

**Meeting Draft Minutes**  
**Board of Directors**  
Loess Hills Alliance  
1:00 PM –December 2, 2020  
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Members signing the attendance log:

Dawn Snyder-Director	Renea Anderson-Director
Nick Beeck-Director	Scott Belt-Director
Rich Pope-Director	John Straight-Director
Bob Benton-Director	Michelle Wodtke Franks-Alternate
Gary Horton-Director	John Meis-Director
Linda Herman-Director	Patty McCall-Director
Mark Shoemaker	Craig Patterson
Graham-McGaffin	Whitney Riemers, Iowa Bankers Association
Jacob Bossman-State Representative Iowa District 6	
Kolby DeWitt-From Senator Joni Ernst's Office	

Chairman Dawn Snyder called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:06 pm, with a quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Gary Horton, seconded by Rich Pope to approve the September 2, 2020 Minutes. Motion Carried.

**AGENDA:** A motion was made by Nick Beeck, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the December 2, 2020 Board of Directors Agenda. Motion Carried.

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

**Open Funds to Obligate:**

Protection Funds: \$7,000.00 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$17,750.00  
Stewardship Funds: \$14,000.00 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$7,000.00  
LHA-Friends of the LH State Forest: \$.00 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$.00  
Economic Development Funds: \$9,862.27 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$12,127.48  
Executive Committee Funds: \$179.20 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$13,665.55  
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$121,022.03  
Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand: \$134,866.78

Total Executive Budget-FY21 Approved Projects is \$19,500.00.

A motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Bob Benton to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee** – Dawn Snyder reported that the Executive Committee met today at 10:30 AM through a ZOOM virtual meeting with a quorum. More information discussed at the Executive Committee meeting will be discussed at the Full Board meeting.

**Protection Committee** – Graham McGaffin reported that the November 4<sup>th</sup> Protection Committee zoom meeting was canceled due to no quorum. One RFP was received by the October 2, 2020 deadline.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation  
Grant Request: \$4,000.00  
Project Title: Armstrong Vegetation Management 2021-22

The Armstrong property (160 acre parcel) is located near the northern border of Harrison County, adjacent to the Loess Hills State Forest, ½ mile south of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway, and within the Little Sioux Special Landscape Area. Over 60 acres of the property are remnant prairie. Over 53 acres of crop ground are prime for future restoration into native prairie vegetation. The funding will go towards hiring a CCI crew for one week to remove invasive deciduous trees and shrubs that have encroached past the tree line. The work on this project will start next spring and summer.

Total Protection Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY20/21 is \$7,000.00.

The Armstrong Vegetation Management 2021-22 project scored high from the Scoring Committee members, Jeff Seago, Scott Nelson, and Graham McGaffin. LHA Protection Chairman, Graham McGaffin will request to fund \$4,000.00 for this project through email to the Protection Committee Members. The remaining Protection Committee funding will roll over until next year.

**Stewardship Committee** – Michelle Wodtke Franks reported that Lance Brisbois is working on a prescribed fire at Waubonsie State Park. Kelly Madigan hiked the 7 Counties of the Loess Hills on public property starting at Plymouth County down to Fremont County. Kelly will be invited to visit with the Loess Hills Alliance Members about her hike at the February & March 2021 meetings. Golden Hills RC & D is partnering with RAYGUN to sell T-Shirts during the month of December. The shirts will benefit Golden Hills and their work with WanderLoess-Loess Hills Missouri River region. Loess Hills Alliance Members can buy these T-Shirts on the Golden Hills RC & D Facebook Page.

**“Friends of the Loess Hills State Forest”**- The “Friends of LHSF/Preparation Canyon State Park has separated from the Loess Hills Alliance and has their own 501c3 tax Exempt Status now. A check for \$288.37 was paid to LHSF on 11/9/20. A Motion was made and approved by the Executive Committee to acknowledge the separation of “Friends of LHSF/Preparation State Park and Loess Hills Alliance. At the Full Board meeting, a Motion was made by Rich Pope, seconded by Patty McCall to acknowledge the separation of “Friends of LHSF/Preparation State Park and Loess Hills Alliance. Motion Carried. The Loess Hills Alliance Members wanted to thank “Friends of the LHSF/Preparation Canyon State Park” group and to wish them well. Linda Herman stated that the group has been applying for Grants.

**Economic Development Committee** – Renea Anderson reported that advertising will continue in the Iowa Travel Guide, Sioux City Visitors Guide, Council Bluffs Visitors Guide, and Our Iowa magazine. The Pull-Up Banners are ready to be used and are stored at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor’s Center, Pisgah. Total 2019 Economic impact of travel for all seven Loess Hills Counties was 790 million 120 Thousand. Each County was presented to the Full Board members.

