

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –March 6, 2019
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Jeff Seago-Director	Renea Anderson-Director	Scott Belt-Director
Linda Herman-Director	Brett Bengard-Director	Gary Horton-Director
Rich Pope-Director	Graham McGaffin-Director	Nick Beeck-Director
Dawn Snyder-Director	Alan Dale-Director	Lance Brisbois-Alternate
John Straight-Director	Dustin Sheldon-Director	Nic Salick-LHA Member
Bob Benton-Director	Tammy Bramley-Director	Jake Holt-LHA Member

Chairman Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:00 pm, with a quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the December 5, 2018 Minutes. Motion Carried. Tammy Bramley abstained.

AGENDA: A motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve the March 6, 2019 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: \$5,500.00
Stewardship Funds: \$7,000.00
Economic Development Funds: \$8,293.30
Executive Committee Funds: (\$822.76)
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$96,272.03
Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand: \$108,383.58

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds @ 2/28/2019 is \$226,991.00.

Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/19 is \$226,991.00 with 375 Other Current Assets.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope reported that \$2,000.00 donation was allocated to the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar from the Executive/Board Reserve Funds. More discussion will be held with the Full Board Members concerning the March 6th Executive Committee Agenda items later in today's meeting.

Protection Committee – Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met on February 6, 2019. A request for \$4,500.00 to help fund the Conservation Corps Iowa for restoration work on the Hanson property, project lead Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and a request for \$10,000.00 for prairie restoration on the Christensen farm, project lead Iowa DNR Loess Hills State Forest were both approved by the Protection Committee. Total RFP Grant funding allocated was \$14,450.00 with the remaining \$5,500.00 left to obligate or carryover.

Stewardship Committee – Nic Salick reported that the Stewardship Committee met at 9:00 a.m. today. Nic Salick reported that 50,000 was allocated through the State Wildlife Grant (SWG). This funding will be used towards cedar clearing in Monona, Pottawattamie, and Harrison Counties (within the Loess Hills landform). There will be 3 CRP Mid-Contract Management Workshops to be held in March, 2019. These workshops are intended to guide land managers and decision makers through the process of their required mid-contract management for land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.

March 14th-Onawa Community Center, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

March 21st-Underwood, UMBA Hall, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

March 28th-Logan Community Center, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

An article from The Valley News on "Iowa Pheasants Forever Awards Loess Hills Alliance 2019 Partner of the Year" was presented to the Stewardship Committee. A handout concerning sericea lespedeza was also presented to the Stewardship Committee. Options available for control of this invasive species include management, mechanical, and chemical methods. With the shortfall of funding for the Loess Hills Alliance, other partners are in negotiations for funding Nic and Jake's PL Positions.

Economic Development Committee – Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development meeting on Monday, March 4th was postponed to March 11, 2019. The March 11, 2019 meeting will be held at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center in Missouri Valley at 10:00 am. The Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Truck Wrap of the Loess Hills was seen by Michelle Wodtke Franks. The 2019 Iowa Tourism Conference was held on February 6-8, 2019 with a good response.

A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Scott Belt to accept the Committee Reports.
Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting with Legislature: Rich Pope, Bob Benton, and Renea Anderson met with the Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Iowa State Capitol. The meeting went really well with good positive comments. The Legislatures were interested in visiting some of the projects that the Loess Hills Alliance has funded. A thank you letter will be sent to the Legislatures with the dates of the dedication of Brent Olson's Trail and the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar.

NEW BUSINESS:

2019 LHA Officer Positions-Elections: The 2019 LHA Officer Nominating Committee is John Straight, Linda Herman, and Rich Pope. The slate of nominees for the Executive Committee are:

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

A Motion was made by Nick Beeck, seconded by John Straight to approve the Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee slate of officers. Motion carried.

Annual Audit Report: Loess Hills Alliance Chairman, Rich Pope presented the Loess Hills Alliance Annual Audit report to the Full Board Members.

Board Membership by County: Discussion was held concerning the Loess Hills Alliance Board Membership listing. The seven LHA County Auditors emailed the Loess Hills Alliance secretary, Jeannette Riesberg the 2019 LHA County Board Appointments information. Thirteen Loess Hills Alliance Board Members are needed for a quorum for the Full Board meetings. At this time, there is a shortage of Directors and Alternates from Mills and Fremont Counties.

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 was sent to all 7 Loess Hills County Newspapers. The Iowa Pheasants Forever press release letter was passed around to the Full Board Members to see.

Jeff Seago announced that there will be a dedication for Brent Olson's Trail on June 8, 2019. "Friends of the Loess Hills Group" will host this event with the help from Harrison County Conservation Board, Loess Hills State Forest, and the Loess Hills Alliance. This 8 mile trail will be between Murray Hill Scenic Overlook and Gleason-Hubel Wildlife Area with foot traffic only. The markers for the trail will be shaped as a Bur Oak leaf. Harrison County GIS has the data for educational support. The Legislatures are interested in attending the dedication. If anyone would like to donate funding towards Brent Olson's Trail, please send funding to Harrison County Conservation Board.

A letter from Corinne Noonan campaigning for cleaner energy in the Midwest was received by the Executive Committee. The group is looking at the detrimental impacts of food-based biofuels and urging political candidates to reject food-based biofuels as viable solutions to climate change. The Executive Committee decided to not participate in this campaign.

Dawn Snyder stated that the 99 Counties, 99 Parks Media Kickoff through the Iowa Tourism Office will be held at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center on Monday, April 22, 2019, Earth Day. Deb Durham, Governor Kim Reynolds, Tom Hazelton, State Tourism Bureau, public, media, and elected officials are all invited to attend. Tom Hazelton, Deb Durham, and Governor Kim Reynolds will all give remarks and be available for media interviews. There will be a guided hike through the park and optional tours of the Nature Center available for attendees.

Environmental Lobby Day will be held at the Iowa State Capitol on March 21, 2019. Iowa's County Conservation System, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Pheasants Forever, IWiLL, Living Roadway Trust Fund, etc. will be some of the exhibitors that day.

Next Meeting: June 5, 2019 at 1:00 PM Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Nick Beeck, seconded by Scott Belt to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 PM. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary