

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –June 5, 2019
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Dustin Sheldon-Director	Renea Anderson-Director	Rocky DeWitt-Director
Linda Herman-Director	Brett Bengard-Director	Mark Shoemaker-Director
Rich Pope-Director	Graham McGaffin-Director	Patty McCall-Director
Dawn Snyder-Director	John Meis-Director	Michelle Wodtke Franks-Director
John Straight-Director	Michael Fox-Director	Nic Salick-LHA Member
Brent McCall-Director	Tammy Bramley-Director	Larry Green-LHA Member
Craig Patterson-Lobbyist		

Chairman Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:01 pm, with a quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by John Straight to approve the March 6, 2019 Minutes. Motion Carried.

AGENDA: A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Michelle Wodtke Franks to approve the June 5, 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: \$7,893.30
Executive Committee Funds: (\$2,822.76)
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$96,272.03
Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand: \$102,190.23

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds @ 6/3/2019 is \$226,318.00.
Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/19 is \$226,318.00 with 172 Other Current Assets.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope reported Kolby DeWitt and Jacob Bossman attended the Executive Committee meeting. Kolby DeWitt will pass along the House Disaster Bill information to the Loess Hills Alliance members. The Executive Committee Members decided to not allocate \$100.00 for the REAP Alliance Membership. The request letters for County funds will be sent out in July 2019.

Protection Committee – Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee did not meet in May due to Cooperative Burn Week. A request to help fund the Conservation Corps Iowa for restoration work on the Hanson property, project lead Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and a request for prairie restoration on the Christensen farm, project lead Iowa DNR Loess Hills State Forest were both approved by the Protection Committee.

Stewardship Committee – Nic Salick reported that the Stewardship Committee met at 9:00 a.m. today. Nic Salick reported that \$7,000.00 was allocated by the Stewardship Committee to help fund Jake Holt and Nic Salick's PL Positions. NRCS did some training with their own employees concerning cedar removal rates through the EQIP program. Cedar removal and brush management rates are being examined to increase the cost share rate. If anyone would have some expense receipts for their own cedar removal, they can turn them into their local NRCS office even if they do not participate in the EQIP program to help influence the cost share rates. Approximately 50 people attended the three March CRP Mid-Contract Management Workshops. Signup is also available for Wetland Restoration and water quality projects including filter strips. There will be a Practical Farmers of Iowa Field Day on Tuesday, June 18th from 5-8 pm at Lewis, IA. Habitat restoration and management activities at the South Place farm will be presented.

Economic Development Committee – Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee met on Monday, June 3rd. Funding was allocated for advertising in the Our Iowa Magazine, Sioux City Visitors Guide, Council Bluffs Visitors Guide, Western Iowa Tourism Region, and Iowa Travel Guide. The Birding Brochures will be reprinted, but will wait on reprinting the RVing and Motorcycling due to the flooding and closers throughout the State. Funding was saved back for the Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Truck Wrap of the Loess Hills Truck Wrap. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Guidebooks have been updated, reprinted, and distributed where needed.

A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Michelle Wodtke Franks to accept the Committee Reports. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS: No "Old Business" at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brent Olson's Trail Dedication: Larry Green reported that in recognition of the Brent Olson Family, a grand opening for Brent's Trail will be held on Saturday, June 8th at Murray Hill Scenic Overlook. "Friends of the Loess Hills Group" will host this event with the help from Harrison County Conservation Board, Loess Hills State Forest, and Loess Hills Alliance. The dedication starts at 9:00 am and the hike starts at 9:30 am. West Harrison Community School District will provide the bus shuttle up the hill. There will be horse patrol to help with parking and on the trail hike. Little Sioux Rescue Squad will also be available if needed. A stainless steel leaf attached to a galvanized post will be used for the trail markers. The 8 mile trail starts at Murray Hill Scenic Overlook and ends at Gleason-Hubel Wildlife Area.

FY19-20 State Budget: The Loess Hills Alliance has received \$40,000.00 FY19-20 from the State of Iowa.

FY19-20 Committee Budget Allocations: The Executive Committee proposed to allocate the 40,000.00 state funding as the same as last year for each Committee. A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Mark Shoemaker to adopt all allocations:

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

Motion Carried.

Golden Hills/LHA Fiscal Management Agreement: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Fiscal Management Agreement between Golden Hills RC & D and Loess Hills Alliance to the Full Board Committee Members. The Executive Committee recommended to use the same bookkeeping service. A motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve a one year renewal (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020) Fiscal Management Agreement Contract between Golden Hills RC & D and the Loess Hills Alliance. Motion Carried. This agreement may be terminated or amended in writing with a 30-day notice by either party.

Arbor Bank Management Agreement: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Arbor Bank Management Agreement to the Full Board Members. Arbor Bank is converting to online service and permission is needed from the Loess Hills Alliance to use this service. The Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee approved the use of Arbor Bank's online service. LHA Chairman, Rich Pope signed the Arbor Bank Management Agreement. There is no cost to this service.

Announcements:

The Loess Hills Prairie Seminar went very well and was enjoyed by all. A suggestion was made to ask a local producer that lives in the Loess Hills to speak at the 2020 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar.

Loess Hills Alliance member, Graham McGaffin, Iowa State University representatives, and Bill Blackburn from Green Hollow Center near Thurman are heading to Yangling, China for the China-US Exchange. Information will be shared about the Loess Hills within both countries.

Dawn Snyder stated that the 99 Counties, 99 Parks Media Kickoff through the Iowa Tourism Office was held at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center in April 2019. Selfie stations are getting put up throughout Iowa ready to use for your photos.

Next Meeting: September 4, 2019 at 1:00 PM Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Linda Herman to adjourn the meeting at 1:58 PM. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary