

Meeting Draft Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –June 2, 2021
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Dawn Snyder-Director	Renea Anderson-Director
Nick Beeck-Director	Alan Dale-Director
Rich Pope-Director	John Straight-Director
Bob Benton-Director	Lynn Grobe-Alternate
Linda Herman-Director	Rebecca Castle
Craig Patterson-LHA Lobbyist	Scott Nelson
Brett Bengard-Director	

Chairman, Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:03 pm, with no quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: No Motion was made to approve the March 3, 2021 Minutes due to no Quorum.

AGENDA: No Motion was made to approve the June 2, 2021 Agenda due to no Quorum.

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

Open Funds to Obligate:

Protection Funds: \$15,500.00 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$5,250.00
Stewardship Funds: \$8,500.00 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$5,500.00
Economic Development Funds: \$1,132.29 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$11,951.16
Executive Committee Funds: \$179.20 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$4,258.28
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$120,022.03
Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand: \$124,459.51

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds @ 05/24/2021 is \$247,983.00.
Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/21 is \$247,983.00 with 306 Other Current Assets.

No Motion was made to accept the June 2, 2021 Treasurer’s Report due to no Quorum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope reported that the Executive Committee allocated \$15,000.00 to Harrison County Conservation Board towards the Willow Lake Nature Center for the display or displays representing water conservation in the Loess Hills with the Loess Hills Alliance receiving recognition.

Protection Committee – No Report at this time.

Stewardship Committee – Rich Pope reported that Cooperative Burn Week was held on April 26th – April 30th, 2021 and was based out of Plymouth County. It was successful in achieving land management goals, fire-line training, leadership skills, and improving collaboration between partners in the Loess Hills region. Senator Joni Ernst, Representative Randy Feenstra, and KCAU-TV were all there to observe. The Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 4th – June 6th, 2021 at the Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area-Sylvan Runkel State Preserve, Monona County.

Economic Development Committee – Renea Anderson reported that the committee approved a change in the Our Iowa magazine Loess Hills ad from 1/6 to 1/3 of a page. The Lucky I Prize \$100.00 gift donation for Our Iowa magazine continues to be well received with hand written “Thank-you’s”. A 45’ Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Loess Hills truck wrap was approved for 2 years and is traveling the countryside. Brochures for Birding, RVing, and Motorcycling and the Loess Hills Visitors Guides have been going out more, as more businesses open up for tourism.

No Motion was made to accept the Committee Reports due to no Quorum.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Willow Lake Nature Center: Scott Nelson reported that the Willow Lake Nature Center is a proposed \$3.9 million project focused around the education of conservation & preservation of nature. Phase 1 (Design of the new Nature Center) is complete and they are working on phase 2 (Construction of the Building) at this time. Phase 3 will be constructing displays and exhibits. At this time, the exhibits will be permanent, but will also be looking into traveling exhibits to be used throughout the Loess Hills. Harrison County Conservation Board has received \$1.8 million towards this project and is actively raising more funding. At the June 2, 2021 Executive Committee meeting, \$15,000.00 was allocated to Harrison County Conservation Board towards the Willow Lake Nature Center for the display or displays representing water conservation in the Loess Hills with the Loess Hills Alliance receiving recognition.

FY21-22 State Budget: The state funding of \$40,000.00 for the Loess Hills Alliance has been approved FY21-22.

FY21-22 Committee Budget Allocations: At the May 5, 2021 Executive Committee meeting, the Committee attentively allocated (Pending Legislative Status) the FY21-22 LHA Committee Budget Allocations to each Committee as states:

Stewardship	\$7,000.00
Protection	\$7,000.00
Econ Dev.	\$7,000.00
Executive	\$15,000.00
Admin. Fees	\$4,000.00

A formal approval will be made at the next LHA Full Board meeting on September 1, 2021.

Golden Hills/LHA Fiscal Management Agreement: The Golden Hills/LHA Fiscal Management Agreement will be formally approved at the next LHA Full board meeting on September 1, 2021.

Announcements: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that the 2021 State Legislative Session convened on January 11th and adjourned on May 19th, 19 days overtime. Some Committees were shut down and 1/3 of the Lobbyist did not come. A Special Session is expected to be announced in August for redistricting. The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship budget which funds the Loess Hills Alliance \$40,000.00 is still in the budget FY21-22. REAP has been extended for 3 years. Mental Health funding at the state level has been funded. The State Legislature has been partnering with Southern Iowa Development & Conservation Authority on projects related to the unique natural resource, rural development, and infrastructure problems of counties in the most fragile areas of the southern Iowa drift plain. Craig stated that he will be on the road a lot now going into the next year. The Consulting Agreement between Loess Hills Alliance and Campbell/Patterson will end on June 30, 2021. The \$3,500.00, 3 year contract will stay the same, but will be updated with the changed dates at the August 4th Loess Hills Alliance Executive meeting. The Loess Hills Alliance thanked Craig Patterson for keeping everyone informed.

Next Meeting: September 1, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Alan Dale, seconded by Bob Benton to adjourn the meeting at 1:31 PM. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary