Kossuth County Conservation Board, Regular Monthly Meeting
Water's Edge Nature Center
August 10, 2026 5:30 P.M.

Present: Miller; Rasmussen; Ristau; Young; Beenken; Fosado; Schmidt; Thul; Wille

Absent: Eichenberger

Guests Present:

Chairman Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

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

The Naturalist report was presented by Wille: 2 public programs were given for 20 people; 0 school programs were given, 12 other student programs were given for 166 students; Facebook posts included 21 posts with 41,555 reached and 25,300 engaged. Other accomplishments included attending board and staff meetings, curriculum development, live animal maintenance, campground weekend duty, campground recycling, plan theme for Kossuth County Fair.

An update was given on the Exceptional Opportunities maintenance position. Treavor Roney started July 21st, working only a couple hours on Tuesday's picking up trash and sticks. He is making good progress and it was noted that he will start to get other tasks to complete like cleaning shelter houses.

Operations Supervisor Schmidt presented the job posting of the Director. Edits mentioned to be made were cell phone reimbursement and requiring them to organize/instruct hunter safety education. Discussion was held on where to send applications and a deadline was set for September 11, 2026 at 5pm. A motion was made by Young to post the job posting with discussed edits on the front door of the Nature Center, on the Facebook page, My County Parks, County Courthouse page, and in the local newspaper. Ristau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Operations Supervisor Schmidt and Naturalist Wille brought up going back to having the Nature Center closed to the public on Monday's until further notice. Office Manager Thul discussed how it would help staff with added duties with the passing of Director Kendall Stumme. Starting Monday August 17, 2026, the Nature Center will be closed to the public. Young motioned and Miller Seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Naturalist Wille asked to increase Assistant Naturalist Fosado's hours to an average of 31 hours per week. The increase in hours will help with planning of programs and other increased staff duties. This will be short term; starting the current pay period (August 10 – August 23) and may run through the end of the fiscal year (June 2027). Motion was made by Ristau and Seconded by Young. The motion passed unanimously.

Operations Supervisor Schmidt brought up the current Kendall Stumme Memorial thoughts of staff, the foundation board, and courthouse that have been discussed. As staff and board continue to mourn it was determined to continue developing ideas for a future memorial.

Maintenance Technician Beenken gave updated quotes on the Buffalo Creek Nature Preserve overlooking deck project. Beenken presented a quote of Trex composite and Armadillo composite decking. Beenken presented having the Algona High School Construction class complete the project. Travis Birkey is the class instructor. A motion was made by Young to accept the increased Trex quote and a 12% donation to the Construction class. Miller Seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Operations Supervisor Schmidt gave an update on the status of the Siems Park jetties. We were waiting on permits to come back and it was determined that no permits were needed. Reutzel's will start work and should have the project completed by the end of the month.

Staff informed the board that Maintenance Technician Beenken picked up the Kayak trailer from Crawdaddy Outdoors Friday August 7th.

The board approved of holding the September board meeting on Monday the 14th at 5:30 P.M. at the Water's Edge Nature Center. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Young to approve the 49 bills submitted for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ristau and seconded by Young to adjourn at 7:08pm. The motion passed unanimously.