

**Kossuth County Conservation Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
Water's Edge Nature Center
January 10, 2021 5:30 P.M.**

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

Absent: Ristau

Guests Present:

Board Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order.

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

The Naturalist report was submitted by Wille. Projects accomplished included live animal maintenance, attended the board and staff meetings; office recycling; attended Soil and Water meetings, attended the Wellness Committee meeting, ordered star lab, cleaned and organized office. School programs-14 for 242 students; Public programs-1 for 33 people; JCL event-fire starter and shelter building. 12 Facebook posts were put out with 8840 people reached and 834 engaged.

The board was informed Larry Eichenberger, District 5 Board member had been re-appointed to serve another five year term.

The board was informed the Smith Lake restroom renovation project had been re-submitted as an ARPA project and was approved for \$30,000 in funding. The final building specs will be determined at a later date.

The board reviewed the 2022-2023 budget proposals for the nature center budget and the main budget. A motion was made by Eichenberger and seconded by Miller to approve the nature center budget of \$40,840. The motion passed unanimously.

After review, a motion was made by Miller and seconded by Young to approve the main budget with a total expense of \$636,681 and estimated income of \$121,000. The motion passed unanimously.

The board reviewed information on the camping fees and revenues at the three parks offering camping. A motion was made by Eichenberger and seconded by Young to raise the rates for the 2022 camping season at the following parks: **Burt Lake Park**- electric sites from \$10/night to \$12/night and non-electric sites from \$6/night to \$8/night; **Siems Park**-non-electric sites from \$6/night to \$8/night; **Smith Lake North**-monthly rate from \$400/month to \$450/month. **Smith Lake South**-electric sites from \$15/night to \$17/night and non-electric sites from \$8/night to \$10/night. All other fee options not listed remained the same as in 2021. The motioned passed unanimously.

The board approved of offering the Seasonal Option (5 months) for the sixteen full-service sites on the north side of Smith Lake. A motion was made by Eichenberger and seconded by Young to allow the 2021 seasonal campers first chance at renewing their same camping site for the 2022 season. The motion passed unanimously. The remaining unclaimed sites would be available through a lottery draw held at the March board meeting.

The board reviewed an estimate from North Iowa Mechanical of Algona for the repair/replacement of the heat pump for the meeting room in the nature center. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Eichenberger to repair the pump at an estimated cost of \$3,000. The motion passed unanimously.

The board was presented the job description to fill the vacant position of Seasonal Maintenance Technician. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Young to approve the description as presented and advertise through February 28, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was moved by Miller and seconded by Eichenberger to approve the annual rotation of officers. The motion passed unanimously. The officers for 2022 are: Chairman-Tom Ristau; Vice Chairman-Larry Eichenberger; 2nd Vice -Chairman- Teri Miller; Board members- Steve Young & Megan Rasmussen.

The board approved of holding the February board meeting on Tuesday the 8th at 5:30 p.m. at the Water's Edge Nature Center.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Eichenberger to approve the 36 bills submitted for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

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