

**Kossuth County Conservation Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
Water's Edge Nature Center
February 12, 2024 5:30 P.M.**

Present: Eichenberger; Miller; Rasmussen; Young
Stumme; Wille

Absent: Ristau

Guests Present:

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Eichenberger and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the January meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Naturalist report was presented by Wille: 2 public programs were given for 22 people; 28 school programs for 583 students were presented and 3 other student programs for 46 students. The JCL event was canceled due to weather. Facebook posts included 16 posts with 14,095 reached and 2,506 engaged. Other accomplishments included attending board and staff meetings, curriculum development, live animal maintenance, attended the Wellness, library and Soil and Water meetings, hauled supplies to the Sugar Shack, repaired ice fishing poles, started intern Abbie Capesius.

The board was informed the full Water Quality Initiative grant for the bioretention cell at Smith lake had been submitted. Information was provided on the estimated expenses and funding for the project.

The board was informed McCullough Creative from Dubuque, Iowa was approved to go forward with phase one of revamping the existing wetland display in the nature center. Phase one consists of design plans, concept plans, client review and preliminary pricing. The Water's Edge Nature Center Foundation (WENCF) agreed to pay for the cost of this. A meeting with McCullough Creative, the KCCB board and staff and the (WENCF) board will be held at a date to be determined to review the phase one plans.

The board was informed the 2024-2025 budget proposal approved at the December meeting would need to be cut due to budget constraints. The Board of Supervisors requested the KCCB tax appropriation amount for 2024-2025 remain at \$563,465.00. Stumme presented a revised budget for the board to review. It included a 2% increase for all wages and reduced the asking in several line items to meet the tax appropriation budget request of \$563,465.00. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the revised budget. The motion passed unanimously.

The board approved of holding the March board meeting on Monday the 11th at 5:30 P.M. at the Water's Edge Nature Center.

A motion was made by Eichenberger and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the 25 bills submitted for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

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