

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

02-05-2020

Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center

Pisgah, IA

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 10:32 AM with Lance Brisbois presiding. Those in attendance were: Lance Brisbois, Kolby DeWitt, Jake Holt, Linda Herman, Bob Benton, and Jason Andersen.

APPROVAL OF 11/06/2019 MINUTES AND 02/05/2020 AGENDA ITEMS

A change was needed for the 02/05/2020 Agenda. (Pottawattamie County Conservation 2020 BioBlitz Grant Request) and (Pottawattamie County Conservation 2020 Cooperative Burn Week Grant Request) was added. A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 11-06-2019 and the amended Agenda from 02-05-2020 by Jake Holt, seconded by Jason Andersen. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE – Total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY19/20 is \$7,000.00.

PL POSITION

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Shelby**

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Jason Andersen introduced himself to the Stewardship Committee. Jason transitioned into a different coverage area with Pheasants Forever, taking over for Nic Salick on December 23, 2019. Jason will cover Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties as his primary area, and continue to cover Audubon and Cass County until a new biologist is hired. Jason has been working with Birds & Butterfly Programs in Prairie Remnant areas. Nic Salick has accepted a new position at The Nature Conservancy in Nebraska. The Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee would like to thank Nic for all his work in the Loess Hills.

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

Jake reported that FSA is holding a general signup period for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), running from December 9, 2019 to February 28, 2020. Continuous signup also begins on December 9, 2019 and is ongoing. With the new farm bill, CRP programs have new changes. At this time there has been low landowner interest, with only a 50% sign-up in January. Jake helped with brush control on a ridge line prairie project for an EQIP contract and a firebreak for a brush management project for the upcoming burn this spring for an EQIP contract. Sign up for EQIP programs continues through March 2020.

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

New Business:

- **FY19/20 Un-Obligated \$7,000.000 Funds Discussion**

Discussion will be held today on the two projects that were added to the 02/05/2020 Agenda concerning the FY19/20 Un-Obligated \$7,000.00 funds discussion.

- **Pottawattamie County Conservation 2020 BioBlitz Grant Request**

The Pottawattamie Conservation's Environmental Education and Natural Areas Management is requesting a grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 to assist with the efforts of the 2020 BioBlitz at Hitchcock Nature Center on June 12th and 13th. The last BioBlitz was performed in 2009. An updated inventory is needed to assess the effects of stewardship efforts to date and to continue to monitor the biodiversity in the park. Biologists, specialists, and land stewards from around the country will be assisting with the documentation of species. Pottawattamie County Conservation is seeking financial assistance for the event to assist with meals, mileage reimbursement, and miscellaneous supplies needed to support this event. A Motion was made by Jake Holt, seconded by Linda Herman to allocate \$1,500.00 to help with financial support for the 2020 Hitchcock Nature Center BioBlitz. Motion carried.

- **Pottawattamie County Conservation 2020 Cooperative Burn Week Grant Request**

The Pottawattamie County Conservation, Loess Hills Fire Partners Coordinator is requesting a grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 to assist with the efforts of the 2020 Cooperative Burn Week on April 27th – May1, 2020. The 2019 Cooperative Burn Week involved 81 participants from 34 different agencies/organizations, volunteers, and volunteer fire departments. The group implemented fire on 11 burn units totaling 3,262 acres in the 5-day event. The Pottawattamie County Conservation, Loess Hills Fire Partners Coordinator is seeking financial assistance for extra meals (breakfast and supper), housing facilities, contract services with Conservation Corps of Iowa for the 5-day event, fire equipment/hand-tool purchases, and miscellaneous supplies needed to support the event. A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Jake Holt to allocate \$2,000.00 to help with financial support for the 2020 Cooperative Burn Week. Motion carried.

- **Committee Membership Discussion**

Discussion was held on who is considered as a Stewardship Committee member, who can vote, whether email voting is allowed, and if the person has to attend a minimum of meetings to be considered as a Stewardship Committee Member. Information from the Board Manual was presented to the Stewardship Committee. More discussion will be held at the next Stewardship Committee meeting on March 4, 2020.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2020 Cooperative Burn Week will be held on April 27th – May1, 2020. The Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee will extend an invitation to Iowa Senator, Joni Ernst.

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jake Holt, seconded by Linda Herman at 11:08 am. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING March 4, 2020 at 9:00 am at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah, IA