



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, November 1, 2017**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:00 PM, Wednesday, November 1, 2017 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, Linda Herman, Rocky DeWitt, Graham McGaffin, Nic Salick, Jake Holt, Tammy Bramley, Renea Anderson, Bob Benton, Michelle Wodtke Franks, and Jeff Seago.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the September 6, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A change was needed to the November 1, 2017 Executive Committee Agenda. Under "New Business", "Annual Reports and Provide Maps for Counties-Discussion" was added. A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve the amended November 1, 2017 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 IEDA Foundation was paid \$500.00 for Exhibit Space-2017 Tourism Conference, the Sioux City Journal Communications was paid \$780.00 for the Visitor Guide Ad, and Golden Hills-Loess Hills Nature School was paid \$500.00 for the LH Nature School Summer. Total checks paid were \$4,294.85 with no transfers. Total checking account balance for September 6, 2017 through October 25, 2017 is \$22,312.44.

Total Executive Reserve Funds to Obligate or Carryover is \$6,067.14.
Executive/Board Reserve Funds: \$95,373.36

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Nic Salick presented the Stewardship Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Nic reported that he and Jake Holt both had great landowner contacts for this quarter. Landowners in Pottawattamie County were approved for AGO funding and began restoring remnant prairies by doing cedar removal. CRP workshops and field tours were held in Montgomery & Page Counties. Jack Phillips presented a report on the Loess Hills Nature School. The activities through the Loess Hills Nature School documents plant and animal species. Funding for the Loess Hills Nature School will be discussed at a later date. Graham McGaffin presented a report on the 2017 Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week.

Protection: Graham McGaffin presented the Protection Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Graham reported that the Protection Committee received only one RFP grant application, City of Magnolia, project title “Magnolia Source Water Project”. The Scoring Committee (Scott Nelson and Jeff Seago) recommended to decline the City of Magnolia grant application because the application did not fall into the criteria of the 2017 Loess Hills Alliance Protection Committee Grant Application. The Protection grant application states that administration, operations, and maintenance expenses are not eligible. The Protection Committee decided to recommend to the LHA Executive Committee Members to help fund this project under the LHA Executive Committee Special Project Funds. Graham McGaffin will be contacting a representative from the City of Magnolia for more discussion.

Economic: Renea Anderson presented the Economic Development report to the Executive Committee members. Renea reported that the new RVing, Motorcycling, and Birding brochures have been printed and are distributed. Renea reported that she and Rich Pope attended the 2017 Iowa Tourism Conference and had a good response. The new map of the Loess Hills, made by Jeremy Butrick, was on display.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Loess Hills & Heritage Week-Update: Rich Pope reported that the Loess Hills Heritage Week was held on September 23rd - October 1, 2017. Some of the 7-county Loess Hills region moved their activities to accommodate the Loess Hills Heritage Week. Four of the Loess Hills Counties participated in the educational poster contest. The winners are in the process of getting their checks. Professor, John Liu from China had a very good turnout presenting at Briar Cliff University, University of Nebraska Omaha, East Middle School, and Hitchcock Nature Center. The Loess Hills Heritage Week committee will have a post-conference call in a week. Discussion that was held concerning LH Heritage Week was; the date works out good for LH Heritage Week, organize bus tours for next year, and a potential for a fund-raising event.

“Friends of the LHSF”-Update: Jeff Seago reported that the first project of the “Friends of the LHSF” will be an eight mile trail from Gleason-Hubel Wildlife Area to Murray Hill Scenic Overlook.

LHA Land Easement & Acquisition Activities-2010 to Present-Update: At this time the report concerning lands that the LHA has helped support and their Iowa tax role status is still in process.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Reports: At this time, the Executive and Stewardship Committees annual reports are due to Golden Hills RC & D by December 2017. Economic Development and Protection Committees' 2017 annual reports have been turned in.

Landfill & Loess Mining Activity-Northern Mills County: A Mills County landowner made a request for an extension on his mining activity near Folsom Point Preserve. The landowners' previous mining activity was suppose to be planted back to native habitat. At this time, the landowner is out of compliance and the extension permit was not approved.

Review & Approval of the LHA Audit & 990 Return: The LHA Audit & 990 Return was approved by the Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee Members and signed by the Loess Hills Executive Committee Chairman, Rich Pope.

Provide Maps for Counties-Discussion: A new map of the 7 Counties of the Loess Hills, made by Jeremy Butrick, was on display for the Executive Committee Members to look at. This map was also used at the 2017 Iowa Tourism Conference. Discussion that was held concerning the new map was; the I29 exchanges could be added to the map, putting the Iowa Welcome Centers on the map, provide a map to all 7 Loess Hills County Conservation Boards, and the cost would be approximately \$30.00 a map plus labor. This issue will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting on December 6, 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Loess Hills Alliance Board Director and Executive Committee Board Member, Terry Lewis is moving to Missouri and will be leaving the Loess Hills Alliance. Terry has enjoyed his time with the Loess Hills Alliance members. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Terry Lewis for all his support. A card for Terry Lewis will be passed around to sign at the next Loess Hills Alliance December meetings.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Linda Herman to adjourn the meeting at 1:58 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg