

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5-02-2018

Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center

Pisgah, IA

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 10:39 AM with Glenn Pollock presiding. Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Kolby DeWitt, Linda Herman, Nic Salick, Jake Holt, Tim Sproul, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Graham McGaffin, Rich Pope, and Jeff Seago.

APPOVAL OF 3/07/2018 MINUTES AND 5/02/2018 AGENDA ITEMS

A change was needed in the 05/07/18 Agenda. Under "Old Business", "CCI Funding" was added and under "New Business", "Grant Request Procedure" and "Loess Hills Scout Ranch" was added. A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 3-07-2018 and the amended Agenda from 5-02-2018 by Michelle Wodtke Franks, seconded by Jake Holt. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE – The Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee Bills Paid Report from March 2, 2018 through April 26, 2018 showed Pheasants Forever was paid \$15,000.00 for 10/1/2017- 3/31/2018 Farm Bill Biologists-Nic Salick and Jake Holt and The Naturalist School-Jack Phillips was paid \$1,500.00 for FY18 Winter/Early Spring workshops at Waubonsie State Park and Gleason-Hubel Wildlife Area. The Loess Hills Alliance line item (\$40,000.00) has been passed by the Iowa House of Representatives and is currently in the Iowa Senate. Final decision has yet to be determined.

PL POSITION

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Monona**

Nic Salick reported that he discussed seed plan design and 327 Conservation Cover requirements at the Onawa CRP Management Workshop that was held on March 28th at the Lewis & Clark State Park Visitor Center with approximately 30 attendees. The second CRP Management Workshop was held on March 29th at the Logan Community Center with approximately 35 attendees. Both days had good audience participation and ended with group discussions. Nic attended the S-211 Portable Pumps & Water Usage training and worked alongside with the partners during the 2018 Cooperative Burn Week. This experience will help with future conversations with landowners and the writing of burn plans. Photos of the CRP Management Workshops, Cooperative Burn Week, and the S-211 Portable Pumps & Water Usage training were represented in the Quarterly Partners Report.

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

Jake reported that he hosted four workshops (over 60 attendees total) covering the habitat needs and importance of pollinators, honey bees, and monarch butterflies. Equip and RCPP are currently available to help fund projects that create pollinator and monarch habitat. Jake presented at the Women Gaining Ground Conference with topics that included importance of pollinators, their habitat requirements, and how to establish and maintain pollinator and monarch habitat. Photos of a CP27 & 28 project in Fremont County, pastureland being converted to pollinator habitat through RCPP-EQIP, the Pollinator workshop in Mills County, and a CRP Planting in Fremont County were represented in the Quarterly Partner's Report. Some of the CRP landowner contracts will be ending soon and it is unknown if any new CRP sign-up will be available until after the 2019 farm bill comes out. Grassland Reserve Program and Wetlands Reserve Easement Program are a couple of options that are available for the landowners.

Old Business:

- **Grant Funding Opportunities Update:**

As the FY18-19 funding has not been determined yet, Members are encouraged to look for donations from private citizens or Grant funding opportunities for example; Dean J. King Family Foundation Grant, Community Partners Foundation Grant, Iowa West Foundation Grant, Rural Business Development Grant, Missouri River Historic Development Grant, Sierra Club Foundation Grant, etc. The 2018 Cooperative Burn Week can be used as a project based Grant opportunity for the Loess Hills Alliance.

- **Loess Hills Prairie Seminar Funding:**

The 42nd Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 1st -3rd at the Sylvan Runkel State Preserve, Castana. This free event educates the public about the culture and history of the Loess Hills. A Motion was made by Jake Holt, seconded by Graham McGaffin to allocate \$2,000.00 for the 2018 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. Motion carried.

- **CCI Funding Update**

The Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week was held on March 19th -23rd with a total of 75 participants from 26 agencies or organizations, volunteers, and volunteer fire departments. Many individuals participated in the S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use course that was offered. Cooperative Burn Week was based at the DNR Loess Hills State Forest with a focal area of Harrison and southern Monona Counties, including the Little Sioux Scout Ranch, Gramm Wetland, Old Town Conservation Area, Missouri Valley, Loess Hills State Forest lands, and private lands. Funding for this event was provided by The Nature Conservancy, Loess Hills Alliance, and the participating agencies. A news release will be done for the local papers, for the Loess Hills Alliance website and annual report, and for the State Legislature to promote the Loess Hills, Cooperative Burn Week, and use for educational purposes.

New Business:

- **Grant Request Procedure**

The Stewardship Committee will be searching for a Grant request document to be made and get copies of other Grant Request forms for examples. The Grant Request Procedure Forms will be discussed at the next Stewardship Committee on June 6th.

- **Loess Hills Scout Ranch**

As the Loess Hills Scout Ranch was one of the burn units that was done during Cooperative Burn Week, participants shared that Cooperative Burn Week was a positive experience and was successful in achieving multiple objectives, including fire management goals, training, and improving collaboration between partners in the Loess Hills region. The Loess Hills Scout Ranch will send a formal thank you to all partners that helped during Cooperative Burn Week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Loess Hills Alliance welcomed visitor, District Representative, Kolby DeWitt from Congressman Steve King's office to the Stewardship Committee meeting on May 2, 2018.

The LHA Day at the Capital, held on March 15th with the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, worked out really well with more personal interaction with the Iowa Legislators.

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Michelle Wodtke Franks at 11:51 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING June 6, 2018 at 9:00 am at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah, IA