

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

3-01-2017

Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters

Pisgah, IA

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 9:14 AM with Glenn Pollock presiding. Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Rich Pope, Jake Holt, Nic Salick, Cara Morgan, Jack Phillips, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Graham McGaffin, Linda Herman, Tim Sproul, and Andrea Porter.

APPOVAL OF 2/01/2017 MINUTES AND 3/01/2017 AGENDA ITEMS

A change was needed for the March 1, 2017 Stewardship Agenda. Under "Old Business", "Confirmation of Grant Funding/Loess Hills Nature School" was added. A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 2-01-2017 and the amended Agenda from 3-01-2017 by Michelle Wodtke Franks, seconded by Nic Salick. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE - As of January 27, 2017 through February 15, 2017, the Bills Paid Report showed total 2017 Budget Expense was \$6,000.00 for the Loess Hills Nature School. Current obligated budgets are \$15,000.00 for SWCD PL Position (Jake Holt), \$15,000.00 for SWCD PL Position (Nic Salick), \$4,500.00 for Loess Hills Fire Partners-Cooperative Burn Week (CCI), \$2,500.00 for Loess Hills Conservation Corp of Iowa Crew (CCI) and \$1,500.00 for Little Sioux Scout Ranch Pollinator Habitat Project (Educational Signage). Total Stewardship Community Budget Balance is \$25,435.48.

PL POSITION

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Monona**

Nicholas Salick reported that Jackie Kragel attended the Conservation Reserve Program at the Onawa Community Center, Monona County on February 23rd. There was total of approximately 38 attendees with a few people from the hills. Discussion was held concerning conversion from brome.

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

Jake Holt reported that there will be a Cover Crop Workshop on March 22, 2017 in Randolph, Iowa discussing protecting sensitive soils. CRP contracts will start up in October 2018 and EQUIP new contracts are going out. At this time, the prices for the CRP contracts will stay the same.

Graham McGaffin reported that there is some unobligated funds available from FY13-14 for cedar removal and timber stand improvement through the AGO, 90% cost share program. The completion date for this program is July 30, 2017. For more information concerning the AGO funding, talk to Kathrine Koskovich or Brian Hickman from the Iowa DNR.

Old Business

- **Update/Loess Hills Prairie Seminar Grant**

Monona County Conservation Board Naturalist and the LH Prairie Seminar Coordinator, Andrea Porter presented the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar Report. The 2017 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 2-4, 2017. Andrea reported that she has 17 presenters so far and is looking for more, letters to donors have been sent out, and is working on the LHPS website. At this time, Andrea is requesting sponsorship funding for the LH Prairie Seminar. Some of the projected expenses for the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar are West Monona CSD rental, portable toilets rental, printing, meals at the Onawa Methodist Church, website domain and hosting, Bluebird Nursery, and travel reimbursement for presenters.

A Motion was made by Nick Salick, seconded by Linda Herman to allocate \$2,500.00 for the 2017 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. Motion carried.

- **Update/PF Positions Grant Funding**

The two Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist PL Positions' Grants for Jake Holt and for Nicholas Salick have been completed and signed.

- **Confirmation of Grant Funding/Loess Hills Nature School**

A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Tim Sproul to allocate \$6,000.00 FY17 to help expand the Loess Hills Nature School at the Hitchcock Nature Center. Motion carried.

New Business

- **Loess Hills Nature School/Jack Phillips**

Jack Phillips presented the Loess Hills Nature School 2016-17 report to the Stewardship Committee. Jack reported that they have been meeting often at Waubonsie State Park. A check list for bird species has been started and a check list for butterfly population will be done this spring. A 3 day treat will be held for several artist in May including an artist from Irland, David Brooks, John Price, and Matt Low. On March 18, 2017, Jack will hold a saunter at Gleason-Huble Wildlife Area-Harrison County and then continue on to Denison-Crawford County. A BioBlitz will be held in May at Gleason-Huble Wildlife Area-Harrison County. Jack is working on recruiting Iowa State University students. Katie Thompson visits the Loess Hills Nature School every quarter and has received an award from Iowa State University for working with Loess Hills Nature School. Katie will also present at the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar.

At this time, Phillips stated that the programs have been bringing in people from the Omaha, Council Bluffs, and Lincoln areas, but would like to bring in more people from the Iowa communities. Options that were suggested to get more publicity from the Iowa committees were to advertise through the Iowa County Conservation Boards newsletters, local radio stations, and Facebook. Other options were to talk to the NW Iowa Sierra Club, Loess Hills Audubon Society, and Terry Lewis-Fremont County for his teaching experience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Triumph of Ag Expo will be on March 8-9, 2017 at the Century Link Center, Omaha, NE.

A Fire Refresher Course will be presented on March 8, 2017 at Hitchcock Nature Center.

A Pollinator Habitat program will be presented on March 7, 2017 at Iowa Western Community College.

The Iowa Prairie Conference will be held at the Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs on July 14 - 15, 2017.

There will be an Iowa Land Trust Workday on Thursday, July 13, 2017. The Work Day will include working on a Stewardship project near the Vincent Bluffs property with 20 plus people committed to help.

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. At least one person from each County is encouraged to come to the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill. Members are encouraged to talk with all Legislatures about the Loess Hills for the future of the Loess Hills Alliance.

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Nic Salick, seconded by Linda Herman at 10:23 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING May 3, 2017 at 10:30 am at the Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters in Pisgah, Iowa.