

Meeting Draft Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –December 1, 2021
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Dawn Snyder-Director	Renea Anderson-Director	Graham McGaffin-Director
Patty McCall-Director	Jeremy Taylor	Scott Belt-Director
Rich Pope-Director	John Straight-Director	
Bob Benton-Director	Jeff Seago-Director	
Linda Herman-Director	Nick Beeck-Director	
Craig Patterson-LHA Lobbyist	Bo Fox-Director	
Lance Brisbois-Director	Rocky DeWitt	

Chairman, Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:03 pm, with quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A Motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the September 1, 2021 Minutes. Motion carried.

AGENDA: A change was needed on the December Full Board Agenda. Under “New Business”, “Authorize Executive Committee to Use Electronic Signature” was added. A Motion was made by Bo Fox, seconded by Patty McCall to approve the December 1, 2021 amended Agenda. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Full Board Committee.

Open Funds to Obligate:

Total Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover:
Protection: \$22,500.00 (0.00 Obligated Projects)
Stewardship: \$8,000.00 (\$7,500.00 Obligated Projects)
Economic Development: \$4,932.29 (\$11,667.68 Obligated Projects)
Executive Committee: \$737.96 (\$11,819.06 Obligated Projects)
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$134,969.84
Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand: \$147,526.86

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/22 is \$251,120.00 with 494 Other Current Assets.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope reported that the Executive Committee met this morning at 10:30 am. Loess Hills Alliance will continue to have the zoon option for the 2022 meetings. More information discussed at the Executive Committee meeting will be discussed at the Full Board meeting.

Protection Committee – Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met on Wednesday, November 3rd at 9:00 AM. The Protection Committee received one RFP Grant Application.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Project Title: INHF Loess Hills Vegetation Management 2022
Amount of Grant Request: \$12,450.00
Harrison & Monona Counties

The Protection Committee Members approved to allocate \$12,450.00 to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation towards the INHF Loess Hills Vegetation Management 2022 project. A balance of \$10,050.00 will be rolled over into next year's Protection Committee budget. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has been paid \$1,250.00 for the FY20 Blackburn/Green Hollow Addition to Waubonsie project and \$4,000.00 for the FY21 Armstrong Vegetation Management 2021-22 project.

Stewardship Committee – Lance Brisbois reported that the Stewardship Committee met this morning at 9:00 AM. Total funds available for the Stewardship Committee 2022 RFP is \$8,000.00. The RFP proposal will be sent out and applications are due back into office by January 31, 2022. Voting will be held at the February 2, 2022 Stewardship Committee meeting. The Private Land Positions FY21-22 RFP funding/\$7,500.00 is in process.

Economic Development Committee – Renea Anderson reported that the committee met on Monday, November 29th at 10:00 AM. Advertising continues to do well and will continue in the Sioux City Visitors Guide, Iowa Travel Guide, and Our Iowa magazine. Our Iowa magazine is doing "We start the story....and you finish it...." for their 15th annual holiday writing contest. The grand prize winner will receive a weekend getaway in the northern Loess Hills area, representing Plymouth and Woodbury Counties. The grand prize will include a one night stay at the Hampton Inn, Sioux City, a complimentary tour of Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve, Plymouth County, a music show and dinner at the Browns Century Theater, Le Mars, and gift certificates to use at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Sergeant Floyd River Museum, Sioux City Railroad Museum, Wells Visitor Center & Ice Cream Parlor, Le Mars, Browns Century Theater Gift Shoppe, Le Mars, and a meal at "Uncommon Grounds" restaurant in Sloan. Edits are being received for the Birding, RVing, and Motorcycling Brochures to be updated and reprinted. There is approximately 85 boxes (approximately one year's worth of time) of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebooks available at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center. The guidebooks will be printed at a later date. Travel Federation of Iowa Legislative Showcase will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds (Elwell Family Food Center). The Economic Development Committee approved \$100.00 registration fee to participation in the Travel Federation of Iowa Legislative Showcase. The Loess Hills banners will be showcased.

A Motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Dawn Snyder to accept the Committee Reports.
Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS: No “Old Business” at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Legislature Report: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that he has been busy attending a lot of meetings. The State Legislators have been in session for 5 ½ weeks now. The Iowa lawmakers have accepted the second redistricting map. With the new Legislators coming in, the budget will be affected. With the Tax Relief Fund and the Rainy Day Fund, Legislators are looking at a cut to income tax, broadening the tax base, a work force package, funding IWILL, etc. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Lobbyist, Craig Patterson and Amy Campbell for all the work that they do for the future of the Loess Hills. At this time, the Legislators will meet with the public, so the Loess Hills Alliance can reserve a “Day on the Hill”.

2021 Annual Report: Chairman, Rich Pope reported that the 2021 Annual Report was approved with minor changes at the Executive Committee meeting. The Annual Report will be presented to the State Legislators and be sent to all seven County Auditors. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks all the Committee Chairmen and Michelle Wodtke Franks for all the work that was done on the Loess Hills Alliance 2021 Annual Report.

Officer Elections 2022: The 2021 Officer Positions-Executive Committee members were asked if they were interested in keeping their Executive Committee Officer Positions FY2022.

Rich Pope, Chairman/yes
Dawn Snyder, Vice-Chairman/yes
Nick Beeck, Secretary/yes
Renea Anderson, Treasurer/yes
Bob Benton, At-Large/yes
Patty McCall, At-Large/yes
Graham McGaffin, At-Large/yes

The 2022 LHA Officer Positions-Elections will be held at the March 2, 2022 Full Board meeting at 1:00 pm.

2022 Nominating Committee: The 2022 Nominating Committee are John Straight, Rocky DeWitt, and Jeff Seago. Elections will be held at the March 2, 2022 Full Board Meeting at 1:00 pm. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor during the meeting.

LHA 2022 Executive Committee & Full Board Meeting Dates & Times: An approval was made at the September Full Board meeting to move the Loess Hills Alliance meeting times to 10:00 am, 11:00 am, and 1:00 pm. Meetings will stay as the 1st Wednesday of the month. Dates for the 2022 Loess Hills Alliance meetings are as follows.

Full Board Meetings.

March 2nd

June 1st

September 7th

December 7th

Executive Committee Meetings.

February 2nd

March 2nd

May 4th

June 1st

August 3rd

September 7th

November 2nd

December 7th

The Executive Committee accepted the Loess Hills Alliance 2022 meeting dates at the Executive Committee meeting. The LHA Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg will email the 2022 meeting dates' information to all Loess Hills Alliance Members.

Authorize Executive Committee to Use Electronic Signature: After discussion, a Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by John Straight to authorize the Executive Committee to use Electronic Signature whenever it is needed. Motion carried.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: March 2, 2022 at 1:00 PM

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by John Straight to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 PM. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary