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at the Prairie Heritage Center.


