

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

03-02-2016

Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters

Pisgah, IA

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 9:02 A.M. with Glenn Pollock presiding. Rich Pope was absent. Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Mike Weis, Graham McGaffin, Linda Herman, Jake Holt, Nicholas Salick, Brent Olson, Mike Evano, Emogene Andrews, and Carol Cowsert.

APPROVAL OF 12/02/2015 MINUTES AND 3/02/2016 AGENDA ITEMS

A motion was made to approve the Minutes from 12-02-2015 and Agenda from 3-02-2016 by Mike Weis, seconded by Linda Herman. Motion passed.

BUDGET UPDATE

With the approval of \$5,000.00 for the 2016 Conservation Corp of Iowa Project, the Stewardship Committee Budget Balance (Open Funds To Obligate or Carryover) is \$49,072.48.

PL POSITION

Nicholas Salick, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever Farm Bill Biologist presented the Loess Hills Alliance Quarterly Report for Pottawattamie/Harrison/Monona Counties to the Stewardship Committee. Nick attended the week long NRCS Conservation Planning Training and RUSLE2 training. Nick is working with Loess Hills landowners implementing general CRP and CP42 Pollinator Habitat sign up. The general CRP sign up had a limited term, but the CP42 Pollinator Habitat sign up is still available. 913 acres in Harrison County will be available for the 2016 hunting seasons through the IHAP Program (Iowa Habitat and Access Program).

Jake Holt, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist presented the Quarterly Partner's Report for Fremont/Mills/Montgomery/Page Counties to the Stewardship Committee. Jake reported that he attended the week long NRCS Conservation Planning Training and RUSLE2 Training. Jake is working with Loess Hills landowners implementing CRP sign up for CP38 and CP42 Pollinator Habitat. Since the CRP rental rates have increased and the demand is high for sign up, seed prices have increased. After planting the CRP acres, shredding should be done early or wait for the following year.

New Business

- Loess Hills Prairie Seminar

The 2016 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar 40th Anniversary will be held on June 3-5, 2016 at the Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area and the West Monona High School in Onawa.

The Loess Hills Prairie Seminar is sponsored by the Northwest Area Education Agency.

Approximately \$20,000.00 is needed to help fund the Seminar's 40th Anniversary. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Audubon Society, Monona County Conservation Board, and The Nature Conservancy help sponsor the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. The Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee has helped sponsor the Loess Hills Conservation Corps Program, AGO Projects, Field Days, Workshops, Seed Habitat Programs, and PL Positions. A Motion was made by Brent Olson, seconded by Linda Herman to allocate \$2,500.00 to help fund the 2016 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar 40th Anniversary. Motion carried.

- Loess Hills Fire Partners-Cooperative Burn Week

The Loess Hills Fire Partners is hosting a Cooperative Burn Week on April 4-8, 2016 at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Waubonsie State Park and surrounding private land, all of which are situated within the Loess Hills Waubonsie Special Landscape Area near Sidney, Iowa (Fremont County). This will be an opportunity for partners to develop fire line leadership, build professional relationships, and improve fire line skills. Donations are needed for lodging, food, and supplies for the participants, TNC coordination, CCI crew time burn unit prep, and DNR staff time.

A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Nicholas Salick to allocate \$8,637.00 for the Loess Hills Fire Partners-Cooperative Burn Week. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 50th Annual Triumph of Ag Expo Farm and Ranch Machinery Show will be held on March 9th and March 10th, 2016 at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, NE.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will host a public meeting to discuss the proposed designation of the region including Loess Hills State Forest, Preparation Canyon State Park, and Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area (approximately 84,000 acres with 242 bird species) as a state Bird Conservation Area (BCA). The meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on March 16, 2016 at the Loess Hills State Forest Visitor Center in Pisgah, IA.

A thank you letter was read to the LHA Stewardship Committee for the \$5,000.00 donation to help fund the Loess Hills Conservation Corps Program.

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mike Weis, seconded by Jake Holt. Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING May 4, 2016 at 10:30 am at the Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters in Pisgah, Iowa.

