



LHA PROTECTION COMMITTEE DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday, May 2, 2018
9:00 AM Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center–Pisgah, Iowa

The Protection Committee of the LHA met Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center. Those in attendance: Michelle Wodtke Franks, Linda Herman, Jake Holt, Nic Salick, Tim Sproul, Graham McGaffin, Glenn Pollock, and Jeff Seago.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 A.M. by Chairman, Graham McGaffin.

APPROVE AGENDA – A motion to approve the May 2, 2018 Agenda was made by Nic Salick, seconded by Linda Herman. Motion Carried.

APPROVE MINUTES – A motion to approve the February 7, 2018 Protection Committee Meeting Minutes was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Tim Sproul. Motion Carried.

BUDGET UPDATE –Total Protection Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover is \$12,898.67.

OLD BUSINESS

- **FY17 & FY18 LHA Funding Update**

Chairman, Graham McGaffin reported that he visited with LHA Lobbyists, Craig Patterson. In the FY18-19 Iowa Budget, Governor, Kim Reynolds designated \$40,000.00 for the Loess Hills Alliance in the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship budget. The Loess Hills Alliance line item has been passed by the Iowa House of Representatives and is currently in the Iowa Senate. Final decision has yet to be determined. The LHA Day at the Capital, held on March 15th with the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, worked out really well with more personal interaction with the Iowa Legislators. The Protection Committee discussed inviting State Representative Matt Windschitl, State Representative Norlin Mommsen, State Senator Jason Schultz, and State Senator Tom Shipley to an AGO Project showing that was completed by Pottawattamie County Landowner, Trent Larson and had received an Iowa Pheasants Forever award. Trent Larson restored remnant prairies by doing cedar removal, implementing no-till farming, strip cropping of corn and beans, planting rye cover crop after fields are harvested, and installing filter strips and pollinator habitat.

NEW BUSINESS

- **FY17 & FY18 LHA Protection Committee Funding Recommendation**

Options that were discussed by the Protection Committee on the FY17 & FY18 Protection Committee Funding were: does the Protection Committee allocate the \$12,898.67 to do a RFP in the fall or hold for additional funding until the FY18-19 funding has been determined; do the LHA Committees pool all their funding together for projects or keep the separate Committees; and, or fund a Fall 2018 RFP restoration project for a one year partnership with the Stewardship Committee with two separate scoring committees. Funding for Cooperative Burn Week and the PL Positions for Nic Salick and Jake Holt are very important and good projects. Members are also encouraged to look for donations from private citizens or Grant funding opportunities for example; Dean J. King Family Foundation Grant, Community Partners Foundation Grant, Iowa West Foundation Grant, Rural Business Development Grant, Missouri River Historic Development Grant, Sierra Club Foundation Grant, etc. The Protection Committee will take this issue to the Executive Committee for consideration and ask for guidance.

- **Raymond Muller Family Trust Conservation Easement Closing(FY16 Protection Committee Funding)**

The Raymond Muller Family Trust (560-acre) Conservation Easement closed on March 30, 2018. The Muller Conservation Easement is located in Grant Center SLA, Monona County, approximately 4 miles SW of Rodney. The easement prohibits subdivision and conversion of hundreds of acres of native Loess Hills prairie. A Forest Management program and a Grassland Management program has been established. 16 acres of row crop and a 4 acre building site for Raymond Muller's grandson has been set aside. White Lady Orchid Prairie Flower and Yucca plants have been found on the property. Funding for this project was received from the NRCS Agricultural Lands Easement program, Loess Hills Alliance, landowner donation, and private funding raised from The Nature Conservancy in Iowa. This site will be used for future tours to promote the Loess Hills.

ANNOUNCEMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE – August 1, 2018, 9:00 am Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah, IA

ADJOURN – A motion was made by Jeff Seago, seconded by Jake Holt to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 am.

