



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

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:10 PM, Wednesday, May 4, 2022 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, Graham McGaffin, Jeremy Taylor, Craig Patterson, Cara Morgan, and Nick Beeck.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Bob Benton to approve the March 2, 2022 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Nic Beeck to approve the May 4, 2022 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Renea Anderson presented the May 3, 2022 Treasurer's Report to the Executive Committee Members. The Bills Paid Report showed payments for Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg's work, Schroer & Associates was paid \$350.00 for Preparation of Federal & State Income Tax 990's-2020, Monona County Conservation Trust was paid \$2,000.00 for the 2022 Prairie Seminar Grant, Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$117.81 for 3rd Qtr Postage/Domain, \$1,100.00 for 2nd Qtr. Bookkeeping FY22, and \$835.50 for 3rd Qtr. Bookkeeping, Campbell/Patterson Consulting was paid \$3,500.00 for Lobbying 2022 Session, Intuit was paid \$134.82 for 250 Voucher Checks, Monona County Conservation Board was paid \$2,200.00 for Savery Pond Prairie Restoration Project, and WiaTel was paid \$64.20 for 5 Domain Renewals. Total checks paid was \$11,280.23. Total checking account balance as of May 3, 2022 is \$18,689.40.

Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Graham McGaffin to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: No Stewardship Report at this time.

Protection: Protection Committee Chairman, Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met this morning at 11:00 am. Discussion was held concerning the LHA Protection Committee funded projects. The Protection Committee helped fund Loess Hills Vegetation Management projects on the Armstrong property, Harrison County and the Monona Complex, Monona County. With the help of summer interns, CCI, contractors, and INHF staff, restoration activities were focused on vegetation management through invasive species removal, prescribed fires, seed harvests, and cedar removal. The Protection Committee budget funding of \$10,050.00 will be used towards the 2022 RFP Grant funding process. The RFP will be sent out to the LHA Members and the media in August and be due back in the office by the 1st week of October.

Economic: Economic Development Chairman, Renea Anderson reported that Bear Graphics, Sioux City printed 5,000 each of the Loess Hills Birding, RVing, and Motorcycling Brochures. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebooks continue going out to the public and will be looked at for any changes that are needed to be reprinted at a later time. There is approximately one year's worth of time left.

A Motion was made by Nick Beeck, seconded by Bob Benton to accept the Committee Reports. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Authorization for 2022 LHPS to use the LHA 501c3 Status: The Executive Committee had previously approved through an email vote to allow the use of the LHA's 501(c)3 status for the 2022 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. A Motion was made by Rich Pope, second by Renea Anderson to formally approve to let the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar use LHA's 501(c)3 status for the purpose of soliciting and accepting contributions for the 2022 Seminar. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislature Report and Funding Update: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that the 2022 legislative session is still in process. The State funds of \$40,000.00 for the Loess Hills Alliance has passed in the House but is still waiting on the Senate. The 2022 Iowa Primary election will be held on June 7th. A benefit softball game was held between the Democrats and Republicans to raise funding for the Food Bank of Iowa and the Puppy Jake Foundation. Over \$26,000.00 was raised.

Monona County Contribution Contract: A 28E.4 Agreement Contract between Monona County and Loess Hills Alliance was presented to the Executive Committee Members for review. Chairman, Rich Pope signed the agreement on May 4, 2022. The signed form will be returned to Monona County and a copy will be sent to Golden Hills RC & D.

Committee Allocations (Pending State Budget Completion): At this time, the Loess Hills Alliance budget allocation (Pending Legislative Status) will be \$40,000.00 FY22-23. In the past Stewardship, Protection, and Economic Development Committees each received \$7,000.00 and Executive Committee received \$15,000.00 for special projects and \$4,000.00 for Administrative purposes. A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Graham McGaffin to conditionally approve (providing State funding is received) the attentive FY21-22 LHA Committee Budget Allocations to each Committee as states:

Stewardship	\$9,000.00
Protection	\$9,000.00
Econ Dev.	\$9,000.00
Executive	\$9,000.00
Admin. Fees	\$4,000.00

Motion Carried.

Review of Service Providers (Jeannette Riesberg, Craig Patterson, Golden Hills RC & D):

Jeannette Riesberg-Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg compiles the Minutes for the Loess Hills Alliance Committee meetings: Protection, Stewardship, Executive, Economic Development, and Full Board. Emails are sent to the Chairman of each Committee for agenda information, to all LHA Members concerning up-coming meetings and informational items, and to Golden Hills RC & D with information that needs to be uploaded to the LHA Website. Phone calls and emails with questions concerning the Loess Hills are forwarded on to the Committee's Chairman. Jeannette does good work and is appreciated. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Jeannette Riesberg for the work that she does.

Craig Patterson-Lobbyist, Craig Patterson has worked with the Loess Hills Alliance approximately 8 years. There is great communication between Craig and the Loess Hills Alliance through meeting attendance and State Legislative newsletters. Craig will inform the Loess Hills Alliance when something needs done. A good relationship has been formed. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Lobbyist, Craig Patterson for all the work that he does for the Loess Hills.

Golden Hills RE& D-Becky Von Weihe retired from Golden Hills RC & D in December 2021. Loess Hills Alliance thanks Becky for the work she did for the LHA. Happy Retirement. Jeri Smith was hired to replace Becky at Golden Hills RC & D. We welcome Jeri and are looking forward to working with her through the Loess Hills Alliance. Michelle Franks has accepted a new position at Iowa West Foundation starting in April 2022. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Michelle for the work she did for the LHA. Enjoy your new employment. We welcome Cara Morgan as the new Interim Executive Director as a shared position with Lance Brisbois and are looking forward to working with her through the Loess Hills Alliance. Golden Hills RC & D does cash & budget bookkeeping services for the Loess Hills Alliance which include: committee financial reports, annual reports, issues payments related to LHA personnel and LHA invoices, completes the annual W2 & 1099 financial reports for the IRS and State of Iowa, arranges for an independent annual full audit of the LHA, helps with Grant applications for the different LHA Committees, etc. The Contract between Golden Hills RC & D and the Loess Hills Alliance will stay the same. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Golden Hills RC & D for the work that they do for the LHA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Governor, Kim Reynolds is using \$100 million in federal pandemic relief money to finance new tourist attractions in Iowa and enhance existing sites. Cities, counties and other organizations will be able to apply for what the governor is calling “Destination Iowa” grants. The City of Sioux City is applying for part of the Destination Iowa Grant process to connect several trail projects.

The Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 3rd through June 5th, 2022.

At this time, zoom meetings for the Loess Hills Alliance will continue.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Renea Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 pm.

Next Meeting June 1, 2022 at 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg