



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DRAFT MINUTES  
Loess Hills State Forest  
Headquarters – Pisgah, IA  
Wednesday, June 7, 2017**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:41 AM, Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, 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, Robert Benton, Rocky DeWitt, Linda Herman, Renea Anderson, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Mary Lou Goettsch, Patty McCall, Terry Lewis, Graham McGaffin, and Craig Patterson.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** A motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the May 3, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Minutes.  
Motion Carried.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** A change was needed on the June 7, 2017 Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee Agenda. Under "New Business", "Golden Hills & LHA Agreement" was added. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Robert Benton to approve the amended June 7, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Agenda.  
Motion Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report. Anderson stated that the LHA phone has been closed out. The Bills Paid Report showed that Pheasants Forever was paid \$30,000.00 for the two LH Farm Bill Biologists FY17 Invoices, Our IA Magazine was paid \$664.00 for 1/6 vertical page ad-June/July; Aug/Sept 2017 issues and \$1,992.00 for 6 ads Oct 2017-Sept 2018, National Guard of Iowa was paid \$700.00 for the 2017 June, Sept, Dec & March 2018, and IEDA Foundation was paid \$3,350.00 for the 2017 Coop Package. Total checks paid were \$31,912.24 with one transfer. Total checking account balance for April 26, 2017 through June 2, 2017 is \$54,692.56.

Total Committee Open Funds To Obligate or Carryover:

Protection: \$898.67

Stewardship: \$17,648.07

Economic Development: \$8,325.42

Executive Committee Cash Balance: \$20,481.51

Total Special Projects Balance: \$54,807.82

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

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed unobligated Funds as of 6/2/17 is \$126,519.00 with Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/17 is \$126,519.00 with 301 Other Current Assets.

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Stewardship:** Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Stewardship Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Franks reported that Nicholas Salick and Jake Holt were not available to present their PL Position reports and Jack Phillips was not available to present the Loess Hills Nature School report. The Stewardship Committee would like to prioritize any funding available to help sponsor the Private Land Positions. The Stewardship Committee will explore some Grant opportunities to help support the Private Land Positions.

**Protection:** Graham McGaffin presented the Protection Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Graham reported that the Protection Committee has decided to go through the August RFP process if future funding is available. The 2015 Rosie Hall Acquisition has been finalized and the check is ready. The Protection Committee Grant Cooperative Agreement for the Muller Conservation Easement has been signed and will be finalized by the end of the calendar year.

**Economic:** Renea Anderson presented the Economic Development report to the Executive Committee members. Anderson 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. Funding has been set aside to reprint the Motorcycling, RV ing, and Birding Brochures. The Loess Hills Scenic Byway Guidebooks will be reprinted at a later time. The Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Truck Wrap has been seen. Hand written thank you cards are being received from the Lucky I Prize winners for the Our Iowa magazine. Woodbury County presented the Lucky I Prize \$100.00 gift donation this month. The Lucky I Prize highlights each of the 7 Loess Hills Counties and good feedback has been received.

A Motion was made by Robert Benton, seconded by Graham McGaffin 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. The LHA did not receive any funding from the State Legislatures in 2003. Approximately \$18,000.00-\$19,000.00 is needed to operate for the overhead of the Executive Committee. Only 10% of the Loess Hills Alliance allocation from the State Legislatures can be used for the Executive Committee overhead expenses. The Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee makes the final decision on how funding is allocated.

**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.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2017-18 LHA Spending Approval Process:** Options for the 2017-18 LHA spending approval process were presented to the Executive Committee.

(A) Carryover funds that each committee has now are left at the discretion of the various committees, and of the new monies, each of the three work committees (Stewardship, Protection, and Economic Development) will receive 6 thousand dollars of new money, with the remainder 22 thousand for overhead of the Executive committee.(amounts debatable)

(B) Carryover funds are left with each committee as above, with all new monies held for distribution by review of the Executive Committee. In a sense, the work committees can nominate projects, with each allowed pending approval of the Executive.

(C) All Extant funds (carryover and new) are pulled back with new projects needing approval of the Executive Committee.

(D) Other Option

A Motion was made by Robert Benton, seconded by Patty McCall 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 and to use the rainy day funding for any extra Executive Committee overhead expenses. Motion carried.

**Golden Hills & LHA Agreement:** The Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development and The Loess Hills Alliance ends June 30, 2017. Golden Hills RC & D provides many services for the Loess Hills Alliance. For example; Completes financial reporting duties for IRS and State of Iowa, provides cash and budget bookkeeping services with issuance of checks on a biweekly schedule, presents quarterly budget summary and financial report of activities to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, etc. The total budget under this agreement is \$8,750.00. A Motion was made by Terry Lewis, seconded by Patty McCall to consider the motion for continuing services from Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development (that was not on the agenda for the June meeting 24 hours in advance of the meeting per state funding requirements), with the stipulation that we address this issue for approval at the next LHA Full Board meeting. Motion carried. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Graham McGaffin to recommend to the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board to continue the service agreement with Golden Hills RC & D at \$8,750.00. Motion carried. More discussion will be held concerning the Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills RC & D and Loess Hills Alliance at the next LHA Executive Committee meeting on August 2, 2017.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ADJOURN** A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Terry Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 AM.

**Next Meeting** August 2, 2017 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah at 1:00 PM..

Respectfully Submitted by  
Jeannette Riesberg, LHA Office Secretary

