

**Kossuth County Conservation Board  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Water's Edge Nature Center  
September 14, 2021 5:30 P.M.**

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

Absent:

Guests Present:

The board toured and viewed the Plum Creek Dam boat ramp, north shelter restrooms and the new fishing jetty prior to the meeting.

Board Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Young and seconded by Miller to approve the August meeting minutes with one correction. The correction involved Miller approving the previous meeting minutes instead of Eichenberger who was incorrectly listed. The motion passed unanimously.

The Naturalist report was submitted by Wille. Projects accomplished included live animal maintenance, attended the board and staff meetings, Soil and Water meeting, Outdoor Woman's Day planning meeting, Farm Safety Day Camp, Growing Up wild planning meeting and teacher meetings. Youth events-7 programs-83 students; Public programs-3 for 32 people; JCL event-None. 7 Facebook posts were put out with 6,203 people reached and 1369 engaged.

Discussion was held on the condition of the boat ramp at the Plum Creek Dam area. The Director was requested to get a bid for repairs at the October meeting.

The board was informed the Kossuth County Conservation Board was eligible to apply for funds available through the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Projects requesting funding had to be submitted to the County Auditor by the end of September to be considered for approval. Director Stumme presented two projects at Smith Lake that involved improving the county infrastructure.

The first project involved renovating the public bathrooms attached to the north shelter. The new facility would be a single-family bathroom and be ADA accessible. The current restroom facilities are not. A motion was made by Ristau and seconded by Miller to submit this as an ARPA project. The motion passed unanimously.

The second project involved paving portions of the interior roads and two parking lots at Smith Lake. The areas included the lane from B30 to the nature center, the lane from Highway 169 to the Maintenance Shop and the parking lots at the nature center and Maintenance Shop. The estimated cost of the project was \$129,167. A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Eichenberger to submit this request as an ARPA project. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Stumme presented an estimate from B&W Control Specialists for controlling willows and other invasive trees at the south side of the St. Benedict Wildlife Area at a cost of \$2,500. A motion was made by Young and seconded by Ristau to approve the bid. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Young to approve the 46 bills submitted for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

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