



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DRAFT MINUTES  
ZOOM Virtual Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:37 AM, Wednesday, December 2, 2020 from Zoom by Chairman, Dawn Snyder with quorum declared. Introductions were made, and the travel sheet was signed.

Those present at today's meeting: Rich Pope, Bob Benton, Dawn Snyder, Renea Anderson, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Graham McGaffin, Patty McCall, Craig Anderson, and Lobbyist Craig Patterson.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Rich Pope to approve the September 2, 2020 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** A Motion was made by Rich Pope, seconded by Bob Benton to approve the December 2, 2020 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Executive Committee Members.

Total Executive Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover as of 11/27/20 is \$179.20. Balance to Pay Approved Projects as of 11/27/20 is \$13,665.55.

Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand as of 06/30/21 are \$121,022.03.

Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand as of 06/30/21 is \$134,866.78.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Stewardship:** Michelle Wodtke Franks reported that Lance Brisbois is working on a prescribed fire at Waubonsie State Park. Kelly Madigan hiked the 7 Counties of the Loess Hills on public property starting at Plymouth County down to Fremont County. Discussion that was held with the Executive Committee Members: If Kelly would be interested in partnering with the LHA to map out the hike through the Loess Hills, promote the trail for tourism, and future signage or campsites. Kelly will be invited to visit with the Loess Hills Alliance Members about her hike at the February & March 2021 meetings. Golden Hills RC & D is partnering with RAYGUN to sell T-Shirts during the month of December. The shirts will benefit Golden Hills and their work with WanderLoess-Loess Hills Missouri River region. Loess Hills Alliance Members can buy these T-Shirts on the Golden Hills RC & D Facebook Page. A picture of a buffalo with the words WanderLoess across the buffalo is on the front of the T-Shirt.

**“Friends of LHSF/Preparation Canyon SP”:** Renea Anderson reported that the “Friends of LHSF/Preparation Canyon State Park has separated from the Loess Hills Alliance and has their own 501c3 tax Exempt Status now. A check for \$288.37 was paid to LHSF on 11/9/20. A Motion was made by Rich Pope, seconded by Bob Benton to acknowledge the separation of “Friends of LHSF/Preparation State Park and Loess Hills Alliance. Motion Carried.

**Protection:** Graham McGaffin reported that the November 4<sup>th</sup> Protection Committee zoom meeting was canceled due to no quorum. One RFP was received by the October 2, 2020 deadline.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation  
Grant Request: \$4,000.00  
Project Title: Armstrong Vegetation Management 2021-22

The Armstrong property (160 acre parcel) is located near the northern border of Harrison County, adjacent to the Loess Hills State Forest, ½ mile south of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway, and within the Little Sioux Special Landscape Area. Over 60 acres of the property are remnant prairie. Over 53 acres of crop ground are prime for future restoration into native prairie vegetation. The funding will go towards hiring a CCI crew for one week to remove invasive deciduous trees and shrubs that have encroached past the tree line. The work on this project will start next spring and summer.

Total Protection Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY20/21 is \$7,000.00. The Armstrong Vegetation Management 2021-22 project scored high from the Scoring Committee members, Jeff Seago, Scott Nelson, and Graham McGaffin. LHA Protection Chairman, Graham McGaffin will request to fund \$4,000.00 for this project through email to the Protection Committee Members. The remaining Protection Committee funding will roll over until next year.

**Economic:** Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee will do the same budget for advertising as last year. Advertising will continue in the Iowa Travel Guide, Sioux City Visitors Guide, Council Bluffs Visitors Guide, and Our Iowa magazine. Sioux City Visitors Guide presents the Loess Hills ad in the Spring, Fall, and Winter, three times a year. “Thank-you’s” continue to be received through the Lucky I Prize \$100.00 gift donation for Our Iowa magazine. Each of the seven Loess Hills Counties takes turns to present the \$100.00 gift donation for the Lucky I prize. Woodbury County will be in the next rotation to present the Lucky I Prize \$100.00 gift donation for Our Iowa magazine. The Domain has been renewed. The Pull-Up Banners are ready to be used and will be stored at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor’s Center, Pisgah. The RVing brochures will be printed later as the County Conservation Boards continue to update their campgrounds.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Legislative Update:** Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that Republicans went into the elections with a 53-47 advantage in the Iowa House. Republicans emerged from the election with a 59-41 advantage. In the Senate, Republicans kept their 32-18 majority. Senator Jason Schultz is the Chairman for Commerce. Senator Rozenboom is the Chairman for Agriculture & Natural Resources. Senator Shipley is the Chairman for Local Government. Matt Windschitl is the new Iowa House Majority Leader. Representative, Jacob Bossman is Chairman for Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations. With a larger margin, IWILL and other bills will be easier to navigate with Governor, Kim Reynolds. New issues that will be discussed will be Broadband Internet Connections, Telehealth, and Child Care. The general fund has recovered. The Infrastructure Budget has not come back as good due to the decrease of lottery sales. Iowa’s casinos had closed for while due the pandemic. Craig stated that he and Lobbyist, Amy Campbell have been setting up zoom meetings to contact the new State Legislators. The Lobbyists will have access to the State Capitol Building, but not the public. The Capitol Rotunda can still be reserved.

**COVID-19 Situation:** Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Loess Hills Alliance meetings will be done virtually through zoom meetings or conference calls. All members are trying to stay safe and waiting for the vaccine.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2020 Annual Report:** Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the draft of the 2020 Annual Report to the Executive Committee members. If any changes, they need to be done by the January 2021 deadline. The 2020 Annual Report will be presented at the Full Board meeting today at 1:00 pm for approval.

**LHA 2021 Executive Committee & Full Board Meeting Dates:** The Executive Committee will propose these meeting dates, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month for the LHA Executive Committee and Full Board at the Full Board meeting today at 1:00 pm for approval.

**Full Board Meetings.**

March 3<sup>rd</sup>

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

September 1<sup>st</sup>

December 1<sup>st</sup>

**Executive Committee Meetings.**

February 3<sup>rd</sup>

March 3<sup>rd</sup>

May 5<sup>th</sup>

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

August 4<sup>th</sup>

September 1<sup>st</sup>

November 3<sup>rd</sup>

December 1<sup>st</sup>

**2021 Nominating Committee:** At this time, Dawn Snyder and Rich Pope volunteered to be on the 2021 Nominating Committee. Please contact Dawn Snyder if any of the Loess Hills Alliance Members would like to be on the Nominating Committee. At this time, Patty McCall, Graham McGaffin, Bob Benton, and Rich Pope will serve as nominees for the 2021 LHA Officer Positions-Executive Committee.

**Thanks to Outgoing Board Members:** The Loess Hills Alliance would like to thank Marty Pottebaum and Tammy Bramley for their service on the Loess Hills Alliance Board and their help on protecting the Loess Hills.

**Potential 2021 Projects:** Future potential 2021 projects are the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar, scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and the future Low-Hi Trail (Kelly Madigan's hike).

**Other:** Letters were sent to all seven Loess Hills County auditors for support for the Loess Hills.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ADJOURN** A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Patty McCall to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 AM.

**Next Meeting** February 3, 2021 at 1:00 PM Tentative Location: Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Jeannette Riesberg