

Meeting Draft Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –March 4, 2020
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Dustin Sheldon-Director	Renea Anderson-via Telephone Director
Patty McCall-Director	Scott Belt-Director
Rich Pope-Director	Graham McGaffin-via Telephone Director
Gary Horton-Director	Dawn Snyder-Director
Linda Herman-Director	Tammy Bramley-Director
Scott Pape-Director	Nick Beeck-Director
Bob Benton-Director	Michelle Wodtke Franks-Director

Chairman Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:04 pm, with a quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A change was needed for the December 4, 2019 Full Board Minutes. Under “Committee Reports”, it should read “A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Dawn Snyder to accept the Committee Reports. Motion Carried.” A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the amended December 4, 2019 Minutes. Motion Carried. Tammy Bramley abstained.

AGENDA: A change was needed for the March 4, 2020 Agenda. Under “New Business”, “Legislative Bills” and “Mileage Reimbursement Rate” was added. A motion was made by Scott Belt, seconded by Tammy Bramley to approve the amended March 4, 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: \$0.00 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$17,750.00
Stewardship Funds: \$3,500.00 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$10,500.00
LHA-Friends of the LH State Forest: \$450.57 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$978.94
Economic Development Funds: \$7,005.27 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$13,559.21
Executive Committee Funds: \$239.50 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$10,432.60
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$106,022.03
Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand: \$116,694.13

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds @ 2/28/2020 is \$239,890.00.
Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/20 is \$239,890.00 with 506 Other Current Assets.

A motion was made by Scott Belt, seconded by Linda Herman to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope reported that the Executive Committee met today at 10:30 am. The Executive Committee allocated \$2,000.00 from the Executive/Board Reserve Funds to help fund the 2020 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. The 2020 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on May 29th through May 31st, 2020. More information discussed at the Executive Committee meeting will be discussed at the Full Board meeting.

Protection Committee – No report at this time.

Stewardship Committee – No report at this time.

"Friends of the Loess Hills State Forest" - An article about the Friends of the Loess Hills State Forest and Preparation Canyon State Park First Day Hike was presented to the Full Board Members. The First Day Hike was held on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm beginning at the entrance to Preparation Canyon State Park. The Iowa Prairie Network is conducting a pasque flower walk in the Pisgah Unit of Loess Hills State Forest on Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Economic Development Committee – Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, February 25th. The Pull-Up Banners are stored at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center and are being displayed today at the Full Board meeting. All LHA Committees can use these banners for conventions, fairs, Loess Hills Prairie Seminar, etc. The Pull-Up Banners will also be displayed at the North American Prairie Conference in Des Moines on July 20th - July 22nd. The Full Board Committee was impressed with the Pull-Up Banners and said they looked good. There will be two state visitor's guides distributed FY2020. "Thank-you's" continue to be received through the Lucky I Prize \$100.00 gift donation for Our Iowa magazine. The Loess Hills Visitors Guides and Birding Brochures have been distributed. The Iowa Tourism Conference is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd - Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at the Hilton Des Moines Downtown. The Economic Development Committee members will ask about the 53' Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Loess Hills truck wrap during the 2020 Iowa Tourism Conference.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Loess Hills Alliance Legislative Contact (Day on the Hill, etc.): The 2020 Iowa Legislative Session will be a smaller this year, so at this time there will be no Loess Hills Alliance formal trip to Des Moines. Last year Rich Pope, Bob Benton, and Renea Anderson met with the Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee in February 2019 at the Iowa State Capitol. The Loess Hills Alliance Members are asked to engage in the Legislative Coffees around the area to discuss Loess Hills Alliance funding, REAP funding, and supporting the Invest in Iowa Act. Conservation Day on the Hill will be held on March 11, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 LHA Officer Positions-Elections: The 2020LHA Officer Nominating Committee is John Straight, Rocky DeWitt, and Rich Pope. The slate of nominees for the Executive Committee are:

Chairman-Dawn Snyder
Vice-Chairman-Rich Pope
Secretary-Tammy Bramley
Treasurer-Renea Anderson
At-Large-Patty McCall
At-Large-Graham McGaffin
At-large-Bob Benton

A Motion was made by Scott Belt, seconded by Nick Beeck to cease the nominations and approve the Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee slate of officers. Motion carried.

Committee Membership: Discussion was held during the Full Board meeting concerning “Committee Membership”: What constitutes membership, how many meetings do the members have to attend to be able to vote, do all Committees have the same membership rules, does the Loess Hills Alliance want to update their Board Manual, structure is important, etc. No final decision was made at this time. A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Scott Belt to email a copy of the Board Manual to all LHA Members to examine. Motion carried. “Committee Membership” will be discussed at the next Full Board meeting on June 3, 2020.

Board Membership by County: The 2020 Loess Hills Alliance Board of Directors and Alternates listing was presented to the Full Board Members to update any changes that were needed. The Loess Hills Development Conservation Authority will hold their annual meeting on March 27th to vote on the 7 appointees to the LHA Board of Directors.

Meeting Notifications: Meeting information is emailed to all Loess Hills Alliance Members and State Legislatures. The meeting Agendas are emailed to all 7 Loess Hills counties auditors. If the directors are unable to attend, the alternates are to be contacted. Any other information that pertains to information or events concerning the Loess Hills, the Loess Hills Alliance secretary, Jeannette Riesberg is to email the information with “For Your Information” in the subject line of the email. More discussion concerning “Meeting Notifications” will be held at the next Full Board meeting on June 3, 2020.

Annual Audit Report: No report. The 2019 audit report was presented and accepted by the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board Members at the December 4, 2019 Full Board meeting. The Loess Hills Alliance 2019 Annual Report was available for the Full Board Members to use for promoting the Loess Hills.

Legislative Bills: The Scenic Byway Legislation Bill - SF2060 creates a scenic byways enhancement fund. The Executive Committee recommended to instruct Loess Hills Alliance Lobbyist, Craig Patterson to support the Scenic Byway Legislation Bill-SF2060 on behalf of the Loess Hills Alliance. A Motion was made by Scott Belt, seconded by Linda Herman to support the Scenic Byway Legislation Bill-SF2060. Motion carried.

The Invest in Iowa Act would raise the state sales tax by a full penny and therefore, fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. There has been modifications to the formula, but funding will be available for REAP, Lake & Stream Restoration, Water & Land Trails, Local Conservation Partnerships, Watershed Protection, Soil & Water Conservation, and Natural Resources. The Executive Committee recommended to instruct Loess Hills Alliance Lobbyist, Craig Patterson to support Invest in Iowa Act on behalf of the Loess Hills Alliance. A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Michelle Wodtke Franks to support Invest in Iowa Act. Motion Carried.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate: The 2020 Federal Mileage rate is \$.575. A recommendation was made by the Executive Committee to adopt the annual Federal Mileage rate for mileage reimbursements. A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Gary Horton to adopt the annual Federal Mileage rate for mileage reimbursements. Motion carried.

Announcements:

Dawn Snyder reported that the presentation that Graham McGaffin did on his experience traveling to Yangling, China for the China-US Exchange held at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center on February 20 was very good. This presentation can be used for future programs promoting the Loess Hills.

Governor Kim Reynolds will be at the Pottawattamie Arts, Culture & Entertainment, Council Bluffs on March 6, 2020 at 2:30 pm.

Next Meeting: June 3, 2020 at 1:00 PM Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Scott Belt, seconded by Gary Horton to adjourn the meeting at 2:13 PM. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary