

**Kossuth County Conservation Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
Water's Edge Nature Center
June 10, 2024 5:30 P.M.**

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

Absent: Rasmussen

Guests Present: Mary Ree

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order.

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

The Naturalist report was presented by Wille: 1 public program was given for 12 people; 28 school programs for 760 students were presented. The JCL event was cancelled due to weather. Facebook posts included 20 posts with 27,738 reached and 3,104 engaged. Other accomplishments included attending board and staff meetings, curriculum development, live animal maintenance, attended Soil and Water meeting, Stop the Bleed safety training, attended the wellness meeting, paperwork with Angela Ressler.

The board was updated on the Schmidt donation. Rod's remaining personal items would be distributed to family and friends at a date to be determined. A letter had been sent allowing those interested to view the items by June 13th. After that, a date would be set for the sale/auction of Rods personal items.

The board reviewed the bid submitted from Deitering Bros., Inc. of Bancroft for an 84 inch Jenkins brush cutter to be used on the skid loader. A motion was made by Eichenberger and seconded by Young to approve the bid of 7,800. The motion passed unanimously.

Stumme presented a bid from Pilot Rock (RJ Thomas Mfg. Co. Inc.) for six metal picnic table frames at a cost of 1,842 if picked up. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Ristau to approve the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on additional electric boxes at Siems Park was tabled until a later date.

Ryan Schmidt, provided information on the possible change in phone service through a company called Access which provides service through the internet. The estimated cost of the service would be 365/month for both the nature center and maintenance shop. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Eichenberger to approve of changing telephone service. The motion passed unanimously.

Stumme presented a request from Brian Lien with D&J tree service to sell firewood at the Smith Lake Park and Siems Park campgrounds for the 2024 camping season. A motion was made by Ristau and seconded by Eichenberger to approve this request. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on the usage of electric scooters/remote toy cars at the Kossuth County campgrounds. Safety concerns were discussed regarding the use of these items. No decision was reached and the Director was requested to get more information from other counties on the use of electric powered rideable devices in the campground.

Stumme presented information of the possible acquisition of 128 acres of land south of Algona to be purchased as a wildlife area. The land is owned by Dick and Randy Crail and approximately 123 acres of the total area is in the Wetland Reserve Easement program. The land is located in section 2 & 3 of Riverdale Township and section 34 of Cresco Township. After discussion, the board approved of getting an appraisal on the property.

The board approved of holding the July board meeting on Monday the 8th at 5:30 P.M. at the Water's Edge Nature Center.

A motion was made by Young and seconded by Eichenberger to approve the 53 bills submitted for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

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