



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:06 PM, Wednesday, February 5, 2020 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, Lance Brisbois, Renea Anderson, Jason Andersen, Dawn Snyder, Brett Bengard, and Bob Benton.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Bob Benton to approve the December 4, 2019 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A change was needed to the February 5th Executive Committee agenda. Under "New Business", "Meeting Notifications" and "LHPS Discussion & Funding" was added. A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Bob Benton to approve the amended February 5, 2020 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 Web Graphics was paid \$454.30 for Birding Brochure, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was paid \$4,500.00 for Monona County Vegetation Management, Loess Hills State Forest-Iowa DNR was paid \$10,000.00 for Christensen Farm Prairie Restoration, Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$1,332.00 for 2nd QTR Bookkeeping and \$128.62 for Postage/Printing/Website, and Schroer & Associates P.C. was paid \$350.00 for Preparation of Federal and State Income Tax 990s-2019. Total checks paid was \$19,296.69 with 3 transfers. Total checking account balance for November 27, 2019 through February 3, 2020 is \$23,454.56.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Lance Bribois reported that the Stewardship Committee met this morning at 10:30 am. The PL Position reports were presented by Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists, Jason Andersen and Jake Holt. The Stewardship Committee allocated \$1,500.00 to help with financial support for the 2020 Hitchcock Nature Center BioBlitz and allocated \$2,000.00 to help with financial support for the 2020 Cooperative Burn Week. A suggestion was made to include a newsletter for these projects for recognition and advertising for the Loess Hills. Discussion was held on who is considered as a Stewardship Committee member, who can vote, and if the person has to attend a minimum of meetings to be considered a Stewardship Committee Member. Committee Membership will be discussed at the next Full Board meeting on March 4, 2020.

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologists Jason Andersen introduced himself to the Executive Committee. Jason transitioned into a different coverage area with Pheasants Forever, taking over for Nic Salick on December 23, 2019. Jason will cover Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties as his primary area, and continue to cover Audubon and Cass County until a new biologist is hired. Jason has been working with Birds & Butterfly Programs in Prairie Remnant areas.

“Friends of LHSF/Preparation Canyon SP”: Rich Pope reported that the “Friends of LHSF/Preparation Canyon SP” purchased a Rough Cut Trail Mower through a \$5,000.00 Gilchrist Micro-grant. A written report was turned in to Rich Pope by December 31, 2019.

Protection: No Report at this time.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that the Birding Brochures were made and have been distributed. Advertising the Loess Hills continues through Our Iowa Magazine, Sioux City Visitors Guide, Council Bluffs Visitors Guide, Iowa Travel Guide, and the Truck Wrap. There will be two state visitor’s guides distributed FY2020 highlighting unique destinations, Spring & Summer and Fall & Winter. The Pull-Up Banners are finished and will be shown to the Full Board Committee on March 4th. The Pull-Up Banners are stored at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor’s Center, Pisgah. The Iowa Tourism Conference is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd - Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at the Hilton Des Moines Downtown.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Loess Hills Alliance Legislative Contact (Day on the Hill): Discussion was held concerning Legislative contact. The Loess Hills Alliance is waiting to hear back from Lobbyist, Craig Patterson concerning which day would work the best to visit the State Legislators. Last year, Rich Pope, Bob Benton, and Renea Anderson met with the Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee in February 2019 at the Iowa State Capitol. Environmental Lobby Day will be held on March 11, 2020. Representative, Matt Windschitl would like to see representatives from the Loess Hills Alliance to come and visit with the State Legislators. Please contact Rich Pope, Bob Benton, and Renea Anderson if interested.

County Board Appointments: Rich Pope verified the Loess Hills Alliance Board of Directors and Alternates listing with the Executive Committee Members that attended today's meeting. The listing will be verified at the next Full Board Committee meeting on March 4, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Grants Process Discussion: A brief discussion outlining the process when Loess Hills Alliance members making future grant applications/awards to ensure the process honors the specific grant contracts, including any required reports to wrap up a grant.

Meeting Notifications: Some LHA members have stated that they do not want Committee information from all of the meetings. All Loess Hills Alliance members and the public are invited to any of the Loess Hills Alliance meetings. A discussion will be held on "Meeting Notifications" at the next LHA Full Board meeting on March 4, 2020.

LHPS Discussion & Funding: Last year, the Loess Hills Alliance allocated \$2,000.00 for the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. "Loess Hills Prairie Seminar Discussion & Funding" will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting on March 4, 2020.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

"First Day Hike" was held on January 1, 2020 at Waubonsie State Park with 100 attendees.

"First Day Hike" was held on January 1, 2020 at Stone State Park with 40 attendees.

"First Day Hike" was held on January 1, 2020 at Preparation Canyon State Park and Loess Hills State Forest with 80 attendees.

Dawn Snyder reported that Graham McGaffin will do a presentation on his experience traveling to Yangling, China for the China-US Exchange. The presentation will be held at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center on February 20, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Dawn Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 1:48 PM.

Next Meeting March 4, 2020 at Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah at 10:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg