

**Kossuth County Conservation Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
Water's Edge Nature Center
May 13, 2024 5:30 P.M.**

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

Absent: Eichenberger; Rasmussen

Guests Present: Mary Ree

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order.

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

The Naturalist report was presented by Wille: 1 public program was given for 7 people; 35 school programs for 765 students were presented and 2 other student programs for 24 students. The JCL event was area cleanup with ten attending. Facebook posts included 18 posts with 20,756 reached and 2,288 engaged. Other accomplishments included attending board and staff meetings, curriculum development, live animal maintenance, tree wrapping and delivering, held summer Naturalist interviews and sent out rejection letters.

Mary Ree requested approval to place a 12" x 24" metal memorial plaque at the recently donated Schmidt property in memory of Rod Schmidt. The KCCB staff would install the marker in a cement pad on the property. A motion was made by Ristau and seconded by Young to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on the Rod Schmidt donation to the conservation board. The board was informed that Jenny Bengs, Rod's niece and curator of his documents had been on site with the attorney and executor of the estate and had gathered the information from the house she was entitled to. Rod's remaining personal items would be distributed to family and friends at a date to be determined. KCCB staff had also hauled additional tools from the machine shed to the maintenance shop.

Discussion was held on the disposal of the extra tools/equipment from Rod's estate. Possible options included a garage/yard sale, silent auction and donating items to the local high school Industrial Arts programs. No decisions were decided at this time.

Stumme informed the board that an additional zoom meeting had been held with McCullough Creative and the KCCB staff regarding the wetland display. The KCCB staff was waiting to hear back from them on the revisions requested by KCCB staff at that meeting.

The board reviewed the bid submitted from Spray Seal of Algona for the repair of the roof at the Smith Lake Maintenance shop. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Ristau to accept the bid of \$17,670 submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Ryan Schmidt, provided information on the possible change in phone service through a company called Access which provides service through the internet. More details would be provided at a future meeting. KCCB staff have been having ongoing problems with the current phone service.

The board viewed several maintenance concerns at the nature center including the exterior siding, the retaining wall on the south side and the drainage system associated with the new parking lot.

The board was presented a bid from Meyer Home Improvement of \$4,726,25 to repair the siding issues caused by water damage. A motion was made by Ristau and seconded by Young to approve the bid. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on the repair of the retaining wall on the south side of the nature center. A motion was made by Ristau and seconded by Young to approve the repair bid of \$15,200 from Anchored Wall of Winterset. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on the drainage issues caused by the new asphalt parking lot after heavy rains. Items discussed included revamping the existing intake, adding an intake and the installation of additional concrete curb or sidewalk. Stumme presented a bid of \$1,500 from Reutzel Excavating to add an additional intake and repair the washouts on the southeast side of the lane to the garages. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Ristau to accept the bid. The motion passed unanimously. Additional repairs to improve drainage will be discussed at a future meeting.

Stumme presented a bid from Reid Louwagie for goat grazing at the Smith Wildlife area to control unwanted vegetation. A motion was made by Ristau and seconded by Young to accept his bid at a rate of \$400/acre with a maximum of 5 acres. The grazing would take place between May-October of 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

The board approved of holding the June board meeting on Monday the 10th at 5:30 P.M. at the Water's Edge Nature Center.

A motion was made by Ristau and seconded by Young to approve the 37 bills submitted for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

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