

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

5-03-2017

Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters

Pisgah, IA

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 10:43 AM with Glenn Pollock presiding. Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Jake Holt, Nic Salick, Brian Hickman, Jack Phillips, Jeff Seago, Graham McGaffin, Paul Moorhead, Tim Sproul, Jackie Kragel, Matt Dollison, and Rocky DeWitt.

APPOVAL OF 3/01/2017 MINUTES AND 5/03/2017 AGENDA ITEMS

A change was needed for the May 3, 2017 Stewardship Agenda. Under "Old Business", "Update-Boy Scout Ranch Project" was added. A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 3-01-2017 and the amended Agenda from 5-03-2017 by Nic Salick, seconded by Graham McGaffin. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE – At this time, no Budget Update to report.

PL POSITION

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Monona**

Nicholas Salick reported that CRP sign up continues to be a driving force in creating wildlife habitat throughout his counties and the rest of the state. Monona County (Onawa Community Center) hosted a CRP workshop on February 23, 2017 with 38 attendees. Woodbury County (Afton Community Center) hosted a CRP workshop on March 22, 2017 with 32 attendees. Both had good turnouts and many good questions concerning planting natives and the prescribed fire and burn plans. Nic was able to visit with landowners about habitat projects and USDA programs at the River City Expo held in Pott County (Council Bluffs). Nic also participated in Cooperative Burn Week which was held in Southwest Iowa. Two pictures were shown to the Committee members of the CRP MCM burn on private land in the Loess Hills of Monona County.

- **Fremont/Mills/Montgomery/Page**

Jake Holt reported that a Cover Crop Field Day was held in Randolph, IA on March 22, 2017. Jake was interviewed by KMA Radio to promote the Cover Crop Field Day and developed the Cover Crop booklet for all the attendees. Thirty-seven producers attended the Field Day. The use of cover crop reduces the amount of chemical that is put onto a field, benefits the soil, and benefits cattle grazing. Jake also participated in Cooperative Burn Week and River City Expo. Precision Agriculture was a big subject at the River City Expo. A picture was shown to the Committee members of a landowner frost seeding a 2.2 acre bean field back to tallgrass prairie. Jake reported that CRP sign up interest has continued in Southern Iowa and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has been started and approved.

Old Business

- **Loess Hills Nature School/Jack Phillips**

Jake Phillips reported that the Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee helped fund the Winter 2016 and Spring 2017 activities through the Loess Hills Nature School. Some of the Winter and Spring programs were; Nature writing in the Loess Hills, Winter birds, Saunters at Hitchcock Nature Center and Waubonsie State Park, Thoreau's Winter journal, Nature Writing in the Loess Hills, and Insects in Winter. Gleason-Hubel Wildlife Area, Harrison County has been added to the Loess Hills Nature School's teaching sites. A Citizen Science Day will be held at Gleason-Hubel Wildlife Area on May 21, 2017. An "Art of Nature" outdoor workshop will be held on May 16th – May 17th, 2017 at Waubonsie State Park. The average workshop attendance is 10 – 12 participants. Harrison County Conservation Board has donated \$1,500.00 to help support the summer workshops of the Loess Hills Nature School. Jack Phillips asked the LHA Stewardship Committee if they would match the \$1,500.00 to help support the Loess Hills Nature School. A Motion was made by Matt Dollison, seconded by Jeff Seago to allocate \$1,500 to the Loess Hills Nature School to help with the summer workshops through June 2017. Motion carried.

- **Update-Boy Scout Ranch Project**

Nic Salick presented the update for the Boy Scout Ranch Project. Nic invited the Loess Hills Alliance members to attend the kick off of the pollinator habitat project at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch. The Little Sioux Scout Ranch will be hosting a Youth Pollinator Habitat Program on Saturday, May 13, 2017. Forty to fifty species of native plants and habitat seed will be planted on 5 ½ acres. Talks with the scouts about habitat and pollinators will be held at 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, and 3:30 pm.

New Business

- **Treasurer's Report**

As of the last Stewardship Committee Meeting on March 1, 2017, the budget balance for the Stewardship Committee was \$25,435.48. At this time, there is no new information to report.

- **Future of the LHA Stewardship Committee**

The State funding for the Loess Hills Alliance has been cut from \$150,000.00 to \$40,000.00. At this time, it is not known what the Stewardship Committee will receive for future funding. The Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee makes the final decision on how funding is allocated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Nic Salick, seconded by Matt Dollison at 11:40 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING June 7, 2017 at 9:00 am at the Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters in Pisgah, Iowa.