

Draft Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –June 7, 2017
Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Earl Hendrickson	Robert Benton	Mark Shoemaker
Jeff Seago	Renea Anderson	Terry Lewis
Michelle Wodtke Franks	Linda Herman	Rich Pope
Scott Belt	Graham McGaffin	Whitney Reimers
Craig Patterson	Jerry Self	Jeff Franco
Ed Cambridge	Alan Dale	Dawn Snyder
John Straight	Nick Beeck	Tim Peters
Paul Moorhead	Patty McCall	Tammy Bramley

Chairman Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:04 pm, with a quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Robert Benton to approve the March 1, 2017 Minutes. Motion carried.

AGENDA: A change was needed for the June 7, 2017 Board of Directors Agenda. Under “Old Business”, “Loess Hills Heritage Week-Dawn Snyder” was added. A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Dawn Snyder to amend the June 7, 2017 Board of Directors Agenda. A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Michelle Wodtke Franks to approve the amended June 7, 2017 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: \$898.67

Stewardship Funds: \$17,648.07

Economic Development Funds: \$8,325.42

Executive Committee Cash Balance: \$20,481.51

Total Special Projects Balance: \$54,807.82

Total FY2016-2017 New and Current Budget Balances by Committee as of 6/2/17 is \$225,706.06.

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds at 6/2/2017 is \$126,519.00.

Total Fund Account Balance Funds: \$126,519.00 with 301 current assets.

A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Terry Lewis to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope presented the Executive Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Rich reported that the Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development and the Loess Hills Alliance will be addressed for approval at the next LHA Full Board meeting on September 6, 2017.

Protection Committee – Graham McGaffin presented the Protection Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Graham reported that the Protection Committee met on May 3, 2017. The Protection Committee has decided to go through with the August RFP application process if future funding is available.

Stewardship Committee – Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Stewardship Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Michelle reported that Nicholas Salick and Jake Holt were not available to present their PL Position reports. The Stewardship Committee would like to prioritize any funding available to help sponsor the Private Land Positions. The Prairie Seminar had a very good turnout. Andrea Porter, Loess Hills Prairie Seminar Coordinator did a great job. Michelle reported that the LHA logo was seen several times.

Economic Development Committee -Renea Anderson presented the Economic Development Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Renea stated that the Economic Development Committee met on June 5, 2017, 10:00 AM at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center in Missouri Valley. The Loess Hills full page ad and the Loess Hills 1/3 to 1/2 page ad next to it will be continued in the Travel Iowa Visitors Guide. The Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Truck Wrap of the Loess Hills is still traveling around the country, but is at the end of its' second year. Hand written thank you cards are being received from the Lucky I Prize winners for the Our Iowa magazine. The Lucky I Prize highlights each of the 7 Loess Hills Counties and good feedback has been received.

A motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Linda Herman to accept the Committee Reports. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

2017-18 Budget: The State funding for the Loess Hills Alliance has been cut from \$150,000.00 to \$40,000.00 and was put under Agriculture Natural Resources line item. Only 10% (\$4,000.00) of the Loess Hills Alliance allocation from the State Legislatures can be used for the Executive Committee overhead expenses.

Brent Olson Dedication Ceremony: The Brent Olson Memorial State Forest Visitor Center dedication will be held Thursday, June 8 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Loess Hills State Forest Head Quarters, Pisgah. Activities include a planting of a memorial tree by Brent's family on the grounds, a presentation of memorial artwork, commissioned by the Loess Hills Alliance, and a ribbon cutting/dedication of the center as the Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center.

Thank You Letters to Legislators for LHA Funding: Rich Pope and Renea Anderson sent out 24-26 thank you letters to the State Legislatures for the Loess Hills Alliance funding. Any contact with the State Legislatures from the Loess Hills Alliance members is welcomed.

Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that Iowa has many new staff changes. Kim Reynolds is the new Governor of Iowa and Adam Gregg is the new Lieutenant Governor of Iowa. The Iowa Legislatures' budget is 97 million short for the end of the June. The Iowa Legislatures may use the emergency funds to take care of the deficit. No report yet if Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey has received a new position in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Craig Patterson and Amy Campbell for all the work that they do for the future of the Loess Hills.

Loess Hills Heritage Week-Dawn Snyder: Dawn Snyder reported that the Loess Hills Heritage Week has been scheduled for the week of September 23rd - October 1, 2017. Activities are scheduled throughout the 7-county Loess Hills region. An educational poster contest for youth in the 7 Loess Hills counties of Iowa is being planned. The theme is "Living in the Loess" with 3 age groups; K-3, 4-6, and 7-12. The contest deadline is September 22, 2017. The first place winner from each division in each of the seven counties will receive a \$25.00 cash award and then the top 3 overall posters will receive an additional \$50.00 cash award. The Loess Hills Alliance will receive funds from the contest and then reissue the checks to the winners.

NEW BUSINESS:

Legislature State Funding: : During the LHA Executive Committee meeting on June 7, 2017, the LHA Executive Committee voted to recommend to the LHA Full Board an allocate of \$12,000.00 to Economic Development Committee, \$12,000.00 to Protection Committee, \$12,000.00 to Stewardship Committee and \$4,000.00 to Executive Committee. Approximately \$18,000.00-\$19,000.00 is needed to operate for the overhead expenses of the Executive Committee. The county funding helps fund Legislative Consultants, Craig Patterson and Amy Campbell. The LHA Stewardship Committee allocates \$30,000.00 to help fund Nicholas Salick and Jake Holt's Private Land Positions.

2017-18 LHA Spending Approval Process: A discussion was held concerning the LHA funding going towards land acquisitions. A report is being worked on concerning lands that the LHA has helped support and their Iowa tax role status. Going forward, the Loess Hills Full Board Committee would like to see that any funding that is allocated to not go towards land that is taken off of the Iowa tax role. A suggestion was made that the Iowa Code would need changed to say that all land acquisitions would need to stay on the Iowa tax role.

A Motion was made by Jeff Seago, seconded by Linda Herman to allocate \$12,000.00 to Economic Development Committee, \$12,000.00 to Protection Committee, \$12,000.00 to Stewardship Committee and \$4,000.00 to Executive Committee. Motion carried.

Announcements:

The 2017 Iowa Prairie Conference will be held on July 14-15 in Council Bluffs. Pre-registration is required. Bus tours will include the north, south, and central Loess Hills. Partners on the Prairie Brush removal at Vincent Bluff State Preserve will be held on July 13, 2017.

Next Meeting: September 6, 2017 at 1:00 PM Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Graham McGaffin to adjourn the meeting at 2:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary