

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

12-01-2021

Loess Hills Brent S Olson Visitor's Center

Pisgah, IA

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 9:04 AM with Lance Brisbois presiding. Those in attendance were: Lance Brisbois, Jason Andersen, Linda Herman, Rocky DeWitt, Scott Nelson, and Jeff Seago.

APPOVAL OF 09/01/2021 MINUTES AND 12/01/2021 AGENDA ITEMS

A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 09-01-2021 and the Agenda from 12-01-2021 by Scott Nelson, seconded by Rocky DeWitt. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE – As of November 24, 2021, total Reserve Funds/Unobligated is \$8,000.00 and Balance to Pay/Obligated Projects is \$7,500.00. The Hitchcock Nature Center BioBlitz 2021, Pottawattamie County was paid \$1,500.00 and the Seasonal Natural Resource Technician, Harrison County Conservation Board was paid \$2,000.00. Total FY22 Stewardship Committee Funds Balance as of November 24, 2021 is \$15,500.00.

PL POSITION

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Shelby**

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Jason Andersen reported that he has been doing paperwork for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts. Over the summer, Jason worked with landowners to implement four brush management projects, woody vegetation, cedar removal, etc. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has cut funding to help the landowners with prescribed burns. A discussion was held whether a cooperative could be created to help and support landowners burn their ground. Funding would be needed to purchase the fire cache and equipment. The Loess Hills Alliance website has a link, "Prescribed Fire for the Loess Hills" for information on benefits of prescribed fire for the public to use. Information also includes Loess Hills Regional Fire Management Plan, Benefits of Prescribed Fire, Fire Planning & Safety, Prescribed Fire & Loess Hills Landowners Brochure, etc.

Old Business:

- **Private Land Positions FY21-22 (Pheasants Forever) RFP Funding for \$7,500.00**

The Stewardship Committee allocated \$7,500.00 funding towards the Private Land Positions FY21-22 (Pheasants Forever) RFP on August 4, 2021. At this time, the funding is in process.

New Business:

- **2022 RFP**

Total funds available for the Stewardship Committee 2022 RFP is \$8,000.00. The Committee talked about limiting Grant request to approximately \$2,500 or more so funding could go to several projects. The Committee Members will look over the current RFP to see if any changes are needed and then be released. Application deadline will be January 31, 2022. Voting will be held at the February 2, 2022 Stewardship Committee meeting. The Stewardship Committee will be expecting a Grant application for the 2022 Cooperative Burn Week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Rocky DeWitt, seconded by Scott Nelson at 9:31 am. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING February 2, 2022 11:00 am.