



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:03 PM, Wednesday, February 6, 2019 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, Dawn Snyder, Graham McGaffin, Jeff Seago, Bob Benton, Tammy Bramley, and Michelle Wodtke Franks.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Bob Benton to approve the December 5, 2018 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried. Tammy Bramley abstained.

APPROVE AGENDA: Under "New Business", the "Planning for Grant Opportunities/PL Positions" discussion was added. A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Tammy Bramley to approve the amended February 6, 2019 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rich Pope presented the Treasurer's Report to the Executive Committee Members. The Bills Paid Report showed that Schroer & Associates, P.C. was paid \$350.00 for Preparation of Federal & State Income Tax 990's-2018, Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$118.50 for 2nd Qtr. Postage/Printing/Website and \$882.00 for FY19 2nd Qtr. Bookkeeping, and Western Iowa Tourism Region was paid \$28.41 for Invoice #4446. Total checks paid were \$2,171.98 with no transfers. Total checking account balance for November 28, 2018 through January 29, 2019 is \$6,965.19.

A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Dawn Snyder to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Graham McGaffin reported that Nic Salick and Jake Holt presented their PL Position Reports to the Stewardship Committee. Both reports were very good.

Protection: Graham McGaffin reported that there was 2 RFP Grant Applications received.

First Application: A request for \$4,500.00 to help fund the Conservation Corps Iowa for restoration work on the 72-acre Hanson property (Monona Complex). Project title is Monona Complex Vegetation Management, project lead is the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

Second Application: A request for \$10,000.00 to restore approximately 121 acres of Loess Hills mid-grass prairie that has been encroached upon by eastern red cedar and deciduous woody plants. Project title is Christensen Farm Prairie Restoration, project lead is the Iowa DNR Loess Hills State Forest.

The Protection Committee voted and approved \$4,500.00 funding for the Monona Complex Vegetation Management project and \$10,000.00 funding for the Christensen Farm Prairie Restoration project. Options were discussed by the Executive Committee for the remaining Protection Committee Fund Balance of \$5,500.00.

Economic: No Report at this time.

Chairman, Rich Pope accepted the Committee Reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

LHA Day on the Hill-Update; Legislative Status Regarding Funding; Allocation Process for LHA: At this time, a Day on the Hill has not been set. Rich Pope, Bob Benton, and Renea Anderson will meet with the Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Iowa State Capitol. More information concerning the LHA Day on the Hill will be discussed at the next LHA Full Board meeting on March 6, 2019.

Board Membership by County: The LHA Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg will email the seven LHA County Auditors for the 2019 LHA County Board Appointments information. "Board Membership by County" discussion will be held at the next LHA Full Board meeting on March 6, 2019.

Nominating Committee: The 2019 LHA Officer Nominating Committee is John Straight, Jeff Seago, and Rich Pope. The 2019 LHA Officer Positions will be voted on at the next LHA Full Board meeting on March 6, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning for Grant Opportunities/PL Positions: Last year each Committee was allocated \$7,000.00, with the remainder going to the Executive Committee to use the reserve funds as needed. Grant funding or private funding is needed to help fund the PL Positions, Jake Holt and Nic Salick and for Cooperative Burn Week. A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Dawn Snyder to seek other Grant funding to help support the Loess Hills Alliance. Letters of support from the LHA partners, the PF/QF Farm Bill Biologist reports from Jake Holt and Nic Salick, landowner contacts, and outreach events or articles can be used to help with the writing of Grant Applications for Loess Hills Alliance funding. Graham McGaffin, Rich Pope, and Glenn Pollock will help with the writing of the Grant applications.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rich Pope was present to receive the 2019 Partner of the Year award presented to the Loess Hills Alliance from Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever in Iowa. A thank you was received for all the support the Loess Hills Alliance has provided to the Iowa PF/QF Farm Bill Biologist Program. The plaque will be displayed at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center. A news release will be sent to all 7 Loess Hills County Newspapers.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Dawn Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 PM.

Next Meeting March 6, 2019 at Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah at 10:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg