

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

12-07-2016

Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters

Pisgah, IA

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 9:00AM with Glenn Pollock and Rich Pope presiding. Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Rich Pope, Jake Holt, Nic Salick, Jackie Kragel, Cara Morgan, Jack Phillips, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Lance Brisbois, Graham McGaffin, Linda Herman, and Tim Sproul. Condolences and sympathy were expressed by the Stewardship Committee for the loss of Brent Olson, Loess Hills Alliance Treasurer. The Stewardship Committee Members honored Brent Olson by expressing their personal stories with each other.

APPROVAL OF 11/02/2016 MINUTES AND 12/07/2016 AGENDA ITEMS

A change was needed for the December 7, 2016 Stewardship Agenda. "Update Granting Proposal/Boy Scout Ranch and PF" was added. A motion was made to approve the Minutes from 11-02-2016 and ammended Agenda from 12-07-2016 by Tim Sproul, seconded by Linda Herman. Motion passed.

BUDGET UPDATE - Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Budget Update for the Stewardship Committee members. The Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover is \$40,404.82 . This amount does include the \$6,000.00/The Naturalist School at Hitchcok Nature Center, \$15,000.00/Jake Holt PL Position, \$15,000.00/Nick Salick PL Position,and \$1,500.00/Little Sioux Scout Ranch-Pollinator Habitat Project.

PL POSITION

Nicholas Salick and Jake Holt reported that in mid-September, the CRP programs were closed for 2016 so it would not exceed the allowable acres. Work is still being done for the Wetland and Pollinator Programs and Equip Projects. As the rental rates continue to stay high, there is still a demand for program sign-ups. The CRP Grasslands Program protects grassland including rangeland and pastureland. With this program, the applications are approved using Grassland Ranking Factors. Participants can still conduct grazing practices, produce hay, mow or harvest for seed production subject to restrictions during nesting season. The 2017 Iowa Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever State Convention will be held on January 27-28, 2017 in Ames, Iowa. The Loess Hills Alliance will be showcased to talk about the Loess Hills.

Old Business

- **Future Naturalist School Funding**

Jack Phillips presented the Loess Hills Nature School report to the Stewardship Committee. Waubonsie State Park was added as another teaching site in the Loess Hills. Funding for the Loess Hills Nature School is used for educational events, but access into buildings is needed for the winter time. At this time, a northern site is still being pursued. The winter workshops included: Nature writing in the Loess Hills, Saunters, Winter Birds, Winter Fungi, Primitive Plants, Trees & Woody Plants, and Drawing Workshops. The Grant agreement between the Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee and Pottawattamie County Conservation for the Loess Hills Nature School (\$6,000.00) has been signed. The funding will help support the website, online journal, BioBlitz's, Bird check list at Waubonsie State Park, sauntering in the Loess Hills, and LHA Partner signage for each center.

- **Update Granting Proposal/Boy Scout Ranch and PF**

The \$1,500.00 Grant to help fund the Educational signage for the Little Sioux Scout Ranch Pollinator Habitat Project is in process.

The two Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist PL Positions' Grants, (\$15,000.00) for Jake Holt and (\$15,000.00) for Nicholas Salick, are in process.

New Business

- **Cooperative Burn Week**

The Loess Hills Fire Partners will hold a meeting to discuss the 2017 Cooperative Burn Week on December 13, 2016 at the Pizza Ranch in Missouri Valley at 11:00 AM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michelle Wodtke Franks passed around a copy of The Loess Hills Alliance 2016 Annual Report to the members for any corrections that were needed. Michelle will be working on a Loess Hills Alliance newsletter to be sent out every 2 weeks and local coffees to raise awareness for future funding. A letter was sent out to every County's Board of Supervisors to request support for the Loess Hills Alliance. These funds are used for the salary of the Lobbyist, Craig Patterson and Amy Campbell.

The Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill will be held on Monday, March 13, 2017 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda.

ADJOURN Glen Pollock adjourned the LHA Stewardship Committee meeting at 10:25 AM.

NEXT MEETING To Be Announced

