

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

6-05-2019

Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center

Pisgah, IA

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 9:10 AM with Glenn Pollock presiding. Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Nic Salick, Linda Herman, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Larry Green, and Rocky DeWitt.

APPOVAL OF 3/06/2019 MINUTES AND 6/05/2019 AGENDA ITEMS

A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 3-06-2019 and the Agenda from 6-05-2019 by Rocky DeWitt, seconded by Linda Herman. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE –Total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY18/19 is \$7,000.00.

PL POSITION

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Monona**

Nic reported that NRCS did some training with their own employees concerning cedar removal rates through the EQIP program. Cedar removal and brush management rates are being examined to increase the cost share rate. If anyone would have some expense receipts for their own cedar removal, they can turn them into their local NRCS office even if they do not participate in the EQIP program to help influence the cost share rates. CRP signup is available now starting June 1st. Nic reported that approximately 50 people attended the three March CRP Mid-Contract Management Workshops. Signup is also available for Wetland Restoration and water quality projects including filter strips. With the flooding issues across Iowa, there may be programs yet to be determined to help the landowners with terrace breaks, erosion control, and cover crop.

- **Fremont/Mills/Montgomery/Page** No report at this time.

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

New Business:

- **Proposal of an allocation of \$7,000 to help support the PL Positions, Jake Holt and Nic Salick**

A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Michelle Wodtke Franks to allocate \$7,000.00 to help fund Jake Holt and Nic Salick's PL Positions. Motion carried. Nic Salick abstained.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a Practical Farmers of Iowa Field Day on Tuesday, June 18th from 5-8 pm at Lewis, IA. The field day will be hosted by Bob Zimmerman and biologists from Pheasants Forever. Habitat restoration and management activities at the South Place farm will be presented. This event will be held during National Pollinator Week.

The Loess Hills Fire Partners will hold a fire meeting on June 13th at 11:00 am at the Divide Hills Roadhouse near Castana. Discussion will be held on formalizing Prescribed Fire Councils and reviewing Cooperative Burn Week. The group will also tour one of the prescribed burn sites that was burned during Cooperative Burn Week.

The 2019 Iowa Prairie Conference will be held on Thursday, August 8th through Saturday, August 10th in Pella.

Brent's Trail grand opening will be held on Saturday, June 8th at Murray Hill Scenic Overlook. The dedication starts at 9:00 am and the hike starts at 9:30 am. West Harrison Community School District will provide the bus shuttle up the hill. The 8 mile trail starts at Murray Hill Scenic Overlook and ends at Gleason-Hubel Wildlife Area.

Golden Hills RC & D partnering with Iowa Prairie Network, Harrison County Conservation Board, and Pottawattamie County Conservation Board received a grant from The Gilchrist Foundation for funding for a seed collection project. No dates have been set yet for this event.

The Loess Hills Parks & Peaks Bicycle Tour (a 4-day cycling tour of the Western Iowa's Loess Hills) will be held on September 4th through September 8th, 2019.

Loess Hills Alliance member, Graham McGaffin, Iowa State University representatives, and Bill Blackburn from Green Hollow Center near Thurman are heading to Yangling, China for the China-US Exchange. Information will be shared about the Loess Hills within both countries.

The LHPS attendance was down this year, but was enjoyed by all.

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Nic Salick, seconded by Linda Herman at 9:51 am. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING August 7, 2019 at 10:30 am at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah, IA

