



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

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:02 PM, Wednesday, February 2, 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, Wesley Fopma (Representative Randy Feenstra's office), Jeremy Taylor, Jeff Seago, Kody Wohlers, Dawn Snyder, and Nick Beeck.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Bob Benton to approve the December 1, 2021 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A change was needed to the February 2, 2022 Executive Committee Agenda. Under "New Business" the "Loess Hills Prairie Seminar" was added. A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Dawn Snyder to approve the amended February 2, 2022 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 payments for Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg's work and Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$17.75 for Printing Annual Report. Total checks paid was \$1,216.15. Total checking account balance for November 23, 2021 through January 31, 2022 is \$31,095.63.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Lance reported that the Stewardship Committee met this morning. The Stewardship Committee received six Grant Applications for the 2022 RFP/\$8,000.00.

Environmental Education Department of Pottawattamie Conservation
Project Title: Native Pollinator Demonstration Garden
Amount of Grant Request-\$1,000.00

Harrison County Conservation Board
Project Title: HCCB-Seasonal Natural Resource Technician
Amount of Grant Request-\$3,000.00

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Project Title: Loess Hills INHF Land Stewardship Program
Amount of Grant Request-\$2,520.00

Loess Hills Fire Partners
Project Title: Cooperative Burn Week 2022
Amount of Grant Request-\$1,500.00

Monona County Conservation
Project Title: Prairie Restoration at Savery Pond
Amount of Grant Request-\$2,200.00

The Nature Conservancy
Project Title: Broken Kettle Grasslands-Invasive Tree Clearing 2021-2022
Amount of Grant Request-\$2,000.00

All Grant applications are great projects for the Loess Hills. The Stewardship Committee approved allocating \$8,000.00 funding towards all 6 projects, totaling \$12,220.00 and to recommend the Executive Committee fund the remainder \$4,220.00 balance.

The Stewardship Committee also approved that if the Executive Committee funding of \$4,220.00 is not approved, the Stewardship Committee will allocate funding towards the Native Pollinator Demonstration Garden, Pottawattamie Conservation-\$1,000.00, HCCB-Seasonal Natural Resource Technician-\$3,000.00, Cooperative Burn Week 2022-\$1,500.00, and Prairie Restoration at Savery Pond, Monona County-\$2,200.00 totaling \$7,700.00 with an ending balance of \$300.00.

Protection: No Protection Committee report.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that edits continue to be received for reprinting of the Birding, RVing, and Motorcycling Brochures. Our Iowa magazine did a “We start the story....and you finish it....” for their 15th annual holiday writing contest. The grand prize winner received a weekend getaway in the northern Loess Hills area, representing Plymouth and Woodbury Counties. The grand prize included 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, 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, and Browns Century Theater Gift Shoppe, Le Mars, and a meal at “Uncommon Grounds” restaurant in Sloan. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebooks continue going out to the public. There is approximately one year’s worth of time left and then will need to be reprinted. The Economic Development Committee showcased the Loess Hills banners at the Travel Federation of Iowa Legislative Showcase on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds (Elwell Family Food Center).

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee for March Meeting: 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.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Legislature Report: No report from Lobbyist, Craig Patterson. The Legislature reports from Craig Patterson will be emailed to Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg to be forwarded on to all Loess Hills Alliance Members.

Discuss Potential 2022 Projects, as needed: Several 2022 projects have been created through the Loess Hill Alliance’s RFP grant funding process. Cooperative Burn Week will take place in the southern Loess Hills including Waubonsie State Park.

Loess Hills Prairie Seminar: The Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 3- 5, 2022. Funding for the LHPS will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting on March 2, 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Due to a limitation on who can visit the capital, there will not be a “Day on the Hill” at the capital for the Loess Hills Alliance. The Loess Hills Alliance members are encouraged to continue to attend Legislative Coffee events. The Loess Hills Alliance 2021 Annual Report would provide good outreach.

Wesley Fopma (Representative Randy Feenstra’s office reported that the 2022 State Legislative Session started on January 10th. We thanked all the Loess Hills Alliance Members for all the work that they do to promote the Loess Hills.

The Woodbury County Conservation Foundation and the Loess Hills Wild Ones will be sponsoring a zoom webinar on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at 2:00 pm. Deborah Q. Lewis, Curator Ada Hayden Herbarium, Iowa State University will be presenting “Iowa’s Flora-Natural and Cultural History”.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Dawn Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 pm.

Next Meeting March 2, 2022 at 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg