

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

05-05-2021

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 10:32 AM with Lance Brisbois presiding. Those in attendance were: Lance Brisbois, Linda Herman, Graham McGaffin, Jason Andersen, Scott Nelson, Kolby DeWitt (Senator Joni Ernst's Office), and Wesley Fopma (Congressman Randy Feenstra's Office).

APPROVAL OF 03/03/2021 MINUTES AND 05/05/2021 AGENDA ITEMS

A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 03-03-2021 and the Agenda from 05-05-2021 by Scott Nelson, seconded by Graham McGaffin. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE –During the March Stewardship Committee meeting, \$2,000.00 was allocated to Loess Hills Fire Partners in support of the 2021 Cooperative Burn Week. At this time, total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY/21 is \$12,000.00. Pheasants Forever plans on requesting \$7,000.00 FY21 to help fund the Private Lands Positions.

PL POSITION

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Shelby**

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Jason Andersen reported his Quarterly Partners Report to the Stewardship Committee. Jason has been working on several habitat projects as well as management and burn plans with landowners. The USDA has extended the 2021 general signup for the Conservation Reserve Program. More information concerning signup will be passed on to the public at a later date. Four field offices will be doing outreach through habitat booths at farmers markets in Avoca, Council Bluffs, Missouri Valley, and Harlan. Outreach virtual workshop series about wildlife conservation topics will be presented on the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm. Registration and information can be found at www.jasoneandersen.com/outreach.

Old Business:

- No "Old Business" at this time.

New Business:

- **Harrison County Conservation Board RFP Grant Application**

The Stewardship Committee received a grant application from Harrison County Conservation Board, Project Title: Harrison County Conservation Board-Seasonal Natural Resource Technician. Amount of Grant Request is \$2,000.00. This position would assist in remnant prairie restoration, invasive species control, and timber stand improvements. The scoring committee, Lance Brisbois, Graham McGaffin, and Glenn Pollock recommended this project to be approved. A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Linda Herman to allocate \$2,000.00 to Harrison County Conservation Board to help support the Seasonal Natural Resource Technician position. Motion carried. Scott Nelson abstained.

- **Pottawattamie Conservation RFP Grant Application**

The Stewardship Committee received a grant application from Pottawattamie Conservation, Project title: Bioblitz 2021. Amount of Grant Request is \$1,500.00. The primary objective of this project is to catalogue the variety of organisms living within Pottawattamie Conservation's 1,281- acre Hitchcock Nature Center. The two-day Bioblitz is scheduled for June 11th through June 12th, 2021. The scoring committee, Lance Brisbois, Graham McGaffin, and Glenn Pollock recommended this project to be approved. A Motion was made by Scott Nelson, seconded by Graham McGaffin to allocate \$1,500.00 to Pottawattamie Conservation to help support the Bioblitz 2021 project. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week was held on Monday, April 26th through Friday, April 30th. This year, the focus was on the northern Loess Hills. Estimated preliminary numbers that participated were 106 Fire Firefighters from 46 different agencies with a total of 1,755 acres burned. Burning was done every day with good training. Next year's Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week will focus on the southern Loess Hills. A final written report from Kody Wohlers will be presented at the next Stewardship meeting on June 2nd, 2021.

Scott Nelson reported that Brent's Trail is 2 years old now and has been a huge success. Outdoor day, Bike or Hike will be held on Saturday, May 8th at the Harrison County Parks. The event will offer hiking on Brent's Trail or biking near the Woodbine area.

The Loess Hills Scenic Byway/Visitors Center in Moorhead is now open for the public.

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Scott Nelson, seconded by Linda Herman at 11:00 am. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING June 2, 2021

