



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center - Pisgah, IA**

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:35 AM, Wednesday, December 1, 2021 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, Bob Benton, Renea Anderson, Lance Brisbois, Graham McGaffin, Patty McCall, Wesley Fopma (Representative Randy Feenstra's office), Jeff Seago, Rocky DeWitt, Dawn Snyder, Nick Beck, and Lobbyist, Craig Patterson.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the November 3, 2021 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the December 1, 2021 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 Loess Hills Development & Conservation Authority was paid \$1,000.00 for FY22 Appropriation Admin Fee, Western Iowa Tourism Region was paid \$176.72 for Fulfillment 1st Qtr 2022, and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was paid \$4,000.00 FY21 Armstrong Vegetation. Total checks paid was \$5,650.48 with one transfer. Total checking account balance for October 27, 2021 through November 22, 2021 is \$32,311.78.

Total Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover:
Protection: \$22,500.00
Stewardship: \$8,000.00 (\$7,500.00 Obligated Projects)
Economic Development: \$4,932.29 (\$11,667.68 Obligated Projects)
Executive Committee: \$737.96 (\$11,819.06 Obligated Projects)
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$134,969.84

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Funds as of 11/24/21 is \$251,120.00 with Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/22 is \$251,120.00 with 494 Other Current Assets.

A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Dawn Snyder to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Lance reported that the Stewardship Committee met this morning. Total funds available for the Stewardship Committee 2022 RFP is \$8,000.00. After reviewing, the RFP proposal will be sent out and applications are due back into office by January 31, 2022. Voting will be held at the February 2, 2022 Stewardship Committee meeting. The Private Land Positions FY21-22 RFP funding/\$7,500.00 is in process.

Protection: Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met on November 3rd. The Protection Committee received one RFP Grant Application.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Project Title: INHF Loess Hills Vegetation Management 2022
Amount of Grant Request: \$12,450.00

INHF requested \$12,450.00 from the Loess Hills Protection Committee to assist in paying for three summer interns, CCI, and contractors to complete vital restoration work in the Loess Hills. The Scoring Committee Members, Scott Nelson, Jeff Seago, and Graham McGaffin reviewed and scored the application. The Protection Committee Members approved to allocate \$12,450.00 to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation towards the INHF Loess Hills Vegetation Management 2022 project through a formal email vote on November 23, 2021. A balance of \$10,050.00 will be rolled over into next year's Protection Committee budget.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has been paid \$1,250.00 for the FY20 Blackburn/Green Hollow Addition to Waubonsie project and \$4,000.00 for the FY21 Armstrong Vegetation Management 2021-22 project.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee met on November 29th. Advertising continues to do well and will continue in the Sioux City Visitors Guide, Iowa Travel Guide, and Our Iowa magazine. Our Iowa magazine is doing "We start the story....and you finish it...." for their 15th annual holiday writing contest. The grand prize winner will receive a weekend getaway in the northern Loess Hills area, representing Plymouth and Woodbury Counties. The grand prize will include a one night stay at the Hampton Inn, Sioux City, a complimentary tour of Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve, Plymouth County, a music show and dinner at the Browns Century Theater, Le Mars, and gift certificates to use at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Sergeant Floyd River Museum, Sioux City Railroad Museum, Wells Visitor Center & Ice Cream Parlor, Le Mars, Browns Century Theater Gift Shoppe, Le Mars, and a meal at "Uncommon Grounds" restaurant in Sloan. The Birding, RVing, and Motorcycling Brochures will need to be updated and reprinted. Please send any edits that are needed for the brochures to Renea Anderson. There is approximately 85 boxes (approximately one year's worth of time) of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebooks available at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center. Please look at the guidebook to see if any major changes are needed. The guidebooks will be printed at a later date.

Travel Federation of Iowa Legislative Showcase will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds (Elwell Family Food Center). The Economic Development Committee approved \$100.00 registration fee to participation in the Travel Federation of Iowa Legislative Showcase. The Loess Hills banners will be showcased.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

2021 Annual Reports: Chairman, Rich Pope presented the draft of the Loess Hills Alliance 2021 Annual Report to the Executive Committee members. Some minor changes were needed. A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Bob Benton to approve the 2021 Annual Report with the noted corrections. Motion carried.

Upcoming (March) Executive Committee Elections: Today's members were asked if they were interested in keeping their Executive Committee Officer Positions FY2022.

Rich Pope, Chairman/yes
Dawn Snyder, Vice-Chairman/yes
Nick Beeck, Secretary/yes
Renea Anderson, Treasurer/yes
Bob Benton, At-Large/yes
Patty McCall, At-Large/yes
Graham McGaffin, At-Large/yes

The 2022 LHA Officer Positions-Elections will be held at the March Full Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislature Report: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that he has been busy attending a lot of meetings. The State Legislators have been in session for 5 ½ weeks now. The Iowa lawmakers have accepted the second redistricting map. With the new Legislators coming in, the budget will be affected. With the Tax Relief Fund and the Rainy Day Fund, Legislators are looking at a cut to income tax, broadening the tax base, a work force package, funding IWILL, etc. 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.

LHA 2022 Executive Committee & Full Board Meeting Dates & Times: An approval was made at the September Full Board meeting to move the Loess Hills Alliance meeting times to 10:00 am, 11:00 am, and 1:00 pm. Meetings will stay as the 1st Wednesday of the month. Dates for the 2022 Loess Hills Alliance meetings are as follows.

Full Board Meetings.

March 2nd

June 1st

September 7th

December 7th

Executive Committee Meetings.

February 2nd

March 2nd

May 4th

June 1st

August 3rd

September 7th

November 2nd

December 7th

A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Renea Anderson to accept the Loess Hills Alliance 2022 meeting dates. Motion was carried. The LHA Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg will email the 2022 meeting dates' information to all Loess Hills Alliance Members.

2022 Nominating Committee: The 2022 Nominating Committee are John Straight, Rocky DeWitt, and Jeff Seago. Elections will be held at the March 2, 2022 Full Board Meeting at 1:00 pm. A slate of Executive Committee nominees will be presented, with additional nominations taken from the floor at the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Executive Committee sent a thank you to Andrea Porter for the work that was done for the Loess Hills through the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar.

Loess Hills Alliance will continue to have the zoon option for the 2022 meetings.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Dawn Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 am.

Next Meeting February 2, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg

