



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DRAFT MINUTES  
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2021**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:04 PM, Wednesday, February 3, 2021 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, Lance Bribois, Graham McGaffin, Patty McCall, Bo Fox, Nick Beeck, Brent McCall, Doug Chafa, Lobbyist Craig Patterson, and land owner, Kelly Madigan.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the December 2, 2020 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** A Motion was made by Rich Pope, seconded by Patty McCall to approve the February 3, 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 Schroer & Associates, P.C. was paid \$350.00 for Preparation of Federal & State Income Tax 990s-2020, Western Iowa Tourism Region was paid \$67.28 for Fulfillment 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr, Sioux City Journal was paid \$3,499.98 for Sioux City Visitors Guide , Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$1,554.72 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Fiscal Management and \$10.45 for Postage -2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. Total checks paid was \$6,460.83 with 0 transfers. Total checking account balance for November 25, 2020 through January 28, 2021 is \$14,830.65.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Stewardship:** Lance Brisbois reported that the Stewardship Committee met at 10:30 am this morning via ZOOM. Total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY20/21 is \$14,000.00. A RFP Grant will be available through the Stewardship Committee for projects that can be used towards education, cedar removal, prairie restoration, etc. that will be due sometime in March or April 2021. Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Jason Andersen did an update on the Quarterly Partners Report. The Pheasants Forever Annual Report from Jamie Cook was presented to the Stewardship Committee. Nic Salick is working for The Nature Conservancy in Nebraska and Jake Holt was hired as a Soil Conservationist by NRCS, Fremont County. Jason Andersen was transferred to fill the vacancy of Nic Salick covering Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties. To date, the position held by Jake Holt has yet to be filled and will remain vacant until a long-term financial agreement is reached with NRCS.

**Protection:** Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met at 9:00 am this morning via ZOOM. Total Protection Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY20/21 is \$7,000.00.

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 is located near Pisgah, Harrison County, adjacent to the Loess Hills State Forest, ½ mile south of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway. 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 project scored high from the Scoring Committee members, Jeff Seago, Scott Nelson, and Graham McGaffin. The Protection Committee approved to allocate \$4,000.00 to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation towards the restoration work that will be done by the Conservation Corps Iowa for this project.

Emily Martin, Conservation Programs Coordinator for Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation presented the Monona Complex Vegetation Management 2019-20 project to the Protection Committee. Pictures were shown of the work that was done by the Conservation Corps Iowa. Cedar removal was done on approximately eight acres of the Hanson tract and the Knudson-Dahm tract. A prescribed fire was done on the Hanson tract in the spring of 2020.

**Economic:** Renea Anderson reported that the Iowa Welcome Centers are all still closed due the coronavirus pandemic. Some brochures are being distributed. The 53' Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Loess Hills truck wrap will be renewed, possibly getting to use two trucks for Loess Hills advertising. The Our Iowa magazine Lucky I Prize \$100.00 gift donations are getting good response. Hand written "Thank-you's" continue to be received. At this time, printing of the last brochure, "RVing in the Hills" is on hold.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Legislative Update:** Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that due to the coronavirus pandemic, not many legislators are at the capital. Craig and Amy have been contacting the legislators through zoom or telephone. The Loess Hills Legislative Update will be sent out on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Bill Version Tracking can be used to check out the individual Bills; Housing, Hunting, Broadband Internet Connections, Child Care, Governor's Tax Bill, etc. Restrictions have been put into place for "Funnel Week". The first "funnel" deadline is Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**2020 Annual Report:** The 2020 Annual Report has been sent to the Legislators.

**2021 Nominating Committee:** Dawn Snyder and Rich Pope are on the 2021 Nominating Committee. Nick Beeck and Bo Fox would like to be added to the list as a nominee for the 2021 LHA Officer Positions-Executive Committee. 2021 LHA Officer Positions-Elections will be held at the next Full Board meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**LoHi Trail with Kelly Madigan:** Kelly Madigan presented the LoHi Trail information to the Executive Committee members. In October and November 2020, Kelly Madigan hiked the entire length of the Loess Hills, from north to south, totaling 270 miles. A supported hike was done by walking on gravel and dirt roads, through state parks, on land owned by The Nature Conservancy, and busy paved roads. The bridges were challenging to walk on with the traffic and Highway 2 was difficult to get across. A safe passage is needed for the public through low traveled gravel roads.

Iowa National Heritage Foundation offers a BeWildReWild Grant funding to help create a wilder, more beautiful, more biologically diverse, and more enduring Mississippi River Watershed. Over time, as roads are repaired, upgraded, or bridges replaced, a wildlife crossing would be useful to large mammals and would have the added benefit of being useful to pedestrians.

The LoHi Trail Facebook page was created with over 300 followers. A group LoHi Trek is scheduled for June 6-9, 2021 from Southwood Conservation Area to Loess Hills State Forest. The LHA Executive Committee thanked Kelly Madigan for her report.

**Potential 2021 Projects:** Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon pledged \$10 Billion to the Bezos Earth Fund to address climate change. The Grant funding could be used towards rewilding projects, land preservation, Natural Resources projects in the Loess Hills, and incorporating trails in the Loess Hills. The Bezos Earth Fund plans to begin disbursing grants in the summer.

Meetings are being held with landowners that would like a trail built between Southwood Conservation Area, Woodbury County and Peters Park, Monona County. There is approximately one mile between the two parks.

**REAP Alliance Contact:** The REAP Alliance Contact will need updating after the election in March.

**Other:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ADJOURN** A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Patty McCall to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 PM.

**Next Meeting** March 3, 2021

Respectfully Submitted by  
Jeannette Riesberg