



LHA PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015
9:00 AM Loess Hills State Forest

The Protection Committee of the LHA met Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. at the Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters. Those in attendance: Michelle Wodtke Franks and Scott Nelson.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chairman, Scott Nelson.

APPROVE AGENDA – A motion to approve the November 4, 2015 Agenda was made by Michelle Wodtke Franks, seconded by Scott Nelson. Motion Carried.

APPROVE MINUTES – A motion to approve the August 5, 2015 Protection Committee Meeting Minutes was made by Michelle Wodtke Franks, seconded by Scott Nelson. Motion Carried.

BUDGET UPDATE

The Bills Paid Report from 07/23/2015 - 10/29/2015 showed that one check was paid: The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was paid \$15,000.00 for the Turin Prairie Addition III.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Update on Documented Endangered Species:**

At this time there is a hold on the funding for the Documented Endangered Species. Golden Hills RC & D is submitting a RCCP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) State Grant for approximately 1.5 million for the seven Counties of the Loess Hills landform. The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and the Iowa U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will submit letters with Golden Hills RC & D for matching funds. The Grant Funds can be used for cost share practices such as: prescribed burns, pollinator habitats, prairie strips, and documented endangered species. The RCCP State Grant application is due on November 10, 2015. If the RCCP State Grant is approved, the Loess Hills Alliance Protection Committee could assign funding for the Documented Endangered Species at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2015 Grant Review and Announcement of Findings

Two LHA Protection Committee Grant Applications were received for review:

The Nature Conservancy

Liebsch II Conservation Easement

282 acres/Mills County

This project ties the 282 acres to a 2011 Conservation Easement on 1,065 acres

Grand Total Land Acquisition Cost is \$363,390.00/\$1,289.00 per acre

Amount of Grant requested \$32,000.00

Iowa DNR-Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit

Rosie Hall Property-Land Acquisition

164 acres/Fremont County

The State endangered species Biscuit root, special concern species nodding thistle and cobaea penstemon all exist on the property. Rosie Hall is a conservation minded landowner who wants her property to be protected.

Grand Total Land Acquisition Cost is \$417,500.00/\$2,546.00 per acre

Amount of Grant requested \$32,000.00

The LHA Protection Scoring Committee(Rick Schneider, Glenn Pollock, Brent Olson, and Scott Nelson) used the new Scoring Criteria to score the applications. Both projects were good and met all the criteria. The average score for The Liebsch II Conservation Easement application was 66 and the the average score for the Rosie Hall Property application was 70. A motion was made by Scott Nelson, seconded by Michelle Wodtke Franks to recommend to the LHA Executive Committee to fund \$32,000.00 for the Rosie Hall Property Acquisition. Motion carried. Chairman, Scott Nelson will present the recommendation to the Executive Committee on November 4, 2015 at 1:00 PM. If approved, Michelle Wodtke Franks will work on a press release for the Rosie Hall Acquisition.

VSITOR COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT MEETING DATE – February 3, 2015 Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah, IA

ADJOURN – Scott Nelson adjourned the meeting at 9:48 am.