

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

08/03/2016

Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters
Pisgah, IA

1. Introductions of members and guests

- The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 10:30 A.M. with Glenn Pollock and Rich Pope presiding.
- Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Rich Pope, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Chad Graeve, Jack Phillips, Linda Herman, Emogene Andrews, Carol Cowsert, Graham McGaffin and Nick Salick.

2. Review and approve agenda and minutes

- A motion was made to approve the minutes from 06/01/2016 and agenda from 08/03/2016 by Linda Herman and seconded by Nick Salick. Motion passed.

3. Budget update

- The budget update was presented by Rich Pope.
- The Nature Conservancy was paid \$667.66 for the Loess Hills Fire Partners Co-operative Burn Week.
- Pheasants Forever was paid \$7,500 for both Private Lands Positions for the 4/1/2016 to 6/30/2016 timeframe.

4. Private Lands Positions

- Nick Salick presented the Farm Bill Biologist LHA quarterly report for Harrison, Pottawattamie and Monona Counties.
- In Jake Holt's absence Nick Salick also presented the Farm Bill Biologist LHA quarterly report for Fremont, Mills, Montgomery and Page Counties.

5. Old Business

- None

6. New Business

- **Iowa Prairie Conference**
 - The Iowa Prairie Conference will be held on June 22 – 23, 2017 at Iowa Western Community College. Lance Brisbois, Chad Graeve and Glenn Pollock are organizing the event which will include field visits and workshops.
- **Annual Reports**
 - Rich Pope asked for input from the Stewardship Committee on details to be included in the Annual report. The discussion outcomes are:
 - Nick Salick will prepare highlights of some landowner stories
 - Include how State dollars are leveraged
 - Include graphics showing numbers of private landowners served per county
- **Hitchcock Proposal**
 - Jack Phillips and Chad Graeve informed the Committee of a project called The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center which is a partnership between the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board and New Tree School. Information presented included:
 - The school's priorities are environmental education to support protection of natural resources. This education includes land preservation and outdoor recreation and engagement.

- The project began 2 years ago to engage stewards through outdoor education.
- A handout was shared showing the basic project concept which involves small groups of naturalists in training in a natural environment with topics focused on diverse organisms.
- The Committee was invited to attend and help promote and create citizen scientists.
- The proposal request was funding of \$6,000 for 2016 and \$6,000 for 2017. These funds would match the Pottawattamie County Conservation funds.
- Rich Pope made a motion to appropriate \$6,000 towards this project for LHA FY17 pending the availability of funds. Linda Herman seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Under further discussion Graham McGaffin suggested the Stewardship Committee have a process in place to ensure transparency and equal opportunity for awarding funds in future projects.

7. Next Meeting

- September 7, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. at Waubonsie State Park, Hamburg, IA.
- For the next meeting Stewardship Committee members are to think about what impacts the Committee would like to see.
- Re-visit and revise the objectives of the LHA Stewardship Committee.
- A call for LHA Board members to identify at least one person from each county to participate in The Naturalist School program.

Linda Herman made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Graham McGaffin seconding the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Wodtke Franks, Acting Secretary