

**Thursday, March 17, 2016**

### **Parks & Conservation Foundation Stewardship Grant Update**

During the growing season of 2015, native seed was collected by volunteer for the stewardship challenge grant project. The work was planned and directed by BCCD staff. Throughout this process, the required volunteer hours needed to attain the bonus funding from the stewardship challenge grant was satisfied.

In the fall and winter of 2015 - 2016, seed that was collected from the summer growing season was cleaned and processed by volunteers. This seed was incorporated into the planting mix and used at the stewardship project site. Additional native seed was also needed to complete the restoration work. This seed was purchased from two native seed sources. The two invoices that accompany this update are submitted to the Parks & Conservation Foundation Board for your review and approval for payment. The two companies that supplied the additional native seed were Agrecol and Prairie Moon. The invoice from Prairie Moon was paid by the Boone County Conservation District and is submitted by the BCCD for reimbursement totaling \$2,350.75. The invoice to Agrecol totals \$1,870.41 and needs to be paid directly to that supplier. All told, the cost for purchased native seed is \$4,221.16 for this project.

During the late fall and early winter seasons volunteers helped remove the fence row along the edge of the wetlands and previous cropland area. Restoration of this site included the removal of these elements to facilitate the movement of reptiles and amphibians between the wetlands and the restored habitat now planted in the sandy soils of the former cropland area. The newly restored habitat establishes ideal nesting habitat for turtles and other rare and declining species of this unique ecosystem niche. Boone County Conservation District staff and volunteers will now monitor this area to assess document its use by these species in greatest need of conservation.

The restoration project was frost seeded in February, when proper seed bed conditions were present - meaning winter temperatures and snow cover. The contracted portion of the restoration project occurred during the first week of March. The contractor, Central Tree, was able to remove the trees and brush within the fence row as well as the small pine planting. The contractor did what was expected and the BCCD is satisfied with the contractor's performance and completed job. An invoice and certified payroll accompany this report and will be presented at the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting for your review and approval for payment. The area cleared by the contractor has already been seeded by volunteers and BCCD staff.

A complete presentation of this project will be given at the next Parks & Conservation Foundation meeting.