

Draft Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –June 1, 2016
Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center –Sioux City, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Nick Beeck	Bob Benton	Nicholas Salick
Brett Bengard	Brent Olson	Mark Monson
Michelle Wodtke Franks	Linda Herman	Rich Pope
Dawn Snyder	Graham McGaffin	Mark Shoemaker
Patty McCall	John Meis	

Chairman Bob Benton called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:017 pm, with no quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

Dawn Snyder welcomed the Loess Hills Alliance Full Boards Members to the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. The Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center is run by the Woodbury County Conservation Board and provides a variety of summer programs.

MINUTES: No Motion was made to approve the March 2, 2016 Minutes because of no Quorum.

AGENDA: No motion was made to approve the June 1, 2016 Agenda because of no Quorum.

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

Open Funds To Obligate:

Protection Funds: \$898.67

Stewardship Funds: \$46,572.48

Economic Development Funds: \$9,081.32

Executive Committee Fund Balance: \$8,649.71

Total Special Projects Balance: \$54,807.82

Total FY2015-2016 New and Current Budget Balances by Committee as of 5/31/16 is \$261,857.68.

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds to 06-30-2016 is \$123,050.00.

Total Fund Account Balance Funds: \$155,973.00 with 485 current assets.

No motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report because of no Quorum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee - Brent Olson presented the Executive Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Letters have been sent out to all 7 Loess Hills Counties' Supervisors requesting support with a funding commitment of \$2000.00 for Fiscal Year 2017. At this time, the Loess Hills Alliance has received \$6,000.00 for the Fiscal Year 2017 Support Funding from Monona, Plymouth, and Pottawattamie Counties. This County funding is used for lobbying. The LHA Executive Committee will discuss options for the Special Projects Balance(\$54,807.82) to help fund a good goal project at the next Executive Committee meeting. The Cooperative Agreement Contract between Golden Hills RC & D and the Loess Hills Alliance has been renewed. The next Executive Committee meeting will be on August 17, 2016 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah at 10:00 AM.

Protection Committee - No Report

Stewardship Committee – Rich Pope presented the Stewardship Report to the Full Board Members. The Grant Agreement between the Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee and The Nature Conservancy for \$8,637.00 for the Loess Hills Fire Partners Cooperative Burn Week was signed on May 13, 2016. The Stewardship and Protection Committee Members were presented with a tour of the Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve at 9:00 AM on June 1, 2016. The tour was informational and enjoyed by all who attended. Michelle Wodtke Franks and Rich Pope will present a 10 Minute Presentation at the 2016 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar(June 3-5th, 2016).

Economic Development Committee -Mark Monson presented the Economic Development report to the Full Board Members. Loess Hills information has been distributed to interested parties through the LH advertising of the 2016 Iowa Visitors Guide, Midwest Living, Tri-State Package, Iowa Outdoors, and the Remarketing Program from Traveliowa.com. Currently 5000 of each of the Motorcycling, RV ing, and Birding Brochures are getting reprinted. Thank you cards continue to be received from the Lucky I Prize winners for the Our Iowa magazine. The ad is placed in this publication 6 times a year. The Brown Family Music Show performance of the National Anthem at the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill in March went well. The ED Committee helped sponsor the Heartland Byways Conference held in Council Bluffs in April. The next Economic Development meeting will be held on Monday, August 29, 2016 at 10:00 am., at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center in Missouri Valley, IA.

No motion was made to accept the Committee Reports because of no Quorum.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Legislative Session Update-Craig Patterson (via Phone Call):**

Craig Patterson presented a Legislative Session update(via speaker phone call) to the Full Board. The LHA visited with Craig concerning future funding. The \$600,000.00 for Hungry Canyons and the Loess Hills Alliance was funded. The 16 million for the REAP program was funded. Water quality will be a big issue at the next election with several proposals from the Legislatures. With loosing Jack Drake, a strong advocate of the Loess Hills, future funding will be a challenge. Suggestions were made to get Committee speakers or previous LHA project funded owners to talk with the Legislators to promote the Loess Hills and visit with the Legislatures one on one to make them aware of the Loess Hills and show them a list of projects that the LHA has helped fund through the State and Federal funding.

LHA Day on the Hill Update-Planning For Next Year:

The Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill was on Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

The Brown Musical Family performed the National Anthem at the House and Senate Chamber.

The Legislators stopped by and enjoyed the LHA Presentation and refreshments.

A thank you was received from Mrs. Jack Drake for the "Wild Rose and Yucca Plant in the Loess Hills" Print during a ceremony to recognize the late Representative Jack Drake. A suggestion was made to have a private landowner present at next years' Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill with pictures of their own protected Conservation landscape.

- **Golden Hills RC & D Capacity Building Report:**

Michelle reported that she continues to work with the Committees on the 2016 Board Manual to be finalized this Fall. Golden Hills RC & D is applying for an Iowa West Foundation Grant through the Loess Hills Alliance with in-kind match to help with the funding of the 2017 Loess Hills & Heritage Week and the reprinting of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Guidebooks.

Rich Pope and Michelle Wodtke Franks attended the IZAAK Walton League Iowa State Convention on April 29-May 1, 2016 in Schleswig, IA and will present a 10 Minute Presentation at the 2016 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar(June 3-5th, 2016). The Heartland Byways Conference in April went well with approximately 90- 95 attendees from 8 states in attendance. The ED Committee helped sponsor the Heartland Byways Conference held in Council Bluffs. Byway tours were held for DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Harrison County Welcome Center, and Hitchcock Nature Center.

This event is held every 2 years, which will be in 2018.

- **2017 Loess Hills & Heritage Week Report:**

Michelle Wodtke Franks reported that the 2017 Loess Hills & Heritage Week is planned for Saturday, September 23-October 1, 2017. Activities and events are being developed to raise awareness about the history, archaeology, and natural resources found in Iowa's Loess Hills, located in the seven counties of deep loess bordering the Missouri River. The Heritage Week will align with the 2017 Iowa Prairie Week. A printed publication and website will be used to promote activities and events throughout the Loess Hills region. The Heritage Week Planning Committee will be seeking a proclamation from the Governor. If anyone would like to help with the planning group to seek groups, organizations, and communities who would like to promote an event or activity during the Heritage week, please contact Michelle.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Announcements: None

Next meeting is September 7, 2016 at 1:00 pm at Waubonsie State Park in Hamburg, IA.

Adjournment – Chairman Bob Benton adjourned the meeting at 2:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary

