



**LHA PROTECTION
COMMITTEE DRAFT MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016
9:00 AM Loess Hills State Forest**

The Protection Committee of the LHA met Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. at the Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters. Those in attendance: Michelle Wodtke Franks, Jake Holt, Nic Salick, Linda Herman, Matt Dollison, Brent Olson, Graham McGaffin, and Scott Nelson.

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 A.M. by Chairman, Scott Nelson.

APPROVE AGENDA – A change was needed on the May 4, 2016 Agenda. Under “New Business”, “RCCP Regional Conservation” was added. A motion to approve the amended May 4, 2016 Agenda was made by Matt Dollison, seconded by Graham McGaffin. Motion Carried.

APPROVE MINUTES – A motion to approve the November 4, 2015 Protection Committee Meeting Minutes was made by Brent Olson, seconded by Matt Dollison. Motion Carried.

BUDGET UPDATE - Total Protection Committee Budget Balance is \$898.67. \$32,000.00 was allocated for the 2016 Grant cycle for the Iowa DNR-Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit Rosie Hall Property-Land Acquisition. A check will be written to Iowa National Heritage Foundation for the purchase within the next 6 months. A power point presentation will be presented to the Committees at that time.

OLD BUSINESS

The 2016-17 Budget is 3 months away. Ideas that will be discussed at the next LHA Protection Committee meeting on August 3, 2016 will be: funding for RFP Grants and the time line for advertising, funding for monitoring Documented Endangered Species as a partnership program on a special landscape area or a previous property that the LHA has helped fund, create a map that shows the areas that the LHA has helped fund, and to visit the different areas that the LHA has helped fund.

NEW BUSINESS

- **LHA Policies & Procedures Manual Protection Committee Input**

The Protection Committee held a discussion concerning the LHA Policy Manual. The Officers of the Protection Committee will be appointed within the Committee for a 2 year term at the last LHA Protection Committee meeting of the year. For voting rights within the Protection Committee, the member would be required to have had a history of Protection Committee Membership and attend at least 2 meetings a year. The LHA Executive Committee appropriates the annual funding for the LHA Protection Committee. The LHA Protection Grant Scoring Committee will score the RFP Grant agreements. Final decision for the recipient of the RFP Grants will be made by the LHA Protection Committee.

- **RCCP Regional Conservation**

The Protection Committee held a discussion on whether or not to submit a pre-proposal for the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program(RCCP) State Grant due May 10, 2016. The LHA, in partnership with Golden Hills RC & D , The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Pottawattamie County Conservation Board, USFWS Partners Program, and Iowa DNR submitted a pre- and full-proposal to RCCP in 2015 that was unsuccessful. At this time, there is a lack of demand from landowners for EQIP brush management dollars, due in part to a relatively low fixed rate for EQIP cost-share. There is also low demand because of EQIP's inability to be used on public lands. At this time, the Protection Committee decided to not submit a proposal for the RCCP State Grant and discussed writing a letter to Marty Adkins(NRCS) to decline the Grant Funding.

VISITOR COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 40th Anniversary of the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 4 – June 5, 2016.

NEXT MEETING DATE – The LHA Protection Committee and the LHA Stewardship Committee members will meet at 9:00 AM at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center on June 1, 2016 for a tour of Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve.

Next LHA Protection Committee meeting will be held on August 3, 2016 at the Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah, IA at 9:00 AM.

ADJOURN – A motion was made by Brent Olson, seconded by Matt Dollison to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 am.

