



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

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:33 AM, Wednesday, March 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 Brisbois, Graham McGaffin, Patty McCall, Bo Fox, and Lobbyist Craig Patterson.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Patty McCall to approve the February 3, 2020 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Rich Pope to approve the March 3, 2021 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

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

Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee FY21 reserve funds to obligate or carryover is \$179.20. Of the total approved projects (\$19,500.00), \$8,937.94 has been paid and balance to pay is \$10, 562.06. Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand is \$121,022.03. Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand is \$131,763.29.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Lance Brisbois reported that the Stewardship Committee met at 9:00 am this morning via ZOOM. Total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY20/21 is \$14,000.00. A RFP was created to formalize the funding that the Stewardship Committee allocates. Applications must be received by March 31, 2021. The Stewardship Committee allocated \$2,000.00 to Loess Hills Fire Partners to help support Cooperative Burn Week 2021, held on April 26th – 30th, 2021.

Protection: Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met on February 3rd via ZOOM. Total Protection Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY21 is \$3,000.00. The Protection Committee allocated \$4,000.00 to help fund restoration work that will be done by the Conservation Corps Iowa on the Armstrong property, located near Pisgah, Harrison County. A final presentation and written report for the Monona Complex Vegetation Management 2019-20 project was presented by Emily Martin, Conservation Programs Coordinator for Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The next Protection Committee meeting will be held on May 5th at 9:00 am.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee met on March 1st via zoom. The Committee allocated \$3,200.00 for a 54' Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Loess Hills truck wrap for 2 years, April 2021 – April 2023. The Loess Hills wrap will show the driver's side of the truck and the tailgate. The Committee approved a change in the Our Iowa magazine Loess Hills ad from 1/6 to 1/3 of a page with the money coming from the money left to obligate for FY21 and to reallocate the rest of the money necessary from the postage and fulfillment line item. The revised artwork will be shown in the June/July and August/September issues of Our Iowa magazine plus the next full year after that. Outdoor activity (camping, hiking the trails, and biking) has increased.

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 they are halfway through "Funnel Week" and some of the Bills could get cut. REAP has been extended until June. IWILL is paused for now. The Senate is working on a large tax Bill. A Revenue Estimate Conference meeting will be held in 2 weeks. There isn't much activity at the State Capitol Rotunda, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The Loess Hills Alliance will send support letters to Senator Rozenboom, Senator Shipley, Matt Windschitl, Jacob Bossman, 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.

Updates on LHA Funding Support by County: Letters were sent to all seven Loess Hills County auditors FY22 funding support for the Loess Hills. Funding has been received from Plymouth, Harrison, and Fremont Counties. Deadline is June 30, 2021.

LoHi Trail: In October and November 2020, Kelly Madigan hiked the entire length of the Loess Hills, from north to south. Kelly had reported that the bridges were challenging to walk on with the traffic and Highway 2 was difficult to get across. A wildlife crossing would be useful to large mammals and would have the added benefit of being useful to pedestrians. At this time, a wildlife crossing would not be made, because Highway 2 has all been replaced with new highway. A group LoHi Trek with Kelly Madigan is scheduled for June 6-9, 2021 from Southwood Conservation Area in Southern Woodbury County to Loess Hills State Forest.

Potential LHA Projects: In November 2019, the Executive Committee allocated \$1,250.00 towards the Friends of Waubonsie State Park-Project Title: Necessary Infrastructure (a pit latrine) at Blackburn's Green Hollow Addition to Waubonsie State Park. The Loess Hills Alliance (Bob Benton) will check into doing the signage for this project.

NEW BUSINESS

Rate of Pay Increase for LHA Secretary-Jeannette Riesberg: LHA Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg started working for the Loess Hills Alliance in 2012 at the rate of \$12.00 an hour. A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Bob Benton to increase her wage from \$12.00 to \$14.00 an hour. Motion carried.

2021 LHA Election of Executive Committee: The 2021 LHA Officer Nominating Committee is Dawn Snyder and Rich Pope. The slate of nominees for the Executive Committee are:

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

The 2021 LHA Officer Positions Election will be held via Zoom today at the Full Board Meeting at 1:00 PM. Golden Hills RC & D will launch a ZOOM poll during the meeting for attendees to view and respond on their screens. Attendees can also text their vote in through telephone.

Other: No information at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Graham McGaffin to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 AM.

Next Meeting May 5, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg