

**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**Board of Directors**  
Loess Hills Alliance  
1:00 PM –December 7, 2016  
Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Jerry Self	Bob Benton	Nic Salick
Brett Bengard	Renea Anderson	Terry Lewis
Michelle Wodtke Franks	Linda Herman	Rich Pope
Dawn Snyder	Graham McGaffin	Tim Sproul
Craig Patterson	John Meis	Cara Morgan
Lance Brisbois	Jake Holt	Ed Cambridge
Jim Randall	Lynn Grobe	Brady Hanson
Walter Utman	Paul Moorhead	Alan Dale

Chairman Bob Benton called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:10 pm, with a quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed. Condolences and sympathy were expressed by the Full Board Committee Members for the loss of Brent Olson, Loess Hills Alliance Treasurer.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Cara Morgan, seconded by Dawn Snyder to approve the March 2, 2016 and the June 1, 2016 Minutes. Motion carried.

**AGENDA:** A motion was made by Lynn Grobe, seconded by Rich Pope to approve the December 7, 2016 Agenda. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Treasurer's Report to the Full Board Committee.

**Open Funds To Obligate:**

Protection Funds: \$898.67

Stewardship Funds: \$40,404.82

Economic Development Funds: \$12,092.42

Executive Committee Cash Balance: \$33,339.67

Total Special Projects Balance: \$54,807.82

Total FY2016-2017 New and Current Budget Balances by Committee as of 11/30/16 is \$364,819.43.

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds at 11-30-2016 is \$128,309.00.

Total Fund Account Balance Funds: \$135,357.00 with 770 current assets.

A copy of the 2016 Loess Hills Alliance Audit reports are available for the Full Board Committee.

A motion was made by Tim Sproul, seconded by Renea Anderson to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee** - Total Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover for the Special Projects Funding is \$54,807.82. The funding will be used to send out a hard copy of the Loess Hills Annual Report as a drop mail piece to every address in each Loess Hills 7 Counties, to the Iowa Legislators, and to the State Department Heads. The Executive Committee also approved 29 "Sponsored by the Loess Hills Alliance" signs to be ordered to put up near all LHA projects when appropriate to be funded by the Special Projects Funding. The Executive Committee decided to have Golden Hills RC & D rebuild the Loess Hills Alliance Website. The Executive Committee appointed Renea Anderson as the Pro-tem LHA Treasurer until March elections.

**Protection Committee** - No Report

**Stewardship Committee** – Rich Pope reported that the Stewardship Committee continues to have good attendance. The \$1,500.00 Grant to help fund the Educational signage for the Little Sioux Scout Ranch Pollinator Habitat Project is in process. The two Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist PL Positions' Grants, (\$15,000.00) for Jake Holt and (\$15,000.00) for Nicholas Salick, are in process. The Grant agreement between the Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee and Pottawattamie County Conservation for the Loess Hills Nature School(\$6,000.00) has been signed. The Loess Hills Fire Partners will hold a meeting to discuss the 2017 Cooperative Burn Week on December 13, 2016 at the Pizza Ranch in Missouri Valley at 11:00 AM.

**Economic Development Committee** -Renea Anderson passed around the Annual Report for the Economic Development Committee for all Board Members to see. The Motorcycling, RV ing, and Birding Brochures have been reprinted. A Western Iowa Legislative Forum will be held on December 14, 2016 at the Mondamin Community Center from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Some of the topics and speakers will be PDI Legislative Perspective, LHA Lobbyist (Craig Patterson), and IWILL Representatives.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Golden Hills RC & D Capacity Report** : Michelle Wodtke Franks reported that the Loess Hills Alliance Face-book page has 300 followers. Michelle is also working on revamping both websites (visitloesshills website and the Loess Hills Alliance website). Michelle will be working on outreach and marketing through press releases, sending out a letter to the Legislators every two weeks regarding projects that the Loess Hills Alliance has helped support, use the Loess Hills Alliance logo in the different projects, and hosting events to highlight the Loess Hills Alliance.

