



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DRAFT MINUTES  
Loess Hills State Forest  
Headquarters – Pisgah, IA  
Wednesday, August 2, 2017**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:06 PM, Wednesday, August 2, 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, Linda Herman, Renea Anderson, Graham McGaffin, Bob Benton, Cara Morgan, Jeff Seago and John Straight.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** A motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the June 7, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** A motion to add Lobbyist Report to Old Business was made by Bob Benton and seconded by Linda Herman. A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by McGaffin to add Letter to LHA Auditors, Year End Reports, LHA Protection Project Review Report, and Financial Reminder for Committees to New Business. All ayes. A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the August 2, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Renea Anderson presented the Bills Paid Report. It included that Plymouth County Conservation had been paid \$986 (that amount closed out the Bequeath Funds), Long Lines for \$10.38 to close out the phone account that has been cancelled, Sioux City Journal for \$780 for a Visitors Guide ad, IEDA for \$5,550 for the 2018 Iowa travel guide, Council Bluffs, CVB for \$1,450 for a full page ad in the FY18 travel guide, Western Iowa Tourism Region for \$384.74 for guidebook mailings, Web Graphics for \$1,966.59 for 4<sup>th</sup> reprinting of the RVing, Birding, and Motorcycling brochures, Golden Hills for \$15.19 for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter postage. Total checks paid were \$14,715.80 with no transfers being needed at this time. Total checking account balance for June 5, 2017 through July 25, 2017 is \$39,976.76.

Anderson reminded those present that the \$12,000 that was awarded to each committee needed to be used with the understanding that Legislature may take it back if they attempt to balance the State's budget. Any contracts or agreements need to have a statement

included that explains if the money is “de-allocated” by the State, the LHA agreement (s) would be nullified.

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Stewardship:** The morning meeting was cancelled. Rich Pope informed the group that the Prairie Seminar had gone well. Plans are already underway for next year's event. Graham McGaffin talked about the Iowa Prairie Conference, that the Economic Development Committee gave \$5,000 to, was also well attended with approximately 175 people from Illinois, Eastern Iowa, etc. It was the first time that the Prairie Conference had been held in this area since 2007 or 2008. Both events had good attendance and great comments were received. Some properties shown at the Prairie Conference had been directly impacted by the LHA. Nick and Jake were there and have been very active. Rich Pope will begin to forward the reports from Nick & Jake to the Executive Committee as they come in.

**Protection:** Graham McGaffin presented the Protection Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Graham reported that the Protection Committee has decided to go RFP process with a similar timeline as in previous years. The Protection Committee will proceed with an email vote to finalize who will be on the scoring committee. They are looking at Source Water Protection as one of the possible projects for consideration for the grant.

**Economic:** Renea Anderson presented the Economic Development report to the Executive Committee members. The three brochures for RVing, Motorcycling, and Birding are being reprinted and their popularity continues to grow. The main Loess Hills Guidebook will also need to be reprinted soon and the committee has been encouraged to make note of any changes that will need to be made. Anderson worked with Graham McGaffin to help WITC and their Learning for Life group have a tour of the Loess Hills. The WITCC contact was very pleased and wants to work with Anderson on more tours for the future.

**Executive Committee:** Rich Pope talked with Jeff Seago & the committee chairs present about a “Friends of the Loess Hills State Forest” group to be organized to 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 501 © 3 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. Jeff Seago was asked by the committee to put together a proposal for the September LHA Exec and Full board meetings.

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

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Cooperative Agreement between LHA and Golden Hills:** The agreement with Golden Hills RC & D to act as fiscal agent and continue with the same contract as in previous years was agreed to on a motion by Renea Anderson, seconded by Bob Benton. All ayes.

**Lobbying Report:** A report has been filed with the State of Iowa about the LHA and our lobbyist as is needed to be recorded annually.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Letter to LHA County Auditors:** Rich Pope handed out a draft letter to all Auditors in the 7 county LHA region to ask them to post the all LHA committee meeting agendas including Full Board, Executive, Economic Development, Stewardship, and Protection. He will send it by regular US Mail.

**Year End Reports:** Rich Pope asked that all committee reports for FY16-17 be turned in by September 15, 2017.

**LHA Protection Project Review:** Rich Pope gave an update on the report and is gathering data for the September Full Board meeting.

**Financial Reminder:** Rich Pope reiterated the treasurer's remarks about the need to be fiscally aware of the fact that our funding may be revoked as part of the attempt to balance the State's budget shortfall. All committees were cautioned about using the \$12,000 allocated to them and to make sure any agreements entered into reflected that potential issue.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ADJOURN** A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Graham McGaffin to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 PM.

**Next Meeting** September 6, 2017 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah at 10:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted by  
Renea Anderson