



**LHA PROTECTION
COMMITTEE DRAFT MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 6, 2019
9:00 AM Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center–Pisgah, Iowa**

The Protection Committee of the LHA met Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center. Those in attendance: Scott Nelson, Linda Herman, Jake Holt, Lance Brisbois, Rocky DeWitt, Jeff Seago, and Tim Sproul.

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 A.M. by Protection Committee Member, Scott Nelson.

APPROVE AGENDA – A change was needed to the November 6, 2019 Agenda. Under "New Business", "Protection Committee FY19 RFP Report" was added. A motion to approve the amended November 6, 2019 Agenda was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Jake Holt. Motion Carried.

APPROVE MINUTES – A motion to approve the February 6, 2019 Protection Committee Meeting Minutes was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Jake Holt. Motion Carried.

BUDGET UPDATE –Total Protection Committee Funds Balance as of November 6, 2019 is \$12,500.00

OLD BUSINESS-No "Old Business" at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- Protection Committee FY19 RFP Report

Jeff Seago presented the Christensen Farm Prairie Restoration Project report to the LHA Protection Committee Members. The Loess Hills Alliance funded \$10,000.00 to help restore approximately 121 acres of Loess Hills mid-grass prairie that has been encroached upon by eastern red cedar and deciduous woody plants. Approximately 55 acres of the 121 acres has been cleared. Jeff Seago will submit a written report to the Loess Hills Alliance Protection Committee Members. A Motion was made by Jake Holt, seconded by Tim Sproul to accept the report and release the funds for the Christensen Farm Prairie Restoration project. Motion carried. Jeff Seago abstained.

Tim Sproul presented the Monona Complex Vegetation Management Project report to the LHA Protection Committee Members. The Loess Hills Alliance funded \$4,500.00 to help fund the Conservation Corps Iowa for restoration work on the 72-acre Hanson property (Monona Complex). In September 2019, INHF partnered with CCI using LHA funding to remove Eastern Red Cedars that encroached in grasslands and bluffs on the Hanson property. A total of 2 acres of Eastern Red Cedars were removed. A Motion was made by Jake Holt, seconded by Linda Herman to accept the report and release the funds for the Monona Complex Vegetation Management Project. Motion carried. Tim Sproul abstained.

- Protection Committee FY 20 RFP

There were 3 Loess Hills Alliance Protection Committee Grant Applications submitted.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation-Project Title: Monona Complex Vegetation Management 2019-20. Amount of Grant Request-\$4,000.00.

Project Objective-To conduct restoration activities on protected land owned by INHF in Monona County achieved through a partnership between INHF and Conservation Corps Iowa during 2020-2021. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is requesting \$4,000.00 from the Loess Hills Alliance to hire a CCI crew for 4 weeks (1 week paid by LHA) to complete vital restoration work in the Loess Hills.

The Nature Conservancy-Project Title: Hebert Conservation Easement. Amount of Grant Request-\$12,500.00. Project Objective-The Nature Conservancy and Josh & Lindsey Hebert are working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to place a conservation easement on approximately 192 acres of land in Plymouth County's Loess Hills. The conservation easement will permanently protect the land from subdivision and construction of facilities that would adversely impact the conservation values of the surrounding area. The NRCS is contributing 50% of the easement fair market value.

Friends of Waubonsie State Park-Project Title: Necessary Infrastructure at Blackburn's Green Hollow Addition to Waubonsie State Park. Amount of Grant Request-\$1,250.00. Project Objective-To install necessary infrastructure (a pit latrine) at Green Hollow Center, a 158 acre natural area in the southern Loess Hills, before the property is transferred from private owners, Bill Blackburn & Sara Murphy, into public ownership by Iowa DNR.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation-Project Title: Monona Complex Vegetation Management 2019-20 received a score of 70 and The Nature Conservancy-Project Title: Hebert Conservation Easement received a score of 60 by the Grant Scoring Committee, Jeff Seago, Nic Salick, and Scott Nelson. The Grant Scoring Committee recommended to present the Friends of Waubonsie State Park Project to the Executive Committee for funding. A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Lance Brisbois to recommend to the Executive Committee to fund Friends of Waubonsie State Park-Project Title: Necessary Infrastructure at Blackburn's Green Hollow Addition to Waubonsie State Park. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Jake Holt, seconded by Rocky DeWitt to allocate funding of \$4,000.00 for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation-Project Title: Monona Complex Vegetation Management 2019-20, allocate funding of \$8,500.00 towards The Nature Conservancy-Project Title: Hebert Conservation Easement, and to recommend to the Executive Committee to fund the remainder \$4,000.00 for The Nature Conservancy-Project Title: Hebert Conservation Easement with permission from Graham McGaffin, Protection Committee Chairman to accept the recommendation. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tentatively February 5, 2020, 9:00 am Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah, IA

ADJOURN – A Motion was made by Tim Sproul, seconded by Jake Holt to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 AM.