



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills State Forest
Headquarters – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, March 1, 2017**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:54 AM, Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah, IA by Chairman, Robert Benton with quorum declared. Introductions were made and the travel sheet was signed.

Those present at today's meeting: Robert Benton, Cara Morgan, Linda Herman, Renea Anderson, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Patty McCall, Terry Lewis, Herman Schultz, Graham McGaffin, Glenn Pollock, Tim Sproul, and Rich Pope.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve the December 7, 2016 LHA Executive Committee Minutes and the February 1, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: Loess Hills Alliance Chairman, Robert Benton declared the approval of the March 1, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report. The Bills Paid Report showed that Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$5000.00 for 2017 IA Prairie Conference Sponsorship, IEDA was paid \$5,550.00 for 2017 IA Travel Guide, Our IA Magazine was paid \$332.00 for 1/6 vertical page ad-Feb/March 2017 issue, and Schroer & Associates, P.C. was paid \$350.00 for Preparation of Fed & State Income Tax 990s-2017. Total checks paid were \$11,726.43. Total checking account balance for January 27, 2017 through February 15, 2017 is \$19,659.09.

Total Committee Open Funds To Obligate or Carryover:

Protection: \$898.67

Stewardship: \$25,435.48

Economic Development: \$11,312.42

Executive Committee Cash Balance: \$28,806.22

Total Special Projects Balance: \$54,807.82

Total FY2016-2017 Budget Balances by Committee as of 2/15/17 is \$317,223.00.

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed unobligated Funds as of 02/15/17 is \$128,469.00 with Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/17 is \$135,517.00.

The Economic Development Committee's Open Funds of \$11,312.42 will be set aside for the reprinting of the Loess Hills Scenic Byway Guidebooks. After allocating \$2,500.00 for the 2017 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar and allocating \$6,000.00 FY17 to help expand the Loess Hills Nature School at Hitchcock Nature Center, the Stewardship Committee Open Funds will be approximately \$16,935.48.

A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Patty McCall to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Glenn Pollock presented the Stewardship Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Glenn reported that \$6,000.00 was allocated FY17 to help expand the Loess Hills Nature School at the Hitchcock Nature Center and \$2,500.00 was allocated for the 2017 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. The two Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist PL Positions' Grants for Jake Holt and for Nicholas Salick have been completed and signed. There is some unobligated funds available from FY13-14 for cedar removal and timber stand improvement through the AGO, 90% cost share program. Jack Phillips presented the Loess Hills Nature School 2016-17 report to the Stewardship Committee. A 3 day treat will be held for several artist from the Bemis Center in Omaha, NE in May. A saunter will be held at Gleason-Huble Wildlife Area-Harrison County and then continue on to Denison-Crawford County in March. Ideas were discussed on how to get the local public involved in the Loess Hills Nature School.

Protection: No report at this time. Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee did not meet.

Economic: Renea Anderson presented the Economic Development report to the Executive Committee members. The January stats for the visitloesshills.org website were 1,173 visits with 85.25% new visits and 2,172 page views. The report showed the visitor, United States, with 907 Sessions (77.32%). The January stats for the loesshillsalliance.com website were 183 visits with 84.15% new visits and 234 page views. The report showed the international visitor, Russia, with 95 Sessions (51.91%). Both the visit Loess Hills and the Loess Hills Alliance websites are updated. If any changes are needed for the websites, please email the information to Golden Hills RC & D. Thank you cards are still being received from the Lucky I Prize winners for the Our Iowa magazine. The Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Truck Wrap of the Loess Hills is still traveling around the country. The Loess Hills Guidebook photo and a Ken West photo from Hitchcock Nature Center was shown in the Travel Iowa Guide. The Feb/March Our Iowa magazine issue featured a photo (a pasture of Red Angus cattle) from Harrison County. A suggestion was made to hold a Loess Hills photo contest to promote the Loess Hills.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

REAP Alliance: Tom Hazelton and Joe McGovern are Co-chairman for the Iowa REAP Alliance. In their last meeting, the Iowa REAP Alliance allocated \$10,000 towards Iowa's Water & Land Legacy (IWILL) campaign. The IWILL Coalition will be in Des Moines on April 11, 2017. REAP Day at the Capital will be held on March 29, 2017. A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Patty McCall to appoint Rich Pope and Robert Benton as the contacts for the REAP Alliance. Motion carried.

Brent Olson Memorial: The Brent Olson Memorial sign that was made by Jeff Davis from Woodbine, Iowa was shown to the Executive Committee Members. The LHA Members were impressed by the workmanship of Jeff Davis. A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Patty McCall to allocate \$400.00 to pay Jeff Davis for the Brent Olson Memorial sign. Motion carried.

Day on the Hill: The Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill will be held on Monday, March 13, 2017 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda. At least one person from each County is encouraged to come to the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill. Members are encouraged to talk with all Legislatures about the Loess Hills for the future of the Loess Hills Alliance. Treats will be provided, name tags will be made, wear LHA shirts if possible, and a car pool to Des Moines will be in place.

LHA Authority Appointee: At this time the Executive Committee decided to surface names for the LHA Authority Appointee and also have alternate names available. The Loess Hills Development & Conservation Authority meeting has been postponed until March 17, 2017. The LHA Authority Appointee discussion will be tabled until the next LHA Executive Committee meeting on May 3, 2017. This issue will be discussed at the Full Board meeting on March 1, 2017.

Special Projects Funding: At this time, there were approximately 10 "Sponsored by the Loess Hills Alliance" signs found in different locations. Each of the Committees are in need of some of those signs:

Stewardship Committee-5

Graham McGaffin-2

Tim Sproul-2

The Executive Committee decided to proceed and order more signs for future use.

NEW BUSINESS

New Signatory: Due to Renea Anderson being the only signee for the Loess Hills Alliance, a backup signee is needed. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Renea Anderson to appoint the Loess Hills Chairman to be another signee. Motion carried.

Legislature Update: The Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill will be held on Monday, March 13, 2017 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda. All LHA Members are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Events: The Iowa Prairie Conference will be held at the Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs on July 14 - 15, 2017.

The 2017 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 2-4, 2017.

The Loess Hills & Heritage Week will be held on September 23, 2017 thru October 1, 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Michelle Wodtke Franks introduced Cara Morgan as a new employee for Golden Hills RC & D to the Executive Committee. We welcome Cara to the LHA Executive Committee.

Golden Hills RC & D is working on a quarterly digital LHA Newsletter. The Newsletter will be on Facebook and the LHA Websites. Hard copies of the newsletter will be used for public outreach.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Renea Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 PM.

Next Meeting May 3, 2017 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah at 10:30am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg, LHA Office Secretary