

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

8-01-2018

Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center

Pisgah, IA

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 10:30 AM with Glenn Pollock presiding. Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Linda Herman, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Graham McGaffin, Matt Dollison, Nic Salick, Jake Holt, Tim Sproul, Kolby DeWitt, Rocky DeWitt, and Jeff Seago.

APPOVAL OF 6/06/2018 MINUTES AND 8/01/2018 AGENDA ITEMS

A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 6-06-2018 and the Agenda from 8-01-2018 by Michelle Wodtke Franks, seconded by Linda Herman. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE – The Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee Bills Paid report from April 27, 2018 through July 24, 2018 showed that Monona County Conservation Trust was paid \$2000.00 for the FY18 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar Sponsorship. The Loess Hills Alliance has received \$40,000.00 FY19 State Appropriations. The Stewardship Committee will receive \$7,000.00 of that allocation. Total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover is \$7,000.00.

PL POSITION

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Monona**

Nic Salick reported that Harrison County started the year with over 20 properties enrolled for more than 4,300 acres of access through the IHAP program. IHAP is a voluntary program that allows private landowners to open their land to the public for hunting. This quarter, two Harrison County landowners enrolled three more properties into IHAP for an additional 318 acres of public hunting. Pottawattamie County Conservation Board is offering their 2018 "Introduction to Land Management" class series. The 7 class series takes place throughout the grounds of Hitchcock Nature Center. June's class focused on herbaceous weed control with 10 attendees. The USDA has reopened sign up for select wetlands CRP practices. Photos of an established IHAP property, the June "Introduction to Land Management 2018" class, and a CP23 Wetland Restoration property were presented to the Committee Members.

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

Jake Holt reported that along with seed checks, field offices have had new EQIP projects (cedar, locust) removal taking place. A habitat proposal promoting CP21 (filter strips) promoting water quality and wildlife habitat is being worked on. The CP21 Program practices slow runoff from fields, trapping and filtering sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other potential pollutants before they reach surface waters. Four educational events were held covering importance of pollinators, their habitat requirements, and how to establish and maintain pollinator and monarch habitat. Students helped plant trees and pollinators plots at the Fremont Mills School. Photos of the 2nd growing season CP42 project in Fremont County, and students that were present at the pollinator field day in Mills County was presented to the Committee Members. A photo was also presented featuring a wetland complex along the Missouri river that has used many wetland programs over the last 15-20 years and is currently providing flood relief this year. These programs allowed landowners to take low, wet areas out of production, and in turn, improve their overall profitability on their operations.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2018 RAGBRAI was held on Sunday, July 22nd through Saturday, July 28th. During RAGBRAI, Chairman, Glenn Pollock participated in a Monarch butterfly booth and distributed 20,000 milkweed seed balls to the riders to throw out for the Monarch butterflies. Riders from all 50 states were represented and some foreign attendees including Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. The Iowa Geological Survey through the University of Iowa created a series of informational brochures to help the RAGBRAI participants learn about Iowa's geological, cultural, and natural characteristics as they rode across the state.

The Audubon Society of Omaha was deeded 9 acres of Loess Prairie in Cuming County, Nebraska. A one acre cemetery, plotted in 1885 lies adjacent to the property. The Loess Hills Alliance Members are invited to participate in a hike that will be held on August 11, 2018 at 10:00 am to view the cemetery and the Loess Prairie.

The Audubon Society of Omaha would like to help fund some of the food expense during Cooperative Burn Week 2019. The Loess Hills Fire Partners will present a Grant Request to the Audubon Society of Omaha.

The Stewardship Committee is examining a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant to help fund the PL Positions.

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Tim Sproul, seconded by Linda Herman at 11:21 AM. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING September 5, 2018 at 9:00 am at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah, IA