Kossuth County Conservation Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
Water's Edge Nature Center
April 12, 2021 5:30 P.M.

Present: Eichenberger; Miller; Rasmussen; Ristau; Young
Fosado; Stumme

Absent:

Guests Present: Eric Baker, Nate Fell, Chad Devine

Board Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ristau to approve the March meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Naturalist report was submitted by Fosado for Wille. Projects accomplished included live animal maintenance, attended a SWCD meeting, hosted a sugar shack volunteer meeting, attended the board and staff meetings, sugar shack operation and cleanup, hosted EPAK planning meeting, Youth events-2 classroom programs-26 students: thirteen field trips for 296 students; JCL event- 1 event with 12 attending, 9 Facebook posts were put out with 5,929 people reached and 428 engaged.

Discussion was held on the purchase of a stainless steel evaporator pan for the maple syrup operation. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Ristau to approve the purchase for $2,500 from Brian Brace Welding. The motion passed unanimously.

Representatives with North Iowa Lake Weed Removal presented information on the use and benefits of the "Eco Harvester Machine" to control aquatic vegetation in lakes and ponds. Discussion was held on the potential use at Smith Lake to control the summer weed problem. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Eichenberger to try the machine in June of 2021 for a weekly lease fee of $2,500. The motion passed unanimously.

The board reviewed the bids received for the Patterson Wetland enhancement project. After review, a motion was made by Young and seconded by Eichenberger to accept the low bid submitted from Erpelding Excavating Enterprise Corp. of $89,258.25. The motion passed unanimously.

The board reviewed the bids submitted for the Smith Lake Rock-faced Jetty/Spawning Beds project. After review, a motion was made by Eichenberger and seconded by Miller to approve the low bid submitted by Reutzel Excavating Inc. of $42,942.00. The motion passed unanimously.

The board reviewed the proposed campground and park rules for 2021. As there were no changes other than camping fee rates, a motion was made by Miller and seconded by Young to approve the rules as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on the condition of the boat ramp at the Plum Creek Dam area due to past flooding and damage to other areas caused by off road vehicles. The Director will look into repair of the boat ramp when low water conditions allow.

The board approved of holding the May board meeting on Monday the 10th at 5:30 p.m. at the Water's Edge Nature Center meeting room.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Young to approve the 37 bills submitted for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ristau and seconded by Eichenberger to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.