



**LHA PROTECTION
COMMITTEE DRAFT MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2021
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

9:00 AM

The Protection Committee of the LHA met Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. via ZOOM. Those in attendance: Grham McGaffin, Lance Brisbois, Dawn Snyder, Linda Herman, Scott Nelson, Kody Wohlers, Emily Martin, Ryan Schmidt, and Matt Dollison.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. by Chairman, Graham McGaffin.

APPROVE AGENDA – A motion to approve the February 3, 2021 Agenda was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Scott Nelson. Motion Carried.

APPROVE MINUTES – A motion to approve the August 12, 2020 Protection Committee Meeting Minutes was made by Scott Nelson, seconded by Matt Dollison. Motion Carried.

BUDGET UPDATE –Total Protection Committee Funds Balance as of February 3, 2021 is \$7,000.00. If the 2021-22 Grant request of \$4,000.00 is approved, the remaining Protection fund balance of \$3,000.00 will go towards next Fall's RFP. Emily Martin will give a presentation today on the work that was done on the Monona Complex Vegetation Management 2019-20 project, amount of Grant request-\$4,000.00. The Hebert Conservation Easement project in Plymouth County, amount of Grant request-\$12,500.00 is still in progress.

OLD BUSINESS-

- 2020 RFP Grant Applications-Approval Needed-Armstrong Tract

One RFP was received by the October 2, 2020 deadline.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Grant Request: \$4,000.00

Project Title: Armstrong Vegetation Management 2021-22

The Armstrong property (160 acre parcel) is located near the northern border of Harrison County, adjacent to the Loess Hills State Forest, ½ mile south of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway, and within the Little Sioux Special Landscape Area. Over 60 acres of the property are remnant prairie. Over 53 acres of crop ground are prime for future restoration into native prairie vegetation. The funding will go towards hiring a CCI crew for one week to remove invasive deciduous trees and shrubs that have encroached past the tree line. The work on this project will start next spring and summer. The Armstrong Vegetation Management 2021-22 project scored high from the Scoring Committee members, Jeff Seago, Scott Nelson, and Graham McGaffin. The Scoring Committee also walked the Armstrong property along the scenic byway. A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Scott Nelson to allocate \$4,000.00 to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation towards the restoration work that will be done by the Conservation Corps Iowa during 2021 – 2022. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- INHF Final Report-2019 Funding for Monona County Complex Management

Emily Martin, Conservation Programs Coordinator for Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation presented the Monona Complex Vegetation Management 2019-20 project to the Protection Committee. A thank you was received from Emily and Ryan for the \$4,000.00 funding that was received for this project. The Monona Complex consists of Johnson, Brown, Dahm, Knudsen North, Hanson, and Knudsen South tracts. Pictures were shown of the work that was done by the Conservation Corps Iowa. Cedar removal was done on approximately eight acres of the Hanson tract and the Knudson-Dahm tract. A prescribed fire was done on the Hanson tract in the spring of 2020. INHF will be hiring a new Loess Hills Stewardship Director and a new Loess Hills Intern Crew. 2021 Projects will include continued work on the Monona Complex and beginning work on the Armstrong Property, Harrison County. The Loess Hills Alliance thanked Emily Martin for presenting this report to the Protection Committee. The Monona Complex Presentation will be presented to the Full Board at the March 3rd meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE – May 5, 2021

ADJOURN – A Motion was made by Scott Nelson, seconded by Linda Herman to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 AM.

