



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:34 AM, Wednesday, March 4, 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, Bob Benton, Dawn Snyder, Patty McCall, Michelle Wodke Franks, and via telephone, Renea Anderson.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Bob Benton to approve the February 5, 2020 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A change was needed to the March 4th Executive Committee agenda. Under "New Business", "Legislative Bills" was added. A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Patty McCall to approve the amended March 4, 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 Western Iowa Tourism Region was paid \$51.98 for 2nd Qtr Fulfillment. Total checks paid was \$270.43 with 0 transfers. Total checking account balance for February 4, 2020 through February 18, 2020 is \$21,693.56.

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Funds as of 02/28/20 is \$239,890.00 with Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/20 is \$239,890.00 with 506 Other Current Assets.

Total Executive Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover as of 02/28/20 is \$239.50. Balance to Pay Approved Projects as of 02/28/20 is \$10,432.60.
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand as of 02/28/20 are \$106,022.03.
Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand as of 02/28/20 is \$116,694.13.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: No report at this time.

“Friends of LHSF/Preparation Canyon SP”: An article about the Friends of the Loess Hills State Forest and Preparation Canyon State Park First Day Hike was presented to the Executive Committee Members. The First Day Hike was held on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm beginning at the entrance to Preparation Canyon State Park. The Iowa Prairie Network is conducting a pasque flower walk in the Pisgah Unit of Loess Hills State Forest on Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Discussion was held on whether to send out this information to all LHA Members. A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve sending out all information concerning functions in the Loess Hills to all LHA Members and to put “For Your Information” in the Subject Line of the emails. Motion carried.

Protection: No Report at this time.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that there will be two state visitor’s guides distributed FY2020. The Loess Hills Visitors Guides have been placed and mailed. The Pull-Up Banners are stored at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor’s Center and will be shown to the Full Board Committee today, March 4th. The Pull-Up Banners will also be displayed at the North American Prairie Conference in Des Moines on July 20th - July 22nd. The Iowa Tourism Conference is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd - Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at the Hilton Des Moines Downtown. The Economic Development Committee members will ask about the 53’ Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Loess Hills truck wrap during the 2020 Iowa Tourism Conference.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Loess Hills Alliance Legislative Contact (Day on the Hill): The 2020 Iowa Legislative Session will be a smaller this year, so at this time there will be no Loess Hills Alliance formal trip to Des Moines. The Loess Hills Alliance Members are asked to engage in the Legislative Coffees around the area to discuss Loess Hills Alliance funding, REAP funding, and supporting the Invest in Iowa Act. Conservation Day on the Hill will be held on March 11, 2020.

Loess Hills Prairie Seminar: FY2019 the Loess Hills Alliance allocated \$2000.00 for the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. The 2020 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on May 29th through May 31st, 2020. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Dawn Snyder to allocate \$2,000.00 from the Executive/Board Reserve Funds to help fund the 2020 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar and to prepay the funding as customary practice so the LHPS can take place. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 LHA Officer Positions-Elections: The 2020 LHA Officer Nominating Committee is John Straight, Rocky DeWitt, and Rich Pope. The 2020 LHA Officer Positions will be voted on today at the 1:00 pm LHA Full Board meeting.

Annual Audit Report: No report. The 2019 audit report was presented and accepted by the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board Members at the December 4, 2019 Full Board meeting.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate: The 2020 Federal Mileage rate is \$.575. A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Dawn Snyder to recommend to the Full Board Members to adopt the annual Federal Mileage rate for mileage reimbursements. Motion carried.

Legislative Bills: The Scenic Byway Legislation Bill - SF2060 creates a scenic byways enhancement fund. A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Bob Benton to recommend to the Full Board to instruct Loess Hills Alliance Lobbyist, Craig Patterson to support the Scenic Byway Legislation Bill-SF2060 on behalf of the Loess Hills Alliance. Motion carried.

The Invest in Iowa Act would raise the state sales tax by a full penny and therefore, fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. There has been modifications to the formula, but funding will be available for REAP, Lake & Stream Restoration, Water & Land Trails, Local Conservation Partnerships, Watershed Protection, Soil & Water Conservation, and Natural Resources. A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Patty McCall to recommend to the Full Board to instruct Loess Hills Alliance Lobbyist, Craig Patterson to support Invest in Iowa Act on behalf of the Loess Hills Alliance. Motion Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Bob Benton to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 AM.

Next Meeting May 6, 2020 at Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah at 1:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg

