

Draft Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –September 6, 2017
Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Earl Hendrickson	Robert Benton	Mark Shoemaker
Jeff Seago	Renea Anderson	Brett Bengard
Michelle Wodtke Franks	Linda Herman	Cyndi DeRocher
Jeff Franco	Rich Pope	Dorrine Norby
Dawn Snyder	Tim Sproul	Vicki Ritz
John Straight	Nick Beeck	Sue Maiwald
Paul Moorhead	Patty McCall	Brent Berry
Nancy Berry		

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 Dawn Snyder, seconded by John Straight to approve the June 7, 2017 Minutes. Motion carried.

AGENDA: A change was needed for the September 6, 2017 Board of Directors Agenda. Under “Old Business”, “Craig Pattterson/LHA Lobbyist” was added. A motion was made by Michelle Wodtke Franks, seconded by Mark Shoemaker to approve the amended September 6, 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: \$12,898.67

Stewardship Funds: \$32,304.25

Economic Development Funds: \$13,995.42

Executive Committee Funds: \$7,056.51

Total Executive/Board Reserve Funds: \$95,373.36

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds at 8/25/2017 is \$163,712.00.

Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/18 is \$163,712.00 with 825 current assets.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope presented the Executive Committee Report to the Full Board Members. An educational Loess Hills Poster Contest will be held during the Loess Hills & Heritage Week for the youth in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade that reside in one of the seven counties within the Loess Hills Region of Iowa. Cash awards will be received for the winners and the deadline for the contest is September 22, 2017. Rich Pope thanked the Counties for the prize funding. The winning posters will be announced on October 2nd and put on display.

Protection Committee – Rich Pope presented the Protection Committee report to the Full board Members. Rich reported that the RFP for 2017 Protection Committee funding has been sent out for distribution. The Scoring Committee are looking at Source Water Protection as one of the possible projects for consideration for the grant. Applications must be received by October 6, 2017.

Stewardship Committee – Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Stewardship Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Michelle reported that Nicholas Salick and Jake Holt presented their updates to the Stewardship Committee. Nicholas Salick was represented in the August 2017 issue of Corn & Soybean Digest working with Precision Ag Projects. The Stewardship Committee obligated \$15,000.00 for SWCD PL Position (Jake Holt) and \$15,000.00 for SWCD PL Position (Nicholas Salick) FY18-19. Michelle stated that Governor, Kim Reynolds signed the Loess Hills & Heritage Week Proclamation on Thursday, August 24, 2017. Loess Hills & Heritage Week will be held on September 23, 2017 thru October 1, 2017 with activities scheduled throughout the 7-county Loess Hills region.

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 Monday, August 28, 2017, 10:00 AM at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center in Missouri Valley. The RVing, Motorcycling, and Birding brochures are being reprinted. The 2017 Iowa Tourism Conference will be held on October 25-27, 2017 in Sioux City, IA. A booth will be set up at the Iowa Tourism Conference to display the RVing, Motorcycling, and Birding brochures and the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebooks. The Executive Committee allocated \$500.00 to help support the LHA booth at the Iowa Tourism Conference. Renea presented the Loess Hills Alliance Economic Development Committee FY 2017 Annual Report to the LHA Full Board Members.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Craig Patterson/LHA Lobbyist: During the Executive Committee meeting, Lobbyist, Craig Patterson presented the State Legislature report. The State Legislatures cannot close FY2017 with a 105 Million dollar deficit. The Governor and the Legislatures are trying to avoid making special cuts. 50 Million dollars can be moved out of the emergency funds to help with the deficit. Some of the issues that the Legislatures will be working on in the future is tax reform and water quality.

NEW BUSINESS:

LHA Protection Project Review : At this time, Rich Pope stated that the report concerning lands that the LHA has helped support and their Iowa tax role status is still in process. The report will present the years from 2010 to present.

Loess Hills State Forest "Friends of the LHSF": Jeff Seago presented the "Friends of the Loess Hills State Forest" report to the Full Board Members. This group would help organize garner support, hold educational opportunities and raise grant money for possible projects throughout the LHSF. The IDNR has limitations on what it can do as far as social media, etc. 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. Insurance, Liability, and tax issues will need to be considered and the "Friends of the LHSF" group would need to have the same beliefs and follow the LHA Mission Statement. An ad hoc Committee was created to study the "Friends of the LHSF" subject. The new ad hoc Committee members are Rich Pope, Linda Herman, Renea Anderson, Dawn Snyder, Michelle Wodtke Franks, and Liaison member Jeff Seago. The ad hoc Committee will meet on the 3rd week of October.

Announcements:

Several members of the Back Country Horsemen of Iowa were guests of the September 6th LHA Full Board meeting. The Back Country Horsemen of Iowa are a volunteer group that helps with the restoration of the Loess Hills State Forest trails and stated that they would help the Loess Hills Alliance if needed.

The Loess Hills Alliance received a thank you note from Kelsey Flemming, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist for attending the Iowa Prairie Conference.

Next Meeting: December 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 Michelle Wodtke Franks to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary

