

**Kossuth County Conservation Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
Water's Edge Nature Center
January 10, 2023 4:00 P.M.**

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

Absent: Ristau

Guests Present: Michelle Balmer; Scott Grummer; Kyle Ament; Madison Beenken; Mike Rahe;
Bob Smith

Vice-Chairman Eichenberger called the meeting to order.

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

The Naturalist report for December was submitted by Wille. Projects accomplished included live animal maintenance, curriculum development and office recycling, attended the monthly staff and board meeting, and attended the Soil and Water meeting. School programs-16 for 321 students; Public programs-3 for 56 people; 0 civic programs. JCL event-Winter Survival with four attending. 18 Facebook posts were put out with 17,658 people reached and 1,819 engaged.

The Iowa DNR Lake Renovation staff presented information on the Lake renovation program and the steps involved. Questions regarding the possible renovation of Smith Lake to improve the water quality and fisheries were discussed. The first step recommended involved having the DNR staff complete a Watershed Assessment Study. The board approved of having this done in the spring of 2023.

Director Stumme recommended hiring Madison Beenken for the Maintenance Technician position. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Rasmussen to approve hiring Beenken at an annual salary of \$48,500. The motion passed unanimously.

The board was presented the job description to fill the vacant Seasonal Maintenance Technician position. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Miller to approve the job description with a salary range of \$16.00-\$18.00 per hour. The motion passed unanimously.

The board was presented information on a possible land acquisition of approximately 80 acres from Rod Schmidt in Section 10 of Portland Township. The board requested the Director invite Mr. Schmidt to a future board meeting to discuss the details of the land involved.

A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Miller to approve the annual rotation of Officers. The motion passed unanimously. The officers for 2023 are: Chairman-Larry Eichenberger; Vice-Chairman-Teri Miller; 2nd Vice-Chairman-Steve Young; Board members-Megan Rasmussen and Tom Ristau.

The board approved of holding the February board meeting on Monday, the 13th at 5:30 pm at the Water's Edge Nature Center.

A motion was made by Young and seconded by Miller to approve the 26 bills submitted for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

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