Plymouth County-\$27,960,000.00  
Woodbury County-\$334,520,000.00  
Monona County-\$20,950,000.00  
Harrison County-\$30,190,000.00  
Pottawattamie County-\$351,500,000.00  
Mills County-\$8,930,000.00  
Fremont County-\$16,070,000.00

Chairman, Renea Anderson will email the seven Loess Hills Counties’ ranking sheets to LHA Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg to send out to all LHA Members.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Legislative Update:** Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that Republicans went into the elections with a 53-47 advantage in the Iowa House. Republicans emerged from the election with a 59-41 advantage. In the Senate, Republicans kept their 32-18 majority. Senator Jason Schultz is the Chairman for Commerce. Senator Rozenboom is the Chairman for Agriculture & Natural Resources. Senator Shipley is the Chairman for Local Government. Matt Windschitl is the new Iowa House Majority Leader. Representative, Jacob Bossman is Chairman for Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations. With a larger margin, IWILL and other bills will be easier to navigate with Governor, Kim Reynolds. New issues that will be discussed will be Broadband Internet Connections, Telehealth, and Child Care. The general fund has recovered. The Infrastructure Budget has not come back as good due to the decrease of lottery sales. Iowa’s casinos had closed for while due the pandemic. Craig stated that he and Lobbyist, Amy Campbell have been setting up zoom meetings to contact the new State Legislators. The Lobbyists will have access to the State Capitol Building, but not the public. The Capitol Rotunda can still be reserved. The 2021 House Leadership listing, 2021 Senate Leadership listing, and the Revenue Estimating Conference Meeting Update information will be emailed to all LHA Members when received from Lobbyist, Craig Patterson.

**COVID-19 Situation:** Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Loess Hills Alliance meetings will be done virtually through zoom meetings or conference calls. All members are trying to stay safe and waiting for the vaccine.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**2020 Annual Report Approval:** Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the draft of the 2020 Annual Report to the Full Board members. If any changes, they need to be done by the January 2021 deadline. A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Rich Pope to email the final draft of the 2020 Annual Report to all Full Board Members for approval and to reply all with your vote. Motion Carried. The Loess Hills Alliance would like to thank Michelle Wodtke Franks for putting together the 2020 Annual Report.

**LHA 2021 Executive Committee & Full Board Meeting Dates:** The Executive Committee proposed these meeting dates, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month for the LHA Executive Committee and Full Board at the Executive Committee meeting today at 10:30 am.

### **Full Board Meetings.**

March 3<sup>rd</sup>

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

September 1<sup>st</sup>

December 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Executive Committee Meetings.**

February 3<sup>rd</sup>

March 3<sup>rd</sup>

May 5<sup>th</sup>

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

August 4<sup>th</sup>

September 1<sup>st</sup>

November 3<sup>rd</sup>

December 1<sup>st</sup>

A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Patty McCall to accept the Loess Hills Alliance 2021 meeting dates. Motion was carried. The LHA Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg will email the 2021 meeting dates' information to all Loess Hills Alliance members.

**2021 Nominating Committee:** At this time, Dawn Snyder and Rich Pope volunteered to be on the 2021 Nominating Committee. Please contact Dawn Snyder if any of the Loess Hills Alliance Members would like to be on the Nominating Committee. Elections will be held at the March Full Board Meeting.

**Thanks to Outgoing Board Members:** The Loess Hills Alliance would like to thank Marty Pottebaum and Tammy Bramley for their service on the Loess Hills Alliance Board and their help on protecting the Loess Hills.

**Potential 2021 Projects:** Future potential 2021 projects are the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar, scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and the future Low-Hi Trail (Kelly Madigan's hike).

**General County Updates:** Letters were sent to all seven Loess Hills County auditors for support for the Loess Hills. A reminder was suggested to the Full Board members to let their supervisors know to elect the LHA Representative for their County. There has been no change for the seven Loess Hills Counties' 2021 Auditor's positions.

**Other:**

**Announcements:**

**Next Meeting:** March 3, 2021 at 1:00 PM Tentative Location: Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah

Chairman Dawn Snyder thanked all the board members and participants for their attendance and thanked Michelle with Golden Hills for hosting the meetings via ZOOM.

**Adjournment:** A Motion was made by Scott Belt, seconded by Graham McGaffin to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 PM. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeannette Riesberg,  
LHA Office Secretary