

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

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

Absent:

Guests Present:

Chairman Eichenberger called the meeting to order.

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

The Naturalist report was submitted by Wille. Projects accomplished included live animal maintenance, office recycling, campground recycling, attended the monthly staff, foundation and board meeting; attended the District 2 meeting-Julie. School programs-30 for 716 students; Public programs-3 for 547 people; 5 other student programs for 155 students 0 civic programs. JCL event-none. 23 Facebook posts were put out with 16,781 people reached and 1522 engaged.

Wille presented highlights of the Environmental Education portion of the 2022-2023 Annual report. Items noted were an increase in public attendance at programs and an increase of 200 visitors for the 2023 maple syrup season.

The board was informed the Iowa DNR grant to replace the boat ramp at the Plum Creek Dam area had been approved.

The Board was informed an addendum to the warrantee deed for the Rod Schmidt land had been approved by the Board of Supervisors. The addendum states the 19 acres east of 167th Avenue will be called the Dave Rike Public Hunting Area and be open to archery hunting only.

Information was provided on the Water Quality Initiative grant to install a Bioretention cell at Smith Lake. After discussion, a motion was made by Young and seconded by Ristau to approve the grant application with a total cost not to exceed \$24,000. The motion passed unanimously.

A winter camping request received by the Director was discussed by the board. As the individual making the request did not show at the meeting the request was tabled.

The board reviewed the contract mowing bids received for the 2024 season for various county areas. A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Ristau to approve the following bids: Burt Lake for \$175/time by Waller Lawn Mowing; Michealsen Marsh for \$126/time by Schindler Lawn Care and Devine Wildlife Area for \$96/time by Jake Simpson. The motion passed unanimously.

The board also approved of advertising for bids for the mowing of Siems Park for the 2024 mowing season.

After reviewing the shelter rental rates, a motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ristau to leave the rates the same as 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

After reviewing the nature center meeting room rental rates, a motion was made by Miller and seconded by Young to leave the rental rates the same as 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

After reviewing the camping rates, a motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Miller to leave all rates the same as the 2023 season. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Stumme presented the board a proposed new equipment budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. After discussion a motion was made by Miller and seconded by Young to approve the amount of \$25,000 requested for various items. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Stumme requested approval for the purchase of metal to cover the support posts for the open shelter at Smith Lake at a cost of \$760. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

The board approved of holding the December board meeting on Monday the 11th at 5:30 pm at the Water's Edge Nature Center.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Young to approve the 34 bills submitted for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

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