

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –March 7, 2018
Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Jeff Seago	Renea Anderson	Jake Holt
Linda Herman	Brett Bengard	Scott Belt
Rich Pope	Graham McGaffin	Jeff Franco
Dawn Snyder	Tim Sproul	Scott Pape
John Straight	Nick Beeck	Earl Hinkricksen
Alan Dale	Patty McCall	Michelle Wodtke Franks
Tammy Bramley	Nic Salick	Gary Horton
Robert Benton		

Chairman Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:02 pm, with a quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Scott Belt to approve the December 6, 2017 Minutes. Motion carried.

AGENDA: A motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the March 7, 2018 Board of Directors Agenda. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Full Board Committee.

Open Funds To Obligate:

Protection Funds: \$12,898.67

Stewardship Funds: \$0.00

Economic Development Funds: \$11,520.47 (allocated on March 5th, 2018 for advertising)

Executive Committee Funds: \$5,442.14

Total Executive/Board Reserve Funds: \$83,373.36

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds at 03/05/2018 is \$130,901.00.

Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/18 is \$130,901.00 with \$460.00 current assets.

A motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Earl Hinkricksen to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope presented the Executive Committee report to the Full Board Members. \$2,000.00 was allocated from the Executive/Board Reserve Funds to the Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee for donation to the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. The Executive Committee Members advised all Committees to look for alternative Grant funding opportunities.

Protection Committee – Graham McGaffin presented the Protection Committee report to the Full Board Members. Graham reported that the Protection Committee met on February 7, 2018. The expected closing date for the Raymond Muller Family Trust Conservation Easement is March 30, 2018. The Muller Conservation Easement property (560 acres) is in Monona County, Grant Center. The Protection Committee has decided to hold their funds for now until they hear from the State Legislature concerning the Loess Hills Alliance FY18/19 funding.

Stewardship Committee – Nic Salick presented the Stewardship Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Nic reported that Cooperative Burn Week has been set for March 19 - March 23rd. Over 60 firefighters have signed up to help during Cooperative Burn Week. 900 acres of the Little Sioux Scout Ranch will be burned during Cooperative Burn Week. Jake Holt has been working with landowners on Pollinator Habitat Programs, EQIP deadlines, and CRP programs. Nic Salick will be helping to present two CRP Management Workshops (Harrison and Monona County) on March 28th and March 29th. \$1,500.00 was allocated to the Loess Hills Nature School to fund the workshops from December 2017 through June 2018. \$5,413.06 was allocated to the IDNR for SWG-C Restoring Royalties Cooperative Burn Week. The Stewardship Committee Members are to look for alternative Grant funding opportunities.

Economic Development Committee - Renea Anderson presented the Economic Development Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Anderson stated that the Economic Development Committee met on Monday, March 5, 2018, 10:00 AM at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center in Missouri Valley. The Economic Development allocated the remaining unobligated funds of \$11,520.47 for advertising the Loess Hills through the Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Truck Wrap of the Loess Hills, Sioux City Visitors Guide, Council Bluff's Visitors Guide, State Visitors Guide, Our Iowa magazine, and the WITR digital website. A Welcome to Siouxland brochure was shown to the Full Board Members. The Loess Hills Alliance logo was represented on the brochure. The new map of the Loess Hills was presented to a Full Board Member from each of the 7 Loess Hills Counties for display.

A motion was made by Scott Belt, seconded by Patty McCall to accept the Committee Reports. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

LHA Day at the Capitol-Update: Due to an IHAP Public Hunting meeting scheduled for March 13th, the Executive Committee members decided to schedule the informal LHA Day at the Capital on March 15th. March 22nd is REAP Day at the Capitol. March 15th, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association will be at the Capital. March 14th is County Day at the Capitol. Talking points will be put together and copies of the 2017 LHA Annual Report will be made for the LHA Members to take with them to the Iowa State Capitol. If any of the Loess Hills Alliance Members would like to attend, please let Rich Pope know.

NEW BUSINESS:

2018 LHA Officer Positions-Election: The 2018 LHA Officer Nominating Committee is John Straight, Rocky DeWitt, and Rich Pope. The slate of nominees for the Executive Committee are:

Chairman-Rich Pope
Vice-Chairman-Robert Benton
Secretary-Patty McCall
Treasurer-Renea Anderson
At-Large-Tammy Bramley
At-Large-Linda Herman
At-Large-Graham McGaffin
At-large-Dawn Snyder

The Loess Hills Alliance Full Board Members voted for 3 out of the 4 nominees for the At-Large Positions. Tammy Bramley, Graham McGaffin, and Dawn Snyder were voted in as the new At-Large Executive Committee.

A Motion was made by Nick Beeck, seconded by John Straight to approve the Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee slate of officers. Motion carried.

Establishing “Friends of the Loess Hills Group” as a “Subcommittee”: Jeff Seago presented a report on the Loess Hills State Forest “Friends of the LHSF”. The Loess State Forest would like to Partner with the LHA to establish “Friends of the Loess Hills Group”. A draft with wording to establish a "subcommittee" for "Friends of the Loess Hills State Forest" was presented to the Full Board Committee and discussion was held. Waubonsie State Park, Fremont County is interested in starting a Friends Group. Stone State Park has their own 501c3 status. Their Friends Group is called, “Friends of Stone Park” and has been very successful. Lewis and Clark State Park has their own Friends Group called, “Friends of Discovery”. The Friends Groups provide their own funding. The Loess Hills Alliance would not have any cost. The LHA’s 501 © 3 status could allow for funds to be collected and donations to be raised for things in the LHSF such as walking trails, signage, a Bio Blitz, mapping, etc. The “Friends of the LHSF” group has the same beliefs and matches the LHA Mission Statement and would follow a formal guideline. This group would help organize garner support, hold educational opportunities and raise grant money for possible projects throughout the LHSF. Concerns that the Full Board Members had were: Liability issues, good signage for private property, earmark funds for all 7 Loess Hills Counties, insurance waivers, follows the LHA guidelines, and if any funding would have to come from the Loess Hills Alliance.

A Motion was made by Alan Dale, seconded by Tammy Bramley to pursue language to establish “Friends of the Loess Hills Group” as a “Subcommittee”. Motion Carried. Jeff Seago abstained. A final draft language for the “Friends of the Loess Hills Group” as a “Subcommittee” will be presented at the next Loess Hills Alliance Full Board meeting on June 6, 2018.

FY18 LHA Funding: The Iowa Governor, Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Senate have released their budgets. Reports from lobbyist, Craig Patterson is that the Loess Hills Alliance is vulnerable. More information will be available on Friday, March 9th. The Loess Hills Alliance members are encouraged to attend the Legislative Coffee's to promote the Loess Hills. The future of the Loess Hills Alliance is unknown if they are zero funded. The State of Iowa is short on revenue and there has been some Federal tax cuts. The Loess Hills Alliance Members are encouraged to look for donations from private citizens or Grant funding opportunities.

Announcements:

Renea Anderson reported that FY2016, 697 Million was received from tourism of the 7 Loess Hills Counties of Iowa.

Next Meeting: June 6, 2018 at 1:00 PM Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Scott Belt, seconded by Patty McCall to adjourn the meeting at 2:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary