

# **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**11-01-2017**

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

### **Pisgah, IA**

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 10:32 AM with Glenn Pollock presiding. Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Linda Herman, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Nic Salick, Jake Holt, Rocky DeWitt, Graham McGaffin, Jackie Kragel, Rich Pope, Jack Phillips, and Jeff Seago.

#### **APPOVAL OF 9/06/2017 MINUTES AND 11/01/2017 AGENDA ITEMS**

A change was needed on the November 1st Stewardship Committee Agenda. Under "Old Business", "Jack Phillips-Update" was added. A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 9-06-2017 and the amended Agenda from 11-01-2017 by Nic Salick, seconded by Linda Herman. Motion carried.

**BUDGET UPDATE** – Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Budget Update to the LHA Stewardship Committee members. The LHA Stewardship Committee Bills Paid Report from August 26, 2017 through October 25, 2017 showed that Golden Hills-Loess Hills Nature School was paid \$500.00 for Final-Loess Hills Nature School Workshops. With the allocations of \$15,000.00 for SWCD PL Position (Jake Holt) and \$15,000.00 for SWCD PL Position (Nic Salick) FY18-19, total remaining reserve funds to obligate or carryover is \$2,304.25.

#### **PL POSITION**

- **Harrison/Pottawattamie/Monona**

Nicholas Salick reported that two landowners in Pottawattamie County were approved for AGO funding and began restoring remnant prairies by doing cedar removal. This area, north of Hitchcock Nature Center, outside of Honey Creek, will be burned this spring. The Iowa Prairie Conference went well with the many seminars and field trips. During Loess Hills Heritage Week, Nic helped with a birding class (Birding 101) at Hitchcock Nature Center and a bird walk at Folsom Point, outside of Council Bluffs. Nic reported that he went through NRCS trainings and had over 40% interactions with landowners that were within the Loess Hills landscape.

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

Jake Holt reported that he has been working with projects that included grazing, tree removal, Honey Locust, EQUIP and certification on some of the projects. Two CRP workshops were held in Montgomery & Page Counties. The field tours included first and second year CRP seeding and a shallow water wetland project. Jake attended a Soil Health Training and a meeting at the Iowa Prairie Conference. Jake had 83 landowner contacts with 12 NRCS seed plan reviews.

## **Old Business**

- **Loess Hills Nature School/Jack Phillips**

The Loess Hills Nature School offered 2-3 workshops and other gatherings each week during the months of June, July, August, and September. The teaching sites during those months were Waubonsie State Park, Hitchcock Nature Center, and Gleason-Huble Wildlife Area. A blog was launched to feature essays and poetry produced in the nature writing workshops. Funding for 2017 was from Grants from Harrison County Conservation Board, Pottawattamie County Conservation Boards, Tallgrass Prairie Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium, Loess Hills Alliance, Gilchrist Foundation, and in-kind support from Iowa DNR. The 2017/2018 goal for the Loess Hills Nature School is to expand into more Loess Hills counties in Iowa and Missouri. Most recently, Woodbury County Conservation Board has offered support. Funding for the Loess Hills Nature School will be tabled until the next Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee on December 6, 2017.

## **New Business**

- **LH Cooperative Burn Week Presentation**

The 2017 Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week was held on March 20th-24th with additional days on March 27th and March 28th. The event was based at Willow Lake Recreation Area with a focal area of Harrison & southern Monona Counties. Due to wet weather, burning was done in Fremont and Pottawattamie Counties also. A total of 57 people from nine agencies or organizations, volunteers, and six volunteer fire departments participated. Funding for this event was provided by the Fire Learning Network, a joint project of The Nature Conservancy, the US Forest Service, and the US Department of the Interior, and by the Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee. A total of 2,516 acres were burned. Participants shared that Cooperative Burn Week was a positive experience and successful in achieving objectives and goals.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Loess Hills Heritage Week went well with a great deal of volunteering work involved. Golden Hills RC & D did several radio interviews. Professor, John Liu from China spoke at Briar Cliff University with approximately 75 attendees and University of Nebraska Omaha with approximately 45 attendees. The Loess Hills Heritage Week committee will have a post-conference call in a week.

**ADJOURN** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Nic Salick, seconded by Graham McGaffin at 11:40 AM. Motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING** December 6, 2017 at 9:00 am at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah, IA