

**Kossuth County Conservation Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Water's Edge Nature Center  
December 12, 2022 5:30 P.M.**

Present: Eichenberger; Miller; Rasmussen; Ristau; Young  
Beenken; Fosado; Schmidt; Stumme; Wille

Absent:  
Guests Present:

Chairman Ristau called the meeting to order.

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

The Naturalist report for November was submitted by Wille. Projects accomplished included live animal maintenance, curriculum development and office recycling, attended the monthly staff and board meeting, attended the Soil and Water meeting, attended the Foundation meeting and soup supper, attended the Wellness meeting, attended the bee display planning meeting, attended the Fall IAN conference and Billie presented, attended Outdoor Woman's Day planning meeting. School programs-18 for 275 students; Public programs-2 for 19 people; 1 civic program for 9 people. 12 Facebook posts were put out with 10,471 people reached and 928 engaged.

The board reviewed the 2023-2024 budget proposal for the nature center. A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Miller to approve the proposal with a total expense of \$36,540 and revenue of \$7,000. The motion passed unanimously.

The main budget proposal was discussed for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. No decision was made as additional information regarding salaries was requested. The board agreed to meet on Thursday, December 29, at 12:30 PM to review/approve the budget proposal.

Discussion was held on the convenience fee to be charged for online reservations for the upcoming camping season. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Eichenberger to approve charging a 4% fee to cover the expenses of the online reservation system.

Discussion was held on the campsites near the north shelter at Siems Park. With the new stay limit rule starting in 2023, site #9 located on the north side of the shelter would need to be eliminated to provide access to site #8. The board approved of eliminating this site.

Director Stumme presented estimates on the expenses involved in redesigning the full hookup campsites at Smith Lake. A motion was made by Eichenberger and seconded by Young to approve the estimated expenses of \$33,000 for the project. The motion passed unanimously.

The board reviewed the cost of replacing the swim ropes and barrier floats for the Smith Lake beach areas. A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Eichenberger to approve the expense of \$1,477.00. The motion passed unanimously.

The board reviewed the mowing bids received for the 2023 mowing season for Burt Lake Park, Michaelson Marsh, Devine Wildlife Area and Siems Park. The board approved the bids received from the current contract mowers except for Siems Park. The board requested bids be taken for Siems Park for the 2023 mowing season.

A motion was made by Young and seconded by Eichenberger to approve the 48 bills submitted for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on rescheduling the meeting with the Iowa DNR Lake Renovation staff for 2023. The board approved of holding this meeting as part of the regular board meeting on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.

A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Young to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.