

**Kossuth County Conservation Board
Regular Monthly Meeting
Water's Edge Nature Center
November 7, 2022 5:30 P.M.**

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

Absent: Ristau

Guests Present:

Vice-Chairman Eichenberger called the meeting to order.

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

The Naturalist report for September and October was submitted by Wille. Projects accomplished included live animal maintenance, curriculum development, attended the monthly staff meeting, attended the Soil and Water meetings, attended the Foundation meeting, attended the Wellness meeting and helped with the Wellness 5K walk, attended Algona visioning committee meeting, attended safety meeting, had a job shadow. School programs-1675 for students; Public programs-7 for 741 people; 37 Facebook posts were put out with 29,592 people reached and 3,525 engaged.

Director Stumme reported the Operations Supervisor interviews had been completed and the committee recommended the board approve hiring Ryan Schmidt as the new Operations Supervisor at a salary of 56,643. A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Young to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously. Schmidt accepted the position.

Stumme presented the board with a job description for the Maintenance Technician position for approval. After review, a motion was made by Miller and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the job description as presented and advertise to fill the position. The motion passed unanimously.

The board was presented information on the Camp Host program and adding a Camp Host at Smith Lake. Discussion was held on the duties of the Camp Hosts and compensation at Smith Lake as well as Siems Park and Burt Lake Park. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Miller to approve the proposed changes for the Camp Hosts. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on adding an online reservation service for county services. KCCB staff provided a proposal for offering online camping reservations at Siems Park and the south side of Smith Lake Park. The proposal explained the details and the steps involved in offering online reservations. After discussion, a motion was made by Young and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the proposal with the change of having 50% of the sites walk in and 50% of the sites reserve able for each park. The motion passed unanimously.

Information was provided to the board on redesigning the camping layout at the north camping sites at Smith Lake to be more attractive and user friendly to campers. The new design proposed would eliminate the circle arrangement and would allow for green space for each camper. A total of sixteen sites would be available. Funds for this project would come from the Conservation Reserve account. After discussion, a motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Young to approve the changes proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on the rental rates for the open and enclosed shelters at KCCB park areas for 2023. A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Young to leave all rates the same as 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

The board reviewed the rental rates for the Water's Edge Nature Center meeting room. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Rasmussen to leave the rates the same as 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

As all the mowing bids for 2023 had not been submitted, the contract mowing bid approval was tabled until a later meeting.

Wille and Stumme presented their respective portions of the 2021-2022 Annual Report for review and approval. A motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Young to approve as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

A request to purchase trees for the south campground was made for a total of \$715. The trees would be replacements for existing trees scheduled to be removed this fall. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Rasmussen to approve the ordering of the trees. The motion passed unanimously.

The board was informed the Iowa DNR Lake Restoration Program staff is available to meet with the KCCB staff and board at the proposed November 21st date. The meeting will be held at the Water's Edge Nature Center at 4:00 p.m.

Board member Rasmussen was informed her term expires at the end of December. She informed the board she intends to seek re-appointment.

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

The board approved of holding the December meeting at 5:30 on Monday the 12th.

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