

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

2-01-2017

Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters

Pisgah, IA

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 10:35 AM with Glenn Pollock and Rich Pope presiding. Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Rich Pope, Bob Benton, Jake Holt, Nic Salick, Jackie Kragel, Cara Morgan, Jack Phillips, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Lance Brisbois, Graham McGaffin, Linda Herman, Scott Nelson, Matt Dollison, and Andrea Porter.

APPROVAL OF 12/07/2016 MINUTES AND 2/01/2017 AGENDA ITEMS

A change was needed for the February 1, 2017 Stewardship Agenda. Under "Old Business", "LH Nature School Update" was added. Under "New Business", "Election of Officers", "PF Positions Grant Funding", and "2017 Cooperative Burn Week" was added. A motion was made to approve the Minutes from 12-07-2016 and the amended Agenda from 2-01-2017 by Scott Nelson, seconded by Bob Benton. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE - Rich Pope presented the Budget Update for the Stewardship Committee members. As of July 25, 2016 through January 26, 2017, the Bills Paid Report showed total 2016 Budget Expense was \$12,813.16 (\$5,313.16 for Cooperative Burn Week/\$7,500.00 for Private Lands Positions) and the total 2017 Budget Expense is \$6,000.00(LH Nature School).

PL POSITION

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Monona**

Nicholas Salick presented the Farm Bill Biologist LHA Quarterly Report for Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Monona Counties to the LHA Stewardship Committee. Nic showed a picture of a landowner that is utilizing Precision Conservation (a program called Profit Zone Manager to overlay their combine's yield data with their input expenses). Nic completed 3 projects/198 acres/19.55 acres within the Mondamin Special, interacted with 90 Landowner Contacts, and had 21 Habitat Proposals. The Missouri Valley Times News had articles covering the Harrison County PF hosting a youth hunt and a local landowner talking about native plants and CRP for Pheasants and other wildlife.

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

Jake Holt presented the Farm Bill Biologist LHA Quarterly Report for Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, and Page Counties to the LHA Stewardship Committee. Jake is finishing up some fall construction projects, planning for future workshops and upcoming field days, and working on the planning process for expiring fall contracts and new EQIP programs. Jake worked with the MCCB Naturalist and 3rd grade students from Stanton, Montgomery County discussing wildlife, water quality, and aquatics; worked with the local PF chapter and 5th grade students from East Mills School on the Maple Edge Farm providing seed mixture to plant a pollinator plot; and worked at the Elliott Outdoor Classroom with 3rd grade students from Lewis and Elliot Schools discussing wetlands and water quality.

Old Business

- **2016 Cooperative Burn Week**

Graham McGaffin presented the 2016 Cooperative Burn Week Report. The 2016 Cooperative Burn Week was held on April 4 - 8 and April 13, 2016. More than 1000 acres of good fire was accomplished with 39 participants. The burn week was held at Waubonsie State Park and the surrounding area in Fremont County. The Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee received a thank you from Glenn Pollock for the 2016 Cooperative Burn Week funding (\$5,313.16).

- **LH Nature School Update**

Jack Phillips presented the Loess Hills Nature School 2016-17 report to the Stewardship Committee. The LH Nature School is a non-profit program partnering with the Loess Hills Alliance, Golden Hills RC & D, Pottawattamie County Conservation, New Tree School, and Tallgrass Prairie Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium. Winter Sessions 2016/17 included; Nature writing in the Loess Hills, Winter Birds, Thoreau's Winter Journal, Saunters, Nature Poetry, Winter Fungi, Mosses, Winter Oaks of the Southern Loess Hills, Insects in Winter, and Pahuk: A Pawnee Sacred Site. At this time, Phillips stated that the programs have been bringing in people from the Omaha and Lincoln, NE communities, 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 work with the Iowa County Conservation Boards, Loess Hills Prairie Seminar, Earth Day 2017 Event, workshops for Oak decline and Emerald Ash Borer, and or saunters in Whiting Woods Recreation Area.

New Business

- **2017 Cooperative Burn Week**

Graham McGaffin presented the 2017 Cooperative Burn Week Report. The 2017 Cooperative Burn Week will be held March 20-24, 2017. The Cooperative Burn Week will be centered around the Loess Hills State Forest and hosted at Harrison County Conservation Board's Willow Lake Recreation Area. Plans include burn units in the State Forest, on Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation properties, on Harrison County Conservation Board properties, and adjacent private lands. The Harrison County CCB is providing lodging in cabins and meeting facilities at their Willow Lake facility. The Loess Hills Fire Partners are requesting support funding from the Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee for the participation of the CCI group. A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Nic Salick to allocate up to \$4,500.00 to help fund the 2017 Cooperative Burn Week. Motion carried.

- **Election of Officers**

Rich Pope is stepping down as Co-Chairman of the LHA Stewardship Committee. A Motion was made by Matt Dollison, seconded by Scott Nelson to appoint Glenn Pollock as the new LHA Stewardship Committee Chairman. Motion carried.

- **PF Positions Grant Funding**

The two Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist PL Positions' Grants for Jake Holt and for Nicholas Salick are in process. More information will be available at the next LHA Stewardship Committee meeting on March 1, 2017.

- **LH 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 is working on a new website for the Prairie Seminar, letters to presenters, and accruing expenses (West Monona High School Rental, travel, lodging, etc.). The Onawa United Methodist Church will not be charging for the rental of the church. The silent auction will be a source for funding for the Prairie Seminar. At this time, Andrea is requesting sponsorship funding for the LH Prairie Seminar. A Motion was made by Scott Nelson, seconded by Jake Holt to hold the funding for the LH Prairie Seminar until the next LHA Stewardship Committee meeting on March 1, 2017. Motion carried. The Loess Hills Alliance will present at the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar and will help distribute the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar Brochures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An Educational Discussion on the Conservation Reserve Program will be held on February 23, 2017 from 9:00am - 3:00pm at the Onawa Community Center, Monona County. Topics will be Site Establishment, Seeding Plans, Maintenance, Mid-contract Management, Fire Ecology, and Burn Plan Preparation.

The Iowa Prairie Conference will be held at the Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs on July 14 - 15, 2017. There will be north and south Loess Hills tours and a banquet catered by Staley's Food Service, Inc.

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jake Holt, seconded by Matt Dollison at 11:44 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING March 1, 2017 at 9:00 am at the Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters in Pisgah, Iowa.