



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, February 7, 2018**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:01 PM, Wednesday, February 7, 2018 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, Graham McGaffin, Renea Anderson, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Bob Benton, and Jeff Seago.

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

APPROVE AGENDA: A change was needed to the February 7, 2018 Executive Committee Agenda. Under "Old Business", "County Board Appointments" was added. A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve the amended February 7, 2018 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 Sioux City Journal was paid \$780.00 for Winter Visitors Guide, City of Magnolia was paid \$12,000.00 for Executive Grant-Well Pump, Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$31.76 for Postage/Printing 2nd Qtr FY18 and \$1,320.00 for Bookkeeping 2nd Qtr, and Western Iowa Tourism Region was paid \$39.18 for Guidebook Postage. Total checks paid were \$15,013.84 with one transfer. Total checking account balance for November 27, 2017 through February 1, 2018 is \$30,202.99.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Stewardship Committee report to the Executive Committee members. An update was received from Nicholas Salick for his Quarterly Loess Hills Alliance Report. Nic has been working with landowners on wetland projects. Jack Phillips will be reporting on the December 2017– June 2018 workshops at the May or June Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee meetings. Cooperative Burn Week has been set for March 19 - March 23rd. 900 acres of the Little Sioux Scout Ranch will be burned during Cooperative Burn Week. The Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee allocated \$5,413.06 to the IDNR for SWG-C Restoring Royalties Cooperative Burn Week. The Loess Hills Alliance will be working on talking points to distribute to the public, press releases, and social media outreach to promote the Loess Hills through Cooperative Burn Week. The Stewardship Committee recommended the LHA Executive Committee help fund the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. The Executive Committee decided that funding for the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be discussed at the next LHA Executive Committee meeting on March 7, 2018.

Protection: Graham McGaffin presented the Protection Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Graham reported that total Protection Committee Funds to Obligate is \$12,898.67. At this time, funding FY18/19 is unknown. The Protection Committee discussed whether to send out another RFP and/or micro- or mini-grant application this spring, to hold the funds for now and do another RFP in the fall, or merge with other LHA Committees for a larger funding appropriation. A conference call will be held with committee members concerning this issue before the March 7th LHA meetings. A suggestion was made by the Executive Committee to the Protection Committee to talk about good projects. The State Legislature does not want to see acquisitions being supported by the Loess Hills Alliance and if funding is cut off, the Loess Hills Alliance will be done.

Economic: Renea Anderson presented the Economic Development report to the Executive Committee members. Renea reported that the Economic Development Committee met will meet on Monday, March 5, 2018 at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center in Missouri Valley. Renea stated that funding for the Winter Visitors Guide and the Guidebook Postage has been paid. Thank you notes were received from a whole family that received the Lucky I Prize-Our Iowa Magazine from Harrison County.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Harrison County GIS Invoice: Renea reported that the Harrison County GIS invoice is \$350.00. Previously \$330.00 funding was asked for. A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the extra \$20.00 that is needed to fund the Harrison County GIS invoice. Motion approved.

LHA Day at the Capitol-Update: Previously the Executive Committee decided to schedule an informal day for the Loess Hills Alliance Members to visit with individual Legislature about the Loess Hills. Discussion was held on what day would work the best to meet with the State Legislature. Monday, February 12th is IWILL Day at the Capitol, Wednesday, March 14th is County Day at the Capitol, and Thursday, March 22nd is REAP Day at the Capitol. The Executive Committee decided to ask LHA lobbyist, Craig Patterson if March 13th date would work for the State Legislature.

A PDF of the 2017 LHA Annual Report will be emailed to the State Legislature and copies will be made for the LHA Members to take with them to the Iowa State Capitol.

County Board Appointments: The Executive Committee held a discussion concerning County Board Appointments. Due to LHA Fremont County Director, Terry Lewis, moving out of state, a new appointee for Fremont County LHA Director will be needed. The LHA Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg will email the seven LHA County Auditors for the 2018 LHA County Board Appointments information.

NEW BUSINESS

FY18 LHA Funding Update: The Iowa Governor, Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Senate have released their budgets. Reports from lobbyist, Craig Patterson is that the Loess Hills Alliance is vulnerable. More information will be available in March 2018. The Loess Hills Alliance members are encouraged to attend the Legislative Coffee's to promote the Loess Hills. The future of the Loess Hills Alliance is unknown if they are zero funded.

Establishing "Friends of the Loess Hills Group: This group would help organize garner support, hold educational opportunities and raise grant money for possible projects throughout the LHSF. The IDNR has limitations on what it can do as far as social media, etc. The LHA's 501c3 status could allow for funds to be collected and donations to be raised for things in the LHSF such as walking trails signage, a Bio Blitz, mapping, etc. The "Friends of the LHSF" group has the same beliefs and matches the LHA Mission Statement. A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Bob Benton to pursue establishing a "Friends of the Loess Hills State Forest" group and to present it to the Full Board Members for approval at the March 7th Full Board meeting. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rich Pope announced that he will not be able to attend the March 7, 2018 LHA Executive Committee meeting. Vice-Chairman, Bob Benton will conduct the LHA Executive and Full Board meetings on March 7th.

The Loess Hills Missouri River Region has been selected as the second region in Iowa by the Iowa Parks Foundation. The LH Missouri River Region received a pledge of \$500,000.00 from the MidAmerican Energy Foundation to be used as part of a 5:1 match for projects in Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Mills counties as identified in the Parks to People plan for this area. A press conference was held on January 19th with Governor, Kim Reynolds to announce the pledge and the state designation. A brochure of the Loess Hills Missouri River Region was passed around for the Executive Committee Members to look at.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Graham McGaffin to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 PM.

Next Meeting March 7, 2018 at Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah at 10:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg