

# **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**11-07-2018**

## **Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center**

### **Pisgah, IA**

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 10:15 AM with Glenn Pollock presiding. Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Linda Herman, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Graham McGaffin, Nic Salick, Jake Holt, Tim Sproul, Scott Nelson, and Matt McClanahan.

#### **APPROVAL OF 09/05/2018 MINUTES AND 11/07/2018 AGENDA ITEMS**

A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 09-05-2018 and the Agenda from 11-07-2018 by Tim Sproul, seconded by Linda Herman. Motion carried.

**BUDGET UPDATE** – At this time, there are no expenses to report. FY17/18 Total Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects is \$20,413.06. Total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY18/19 is \$7,000.00.

#### **PL POSITION**

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Monona**

Nic reported that 960 acres of private land have been enrolled into the Iowa Habitat & Access Program (IHAP) through the Southwest Iowa Communities for Pheasants and Farming Initiative. A Pottawattamie County kickoff event, near Carson, Iowa and hosted by Pheasants Forever, was capped by removing an old "No Hunting" sign and replacing it with a new orange IHAP sign. Pictures of a habitat sunflower planting on a new Quail SAFE and a landowner working to install a ditch plug on his new CP23 was shown to the Stewardship Committee Members. Site visits to CP23 reenrollments yielded abundance of swamp milkweed and monarchs. Nic presented "Habitat Management for Birds" program at the July's "Introduction to Land Management" class at Hitchcock Nature Center. Also discussed, was how important the native thistles (Tall Thistle) was important for the fall migrating monarchs. The Tall Thistle is not aggressive, but they are still considered noxious in Iowa. New job sheets for planting and establishing native prairie have been made to present to producers for reference: "Native Prairie-Establishing & Managing Native Planting", "Planting Native Prairie Into Corn/Bean Stubble", and "Planting Native Prairie Into Cool Season Sod".

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

Jake reported that he has been working with landowners on new EQIP, WRE, and a few new and reenrolled CRP contracts. Many site visits with landowners were scheduled to look at their resource concerns and work toward solutions that addressed them. A photo of approximately 13–14 Fremont-Mills school students seeding pollinator habitat on a small island in the school parking lot was shown to the Stewardship Committee members. The Prairie Pollinator Programs are helping students learn about the importance of environmental stewardship and the value of Prairie Pollinators in the Loess Hills. The Fremont County field office hosted a soil health workshop with speakers from state soil scientists, regional soil health specialist, and a local landowner panel. Jake presented photos of a Fremont County Landowner that enrolled into three different voluntary CRP programs (CP42, CP9, and CP21) to construct his field into a wetland. Jake participated in the Windbreak Training and the Filter Strip Design Training that was held during this quarter.

The Stewardship Committee discussed some options for Grant funding for the Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Positions, Nic Salick and Jake Holt for example: Dean J. King Family Foundation and Iowa West Foundation. Other discussion that was held; who would write the letter of application for the Grant, should they partner with other Stewardship projects on the letter of application, what are the top priorities for funding that is needed, and to preserve the Mission of the Loess Hills Alliance. The Stewardship Committee decided to ask the Executive Committee to help write the letter of application for Grant funding to help fund the Loess Hills Alliance, a nonprofit organization.

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

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Michelle Wodtke Franks reported that the Loess Hills Parks and Peaks Bike Tour was held on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Speakers throughout this event were well received and the fall colors were good. Even though it rained for 3 days, there still was a good turnout with approximately 45 attendees. A drone footage was done on Murray Hill Scenic Overlook. Through the feedback from the attendees, a suggestion to hold the event earlier was made.

Nic Salick reported that Iowa Prairie Network is sponsoring "Prairies & Pints" program on the second Tuesdays, November through March at Barley's Bar & Grill in Council Bluffs starting at 7:00 pm. Michelle Biodrowski, Pottawattamie County Conservation Board Naturalist, will present the first program on November 13, 2018, "Native Gardening".

Matt McClanahan reported that Kathy Koskovich has retired and that the replacement Private Lands Biologist Position has not been filled yet. The application period closes on November 28, 2018. The Loess Hills Alliance Members thank Kathy Koskovich for her service.

Graham McGaffin reported that the Green Hill Ranch (506 acres) (adjacent to Folsom Point Preserve) property runs along nearly two miles of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway south of Council Bluffs. The property includes oak woodland, remnant prairie, pasture, and cropland. Green Hill Ranch is jointly owned by Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and The Nature Conservancy. Fundraising is ongoing to complete this project.

**ADJOURN** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Nic Salick, seconded by Linda Herman. Motion carried.

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