

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

9-05-2018

Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center

Pisgah, IA

The Stewardship Committee of the LHA convened at 9:15 AM with Glenn Pollock presiding. Those in attendance were: Glenn Pollock, Linda Herman, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Graham McGaffin, Doug Chafa, Nic Salick, Jake Holt, Tim Sproul, and Kolby DeWitt.

APPOVAL OF 08/01/2018 MINUTES AND 09/05/2018 AGENDA ITEMS

A Motion was made to approve the Minutes from 08-01-2018 and the Agenda from 9-05-2018 by Nic Salick, seconded by Tim Sproul. Motion carried.

BUDGET UPDATE – Total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover is \$7,000.00. Discussion was held concerning the Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Positions' funding for Nic Salick and Jake Holt. A Micro-Grant application from The Gilchrist Foundation offers a one-time grant up to \$5,000.00. Micro-grants do not require a request for invitation whereas some of the larger Grants are applied through invitation only.

PL POSITION

Nic Salick and Jake Holt reported on the "Southwest Iowa Communities for Pheasants and Farming" project. Nic and Jake have been working on trading Precision Ag analyses to producers in exchange for them enrolling ground into the Iowa Habitat and Access Program (IHAP). The Precision Ag analyses can help producers improve their Return on Investment and bottom line of their operation. The enrollment of their ground into the IHAP program increases our local public hunting opportunities. At this time, 960 acres have been enrolled into the IHAP program, predominantly in Harrison County, but also 155 acres in Pottawattamie County and 99 acres in Fremont County. A website is being worked on to promote this program.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Omaha Gives is a potential fundraising opportunity for the Loess Hills Alliance. The Omaha Gives group is a philanthropy effort to raise funds for local non-profits in Douglas, Sarpy, and Pottawattamie Counties. The Loess Hills Alliance would have to register to be an eligible non-profit to receive donations from this group.

The Loess Hills Parks and Peaks Bike Tour will be held on Thursday, September 27th through Sunday, September 30th, 2018. This event is a four day cycling tour of western Iowa's Loess Hills starting from Stone State Park to Waubonsie State Park. Twenty registrations have been received, with additional riders joining for one day routes. Some of the sights that the riders will enjoy visiting will be Stone State Park, Sioux City, RT Reese Homestead, Historic Ingemann Church and Cemetery, Moorhead, Preparation Canyon State Park, Pisgah, Murray Hill, Small's Fruit Market, Missouri Valley, Loveland, Honey Creek, Hitchcock Nature Center, Crescent, Mudhollow Road, Council Bluffs, Lake Manawa State Park, Folsom Point Preserve, Glenwood Lake Park, Barlett, Tabor, Thurman, and Waubonsie State Park. This event has received promotional support from RAGBRAI, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and the Iowa Bicycle Coalition as well as financial sponsorship from The Nature Conservancy, Pottawattamie County Tourism, Pottawattamie County Conservation Foundation, Northwest Iowa Sierra Club, Golden Hills RC & D, and Fremont County Tourism. Governor Reynolds will sign a proclamation on September 28th in Des Moines to permanently designate the last week of September as Loess Hills and Heritage Week.

The Loess Hills & Heritage Week will be held on Saturday, September 22nd through Sunday, September 30th, 2018. Festivities that participants can enjoy during that week are Introduction to Land management, Iowa State Corn Husking Competition, SW Iowa Junk Fest, Literary Loess, Hitchcock Oak Inventory Project, Nature Calls, Pawpaw Festival, Prairie Seed Collection at Hitchcock Nature Center, Homeschool in the Hills Fall Field Day, Loess Hills Parks & Peaks Bicycle Tour, Hitchcock Nature Center Insect Club Hike & Meeting, Western Iowa Applefest, Native Earth Skills, and Avoca Main Street Longest Table.

ADJOURN A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Nic Salick, seconded by Jake Holt. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING November 7, 2018 at 10:30 am at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah, IA