- **2017 Loess Hills & Heritage Week Report:** The 2017 Loess Hills & Heritage Week will be held on September 23, 2017 through October 1, 2017. The week will align with the 2017 Iowa Prairie Week and Herbs in the Hills. The Loess Hills & Heritage Week Committee is seeking groups, organizations, and communities who would like to promote an event or activity during the week to raise awareness of the natural and cultural riches of the Loess Hills. The Committee is also seeking a proclamation from the Governor and the 7 Loess Hills Counties.

- **LHA Board Manual:** The Loess Hills Alliance Board Manual will be presented to all Full Board Members in the March 2017 meeting. An orientation with a power point presentation will be held for the new Full Board Members before the Full Board Meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Speaker-Legislative Consultant, Craig Patterson:** Craig Patterson reported that the Iowa Senate has changed over to Republican (29 out of 50) through the elections. New discussions will include: School funding, Labor, Collective Bargaining, Budget, Water Quality, and IWILL. Craig reported that this will be a challenging year with the revenue being down. Craig and Amy will be traveling to visit each new legislature about the natural resources of the Loess Hills. At this time, the current Governor of Iowa, Terry Branstad has been picked to be the Ambassador for China. If Terry Branstad is confirmed as the next US Ambassador to China and subsequently resigns as governor, Lieutenant Governor, Kim Reynolds will succeed to the office of Governor of Iowa. Iowa will have their first woman Governor.

- **2017 Legislative Outreach/Day on the Hill:** The Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill will be held on Monday, March 13, 2017 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Iowa State Rotunda. The LHA Members are encouraged to attend the Day on the Hill to talk to their State Legislatures about the Loess Hills Alliance and protecting the Loess Hills.

- **Nomination of Executive Board:** The LHA Nominating Committee for 2017 will be Lynn Grobe, Nick Beeck, and Robert Benton. The 2017 LHA Officer Positions will be voted on at the next Full Board Meeting.

- **LHA 2017 Meeting Dates:** A Motion was made by Alan Dale, seconded by Walter Utman to keep the LHA meetings the same as last year (first Wednesdays of the month and first Monday preceding the Full Board Meeting for Economic Development). Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Cara Morgan, seconded by Alan Dale to hold all the Full Board Meetings in Pisgah, Iowa. Motion was carried.

LHA Office Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg, will email all LHA Members the 2017 LHA Meeting dates.

- **2016 Annual Report:** The Loess Hills Alliance 2016 Annual Report was passed around to the Full Board Committee members. This report will be given to the Legislatures at the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill.

- **Approval of SFY17 Funding Allocation to LHA Committees:** A Motion was made by Lynn Grobe, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the FY 2017 Appropriations of \$32,000.00 to Protection Committee, \$32,000.00 to Stewardship Committee, \$32,000.00 to Economic Development Committee and the remainder of funds to the Executive Committee. Motion carried.

- **Participation/Attendance Board Members:** A letter was sent out by the Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee to all LHA Board Director's and Alternates encouraged to attend the December 7, 2016 Full Board Meeting at 1:00 PM. If a Full Board Member is unable to attend the Full Board meetings, your alternate is to replace you at the meetings. Conference calls are available if needed for a quorum. Members of the Loess Hills Alliance strive to protect the natural and cultural resources of the Loess Hills.

**Announcements:** Iowa Bankers Association Director, Jim Randall, is retiring. The Loess Hills Alliance would like to congratulate Jim on his retirement and thank him for all his service to the Loess Hills Alliance.

A \$50.00 donation was received from Ronald Gamble for the Loess Hills Alliance to help preserve the Loess Hills. The Loess Hills Alliance thank Ronald Gamble for his donation.

**Next meeting :** To Be Announced

**Adjournment:** A Motion was made by Brady Hanson, seconded by Alan Dale to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeannette Riesberg,  
LHA Office Secretary