

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

02-03-2021

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 10:33 AM with Lance Brisbois presiding. Those in attendance were: Lance Brisbois, Dawn Snyder, Linda Herman, Matt Dollison, Kody Wohlers, Graham McGaffin, and Jason Andersen.

APPOVAL OF 09/02/2020 MINUTES AND 02/03/2021 AGENDA ITEMS

A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 09-02-2020 and the Agenda from 02-03-2021 by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Linda Herman. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE – During the 09/02/2020 Stewardship Committee meeting, a Motion was made and carried to rescind the funding of last year's projects (\$1,500.00 funding for financial support for the 2020 Hitchcock Nature Center BioBlitz and the \$2,000.00 funding for financial support for the 2020 Cooperative Burn Week) and to open the funds up again for this years' projects. Applications for funding of future projects will need to re-apply. Total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY/21 is \$14,000.00.

PL POSITION

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Shelby**

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Jason Andersen reported that this fall he went out to the field this past quarter and met with producers to evaluate seedings. Jason certified the completion of a brush management project for cedar cutting in the Loess Hills, Pottawattamie County this fall. A prescribed fire will be done on the property this spring. Jason will continue to work on wildlife practices, prairie management projects, and prescribed burns with landowners to reclaim prairies in the Loess Hills.

Old Business: No "Old Business" at this time.

New Business:

- **RFP Review for Stewardship Committee Funds**

LHA Stewardship Committee Chairman, Lance Brisbois presented a draft copy of the RFP to the Stewardship Committee for review. Total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY20/21 is \$14,000.00. At this time, the deadline is March 1, 2021. Suggestions that were made: Change wording to include points for education, prescribed fire, and cedar cutting; consider projects that will increase habitat on the land; consider projects such as the PL Positions, Cooperative Burn Week, and LHPS; changing the deadline date; and information needs to be added to include "No easements or Acquisitions applications can apply". Lance Brisbois and Graham McGaffin will work together on updating the RFP.

- **Approved Funding for PL Positions**

Funding of \$7,000.00 was allocated FY19-20 to help fund Jake Holt and Nic Salick's Private Lands Positions. At this time, this funding has never been paid out. The Pheasants Forever Annual Report from Jamie Cook was presented to the Stewardship Committee. Nic Salick is working for The Nature Conservancy in Nebraska and Jake Holt was hired as a Soil Conservationist by NRCS, Fremont County. Jason Andersen was transferred to fill the vacancy of Nic Salick covering Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties. At this time, Monona County is not being represented. To date, the position held by Jake Holt has yet to be filled and will remain vacant until a long-term financial agreement is reached with NRCS. Jamie Cook wanted to thank the Loess Hills Alliance for their continued support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Linda Herman at 11:20 am. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING March 3, 2021