

**Kossuth County Conservation Board**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**Water's Edge Nature Center**  
**March 13, 2023 5:30 P.M.**

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

Absent: Young

Guests Present: Rod Schmidt

Chairman Eichenberger called the meeting to order.

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

The Naturalist report for February was submitted by Wille. Projects accomplished included live animal maintenance, curriculum development and office recycling, attended the monthly staff and board meeting, planned and presented Outdoor Women's Day, hosted the Building Better Birders program. School programs-27 for 483 students; Public programs-2 for 26 people; 0 civic programs. JCL event-snow shoe/orienteering with 6 attending. 19 Facebook posts were put out with 17,200 people reached and 1,989 engaged.

Wille presented the ad for the Naturalist Intern position for 2023 for approval. A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Ristau to approve the add as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Rodney Schmidt presented information on 80 acres of land he owns as a possible donation to the Conservation Board. The land is located in Section 10 of Portland Township, Kossuth County and consist of two tracts. The west tract is approx. 61 acres and is currently in pasture and contains a building site. The east tract is located east of 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue and is primarily a timbered area and contains 19 acres. Both areas have Buffalo Creek running through the property. Mr. Schmidt inquired if the board was interested in this property as a donation. His requests for future management on the property included both areas be open to the public, but that public hunting not be allowed on the west tract. He also requested recognition signage on both tracts. After discussion, a motion was made by Miller and seconded by Rasmussen to approve of this donation. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Stumme presented three bids submitted for the mowing of Siems Park for the 2023 mowing season. After review a motion was made by Ristau and seconded by Miller to accept the low bid of \$325/per time with \$50/per time extra for the frisbee golf course from Chuck Doocy Lawn Care of Bancroft. The motion passed unanimously.

The final 2023-2024 KCCB budget proposal was distributed. The only changes from December's special meeting were the correct health insurance amounts which were provided from the Auditor and the Maintenance Technician salary.

The board was informed the KCCB staff had completed interviews for the Seasonal Maintenance Tech position. Director Stumme recommended offering the position to Cole Johnson at a salary of \$18/hour. A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Miller to approve the recommendation and offer Cole the position. The motion passed unanimously.

Information was provided on adding septic service to the camp host sites at the Smith Lake south campground on sites #39 & #40. The estimated cost of the project from Thompson Sewer & Drain was \$2,441.50. After discussion a motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Miller to approve the project. The motion passed with Rasmussen, Miller and Ristau voting yes and Eichenberger voting no.

Information was presented on the purchase of two bulletin boards for the camping kiosks at Smith Lake and Siems Park. The new bulletin boards would display the new camping information, rules, maps, etc. Beenken provided information on the pricing from several companies. The lowest price was from Amazon for \$1,021.81 for both kiosks. A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Miller to approve the purchase. The motion passed with Rasmussen and Miller voting yes and Ristau voting no. Eichenberger abstained from voting.

The board reviewed the 2023 campground rules. Changes from last year included the two-week stay limit during mid-May to mid-September and the reservation procedures. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ristau to approve the 2023 Park rules as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The board approved of holding the April board meeting on Monday, the 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Water's Edge Nature Center.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the 33 bills submitted for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

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