



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills State Forest
Headquarters – Pisgah, IA**

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:07 PM, Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah, IA by Chairman, Bob Benton. Introductions were made and the travel sheet was signed.

Those present at today's meeting: Bob Benton, Patty McCall, Linda Herman, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Terry Lewis, Graham McGaffin, and Rich Pope.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Terry Lewis to approve the September 7, 2016 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Patty McCall to approve the November 2, 2016 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Treasurer's Report to the LHA Executive Committee Members. The Bills Paid Report showed that Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$149.63 for FY17 1st Qtr. Guidebook mailings and \$2,340.00 for FY17 1st Qtr. Bookkeeping, Sioux City Journal Communications was paid \$780.00 for Visitor Guide ads, and Our Iowa Magazine was paid \$332.00 for the 1/6 Vertical Page Ad-Oct/Nov 2016 Issue. Total checks paid were \$4,772.56. Total checking account balance for August 30, 2016 through October 27, 2016 is \$17,468.99.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Rich Pope stated that the LHA Stewardship Committee had a good attendance at their November 2nd meeting (approximately 15 attendees). The Stewardship Committee appropriated \$6,000 towards The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center pending the availability of FY17 fundings. The Naturalist School is currently held at Hitchcock Nature Center in Pottawattamie County but would like to add another teaching site in the Loess Hills (Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center or Waubonsie State Park). Mike Evano presented the Little Sioux Scout Ranch Pollinator Habitat Project. The Stewardship Committee allocated \$1,500.00 to help fund the Educational signage for the Little Sioux Scout Ranch Pollinator Habitat Project. The LHA Quarterly Reports from Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Nicholas Salick and Jake Holt were very good and the Stewardship Committee made a suggestion to have the reports set out in the NRCS offices for the landowners to read. Both Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Nicholas Salick and Jake Holt have celebrated their 1 year anniversary with the Loess Hills Alliance.

Protection: The one Grant Application that was received was from The Nature Conservancy for the Muller (560-acre conservation easement) Raymond Muller Family Trust. The Grant Application met all the eligibility requirements and was scored by the Grant Scoring Committee (Rick Schneider, Brent Olson, and Scott Nelson) with an average score of 71. The Protection Committee made a recommendation to fund \$32,000 for the Muller (560-acre Conservation Easement) Trust pending the 2017 Protection Committee appropriations funding. The Protection Committee have been discussing a future Loess Hills Threatened & Endangered Species Documentation project. A suggestion was made to partner with citizen scientist or doing a small bioblitz for documentation of treated & endangered species. Graham McGaffin, Jake Holt, and Nic Salick will talk to the State Preserve Board concerning their RFP's for threatened & endangered species and report back to the Protection Committee for recommendations and guidelines.

Economic: Michelle Wodtke Franks reported that the Economic Development Committee did not receive any funding from the Iowa West Foundation Grant to help with the reprinting of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Guidebooks. The Motorcycling, RV ing, & Birding Brochures are in the process of being reprinted with the new updates. Michelle Wodtke Franks from Golden Hills RC & D was asked to help rebuild the www.visitloesshills.com website to become mobile-friendly. The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on December 5, 2016 at the Harrison County Welcome Center in Missouri Valley at 10:00 am.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Special Projects Funding: This issue will be tabled until the next LHA Executive Committee meeting on December 7, 2016.

Speakers/Topics For the December Full Board Meeting: Legislative Consultant, Craig Patterson will speak at the next Loess Hills Alliance Full Board meeting on December 7, 2016.

Nominating Committee: The LHA Nominating Committee, Bob Benton, Lynn Grobe, and Nick Beeck nominated these members for the Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee:

Rich Pope/Chairman
Bob Benton/Vice-Chairman
Patty McCall/Secretary
Brent Olson/Treasurer

At Large:
Renea Anderson
Terry Lewis
Linda Herman

Final Review/Board Manual: The final review of the Loess Hills Alliance Board Manual was passed out to the Executive Committee Members. The Board Manual will be presented to the LHA Full Board Members at the December 7, 2016 Full Board Meeting. An orientation for the newly elected LHA Full Board Members will be done before the March Full Board meeting. A power point presentation and a packet with the LHA Board Manual and brochures will be presented to them.

Participation/Attendance Board Members: Discussion that was held for Board Member Participation was:

If the LHA Board Member is not able to come to the LHA Full Board meetings, they should have their alternate Board Member come; to use texting as a reminder for the LHA meetings; and to RSVP back to the LHA secretary on whether or not the Board Member can come to the meetings. Michelle Wodtke Franks will send a reminder letter to each Full Board Member with their alternates' names concerning the December 7, 2016 Full Board Loess Hills Alliance meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Tom Dunne/Book: Tom Dunne is a specialist in collaborative problem solving and is in the process of writing a book about his own experiences in problem solving throughout the past 50 years. A number of years ago, Tom had facilitated a planning meeting of the Alliance Members and would like to include the story of that experience in his book. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Terry Lewis to accept the chapter of his book called “The Loess Hills Project” as was received on September 2016. Motion carried.

Siouxland Chamber: The Loess Hills Alliance was contacted to see if they would like to join the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce for recognition in the Siouxland Business Journal, displaying Loess Hills promotional literature, referrals for the Loess Hills Alliance and free advertising(1/4 ad) in the Siouxland Business Journal and \$400 worth of radio advertising. At this time, the LHA Executive Committee Members decided to not join the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce.

Flipcause/Joan Ramirez: The Loess Hills Alliance was contacted by Flipcause to see if they could help with fundraising(online donations, raffle ticketing, sponsorship registration, event registration/ticketing, online store, free website, Merchant Partnerships, etc.) for the Loess Hills Alliance nonprofit organization. At this time, the LHA Executive Committee Members decided to not use Flipcause for their fundraising.

2017 Legislative Outreach/Day on the Hill: Several options were discussed on what date to consider for the 2017 Day on the Hill.

02/06 Drake on the Hill

02/08 Professional Developers of Iowa Day on the Hill

02/16 STEM On the Hill(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

02/27 First Funnel Week

03/27 Second Funnel Week

The Executive Committee Members decided to schedule the 2017 Day on the Hill on March 13, 2017. A suggestion was made to have Jason Schultz sign a letter of invite to the legislatures for the 2017 Day on the Hill.

2016 Draft Annual Report: This issue will be tabled until the next LHA Executive Committee meeting on December 7, 2016.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Michelle Wodtke Franks reported that the Loess Hills Alliance Facebook page had 250 followers. Michelle will be working on a group twitter account, instagram, a Speakers Bureau, interaction with the public through drawings and prizes, and presentations of the History of the Loess Hills.

ADJOURN Chairman, Bob Benton adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.

Next Meeting To Be Announced

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg, LHA Office Secretary