



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson  
Visitor's Center – Pisgah, IA  
Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:31 AM, Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah, IA by Chairman, Rich Pope with quorum declared. Introductions were made and the travel sheet was signed.

Those present at today's meeting: Rich Pope, Dawn Snyder, Renea Anderson, Graham McGaffin, Jeff Seago, Bob Benton, Tammy Bramley, Nic Salick, Jake Holt, and Lance Brisbois.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the February 6, 2019 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Dawn Snyder to approve the March 6, 2019 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Executive Committee Members. The Bills Paid Report showed that Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$17.30 for 1099 Filing, and Loess Hills State Forest was paid \$5,413.06 for FY18 Cooperative Burn Week. Total checks paid were \$5,841.04 with one transfer. Total checking account balance for January 30, 2019 through February 19, 2019 is \$21,124.15.

Total Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover:

Protection: \$5,500.00

Stewardship: \$7,000.00

Economic Development: \$8,293.30

Executive Committee: (\$822.76)

Executive/Board Reserve Funds: \$96,272.03

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Funds as of 02/28/19 is \$226,991.00 with Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/19 is \$226,991.00 with 375 Other Current Assets.

A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Graham McGaffin to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Stewardship:** Nic Salick reported that 50,000 was allocated through the State Wildlife Grant (SWG). This funding will be used towards cedar clearing in Monona, Pottawattamie, and Harrison Counties (within the Loess Hills landform). There will be 3 CRP Mid-Contract Management Workshops to be held in March, 2019. These workshops are intended to guide land managers and decision makers through the process of their required mid-contract management for land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.

March 14th-Onawa Community Center, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

March 21st-Underwood, UMBA Hall, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

March 28th-Logan Community Center, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

An article from The Valley News on “Iowa Pheasants Forever Awards Loess Hills Alliance 2019 Partner of the Year” was presented to the Executive Committee. A handout concerning sericea lespedeza was also presented to the Executive Committee. Options available for control of this invasive species include management, mechanical, and chemical methods. With the shortfall of funding for the Loess Hills Alliance, other partners are in negotiations for funding Nic and Jake’s PL Positions. Jeff Seago proposed to the Stewardship Committee to add “\$7000.00 Funding Allocation to help support the PL Positions, Jake Holt and Nic Salick” on the Agenda for the next Stewardship meeting on May 1, 2019.

**Protection:** Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met on February 6, 2019. A request for \$4,500.00 to help fund the Conservation Corps Iowa for restoration work on the Hanson property, project lead Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and a request for \$10,000.00 for prairie restoration on the Christensen farm, project lead Iowa DNR Loess Hills State Forest were both approved by the Protection Committee. Total RFP Grant funding allocated was \$14,450.00 with the remaining \$5,500.00 left to obligate or carryover.

**Economic:** Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development meeting on Monday, March 4th was postponed to March 11, 2019. The March 11, 2019 meeting will be held at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center in Missouri Valley at 10:00 am.

A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Dawn Snyder to accept the Committee Reports. Motion Carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Meeting with Legislature:** Rich Pope, Bob Benton, and Renea Anderson met with the Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Iowa State Capitol. The meeting went really well with good positive comments. A photo of Rich, Bob, and Renea with the Legislatures was shown to the Executive Committee Members. The Legislatures were interested in visiting some of the projects that the Loess Hills Alliance has funded. A thank you letter will be sent to the Legislatures with the dates of the dedication of Brent Olson's Trail and the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar.

**Board Membership by County:** The Executive Committee discussed the Loess Hills Alliance Board Membership listing. The seven LHA County Auditors emailed the Loess Hills Alliance secretary, Jeannette Riesberg the 2019 LHA County Board Appointments information. Thirteen Loess Hills Alliance Board Members are needed for a quorum for the Full Board meetings. At this time, there is a shortage of Directors and Alternates from Mills and Fremont Counties.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2019 LHA Officer Positions-Elections:** The 2019 LHA Officer Nominating Committee is John Straight, Linda Herman, and Rich Pope. The Loess Hills Alliance Secretary three year Officer Position term, Patty McCall, is up for re-election. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Patty McCall for her service. McCall has been nominated for the Loess Hills Alliance At-Large Officer Position. The 2019 LHA Officer Positions will be voted on this afternoon at the LHA Full Board meeting.

**Annual Audit Report:** Loess Hills Alliance Chairman, Rich Pope presented the Loess Hills Alliance Annual Audit report to the Executive Committee Members.

**Funding for the 2019 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar:** FY2018 the Loess Hills Alliance allocated \$2000.00 for the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. The State Legislatures valued the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar and had good comments. Nic Salick will prepare a presentation for the 2019 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. Approximately 200 people or more attend the annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. The 2019 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup> through June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Robert Benton to allocate \$2,000.00 from the Executive/Board Reserve Funds to help fund the 2019 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. Motion Carried.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Jeff Seago announced that there will be a dedication for Brent Olson's Trail on June 8, 2019. "Friends of the Loess Hills Group" will host this event with the help from Harrison County Conservation Board, Loess Hills State Forest, and the Loess Hills Alliance. More information concerning the dedication will be announced at the next Executive Committee meeting on May 1, 2019.

A letter from Corinne Noonan campaigning for cleaner energy in the Midwest was read to the Executive Committee. The group is looking at the detrimental impacts of food-based biofuels and urging political candidates to reject food-based biofuels as viable solutions to climate change. The Executive Committee decided to not participate in this campaign.

**ADJOURN** A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Renea Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 AM.

**Next Meeting** May 1, 2019 at Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah at 10:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted by  
Jeannette Riesberg