



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, June 5, 2019**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:37 AM, Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah, IA by Chairman, Rich Pope with quorum declared. Introductions were made and the travel sheet was signed.

Those present at today's meeting: Rich Pope, Dawn Snyder, Renea Anderson, Graham McGaffin, Larry Green, Craig Patterson, Jacob Bossman, Tammy Bramley, Patty McCall, Nic Salick, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Kolby DeWitt, and Rocky DeWitt.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve the March 6, 2019 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the June 5, 2019 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Executive Committee Members. The Bills Paid Report showed that Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$10.25 for 3rd Qtr. Postage and \$1,129.50 for 3rd Qtr. Bookkeeping, Wia Tel was paid \$128.40 for 6 Domain name renewals, Campbell/Patterson Consulting, LLP was paid \$3,500.00 for Lobbyist-2019 Session, Web Graphics was paid \$13,119.82 for printing LHNSB Guidebooks, Monona County Conservation Board was paid \$137.50 for Pick up LHNSB Guidebooks, and Western Iowa Tourism Region was paid \$260.76 for Guidebook Fulfillment. Total checks paid were \$19,711.43 with two transfers. Total checking account balance for February 21, 2019 through May 29, 2019 is \$29,912.72.

Total Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover:

Protection: \$5,500.00

Stewardship: \$7,000.00

Economic Development: \$7,893.30

Executive Committee: (\$2,822.76)

Executive/Board Reserve Funds: \$96,272.03

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Funds as of 06/03/19 is \$226,318.00 with Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/19 is \$226,318.00 with 172 Other Current Assets.

A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Tammy Bramley to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Nic Salick reported that the Stewardship Committee met this morning at 9:00 am. 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. Signup is also available for Wetland Restoration and water quality projects including filter strips. With the flooding issues across Iowa, there may be programs yet to be determined to help the landowners with terrace breaks, erosion control, and cover crop. Approximately 50 people attended the three March CRP Mid-Contract Management Workshops. \$7,000.00 was allocated by the Stewardship Committee to help fund Jake Holt and Nic Salick's PL Positions. 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. The Loess Hills Fire Partners will hold a fire meeting on June 13th at 11:00 am at the Divide Hills Roadhouse near Castana. Discussion will be held on formalizing Prescribed Fire Councils and reviewing Cooperative Burn Week.

Protection: 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.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development 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 Truck Wrap. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Guidebooks have been updated, reprinted, and distributed where needed.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Brent Olson's Trail Dedication-Update: 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.

NEW BUSINESS

FY19-20 State Budget: The Loess Hills Alliance has received \$40,000.00 FY19-20 from the State of Iowa. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Lobbyist, Craig Patterson and Amy Campbell for all the work that they do for the future of the Loess Hills. Chairman, Rich Pope thanked everyone for contacting their State Legislators.

FY19-20 Committee Budget Allocations: A proposal was made 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 Graham McGaffin to recommend to the LHA Full Board allocations of:

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

Motion Carried.

REAP Alliance Membership Discussion: A discussion was held concerning a \$100.00 Membership for the REAP Alliance. REAP stands for Resource Enhancement and Protection. It is a program in the State of Iowa that invests in the enhancement and protection of the state's natural and cultural resources. Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that REAP ends on June 30, 2021. More people need to talk with the State Legislatures about how important REAP is. At this time, the Executive Committee Members decided to not allocate \$100.00 for the REAP Alliance Membership, with encouragement for individuals to make appropriate contacts supporting REAP.

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 Executive Committee Members. A motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Graham McGaffin to continue to use the same bookkeeping service and to recommend to the Full Board for approval for 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.

Arbor Bank Management Agreement: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Arbor Bank Management Agreement to the Executive Committee Members. Arbor Bank is converting to online service and permission is needed from the Loess Hills Alliance to use this service. A motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Tammy Bramley to recommend to the Full Board for approval to use Arbor Bank's online service. Motion carried.

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.

During Cooperative Burn Week, there were approximately 600 acres, including Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve, burned with 81 participants. Three states were involved through 30 organizations.

Golden Hills RC & D partnering with Iowa Prairie Network, Harrison County Conservation Board, and Pottawattamie County Conservation Board received a grant from The Gilchrist Foundation for funding for a seed collection project. No dates have been set yet for this event.

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.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Graham McGaffin to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 AM.

Next Meeting August 7, 2019 at Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah at 1:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg

