



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

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:02 PM, Wednesday, May 5, 2021 from Zoom 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, Nick Beeck, Dawn Snyder, Renea Anderson, Lance Brisbois, Graham McGaffin, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Scott Nelson, and Lobbyist Craig Patterson.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Bob Benton to approve the March 3, 2021 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve the May 5, 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 Pheasants Forever was paid \$7,000.00 FY20 Loess Hills Farm Bill Biologists, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was paid \$4,000.00 FY20 Monona County Vegetation Management, Harrison County GIS & Mapping was paid \$100.00 for Truck Wrap, WiaTel was paid \$128.40 for 6 Domain renewals, Campbell/Patterson Consulting, LLP was paid \$3,500.00 for Lobbyist-2021 Session, and Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$1,062.00 for 3rd qtr. Fiscal Management and \$55.62 for Postage/Supplies/1099 Filing. Total checks paid was \$16,937.86 with one transfer. Total checking account balance for March 1, 2021 through April 26, 2021 is \$26,182.87.

A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Nick Beeck 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. Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Jason Andersen reported his Quarterly Partners Report to the Stewardship Committee. The Stewardship Committee received two RFP applications: Harrison County Conservation Board, Project Title: Harrison County Conservation Board-Seasonal Natural Resource Technician. Amount of Grant Request is \$2,000.00 and Pottawattamie Conservation, Project title: Bioblitz 2021. Amount of Grant Request is \$1,500.00. The Stewardship Committee allocated \$2,000.00 to Harrison County Conservation Board to help support the Seasonal Natural Resource Technician position and allocated \$1,500.00 to Pottawattamie Conservation to help support the Bioblitz 2021 project. The Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week was held on Monday, April 26th through Friday, April 30th. This year, the focus was on the northern Loess Hills. Burning was done every day with good training.

Protection: Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met this morning at 9:00 am via ZOOM. In 2020, TNC was awarded \$12,500.00 from the Loess Hills Alliance, \$8,000.00 from Protection Committee and \$4,500.00 from Executive Committee to help fund the Hebert Conservation Easement. Due to various reasons and circumstances, the Heberts have chosen to not participate in an easement at this time. The \$3,000.00 remaining unspent funds from 2021 and \$8,000.00 relinquished funds from TNC for the Hebert Conservation Easement project in Plymouth County will go towards next fall's RFP. Rebecca Castle presented the Loess Hills Alliance Grant Report by Friends of Waubonsie State Park to the Protection Committee. Project title "Necessary Infrastructure at Blackburn's Green Hollow Addition to Waubonsie State Park". A ceremonial grand opening to recognize donors will be set at a later date.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee approved a change in the Our Iowa magazine Loess Hills ad from 1/6 to 1/3 of a page. 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. A 54' Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Loess Hills truck wrap was approved for 2 years, April 2021 – April 2023. Brochures for Birding, RVing, and Motorcycling and the Loess Hills Visitors Guides have been going out more.

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

OLD BUSINESS: No "Old Business" at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Loess Hills Prairie Seminar Funding: In recent years, the Loess Hills Alliance has been funding the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. The 2021 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 4th, 5th, and 6th, a Hybrid-Virtual/In Person @ Seminar Site.

A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Renea Anderson to allocate \$1,000.00 to Monona County Conservation Trust to help support the 2021 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. Motion Carried.

LHA Committee Budget Allocations (Pending Legislative Status): At this time, the Loess Hills Alliance budget allocation (Pending Legislative Status) will be \$40,000.00 FY21-22. A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Dawn Snyder to conditionally approve (providing State funding is received) the attentive FY21-22 LHA Committee Budget Allocations to each Committee as states:

Stewardship	\$7,000.00
Protection	\$7,000.00
Econ Dev.	\$7,000.00
Executive	\$15,000.00
Admin. Fees	4,000.00

Motion Carried.

Fiscal Agreement with Golden Hills FY2022: The Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development and the Loess Hills Alliance was presented to the Executive Committee Members. Golden Hills RC & D provides cash & budget bookkeeping services, completes annual W-2 and 1099 financial reporting duties for IRS and State of Iowa, arranges for and conducts an independent annual full audit of the LHA, filing of the annual 990 to the IRS, etc. The maximum, as set within the Executive Committee budget, shall be \$6,500.00 per fiscal year for services July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The total budget amount under this agreement is not to exceed \$6,500.00. A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Bob Benton to approve renewing The Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development and the Loess Hills Alliance FY2022. Motion Carried.

Willow Lake Nature Center: Scott Nelson presented the Harrison County Conservation Board, Willow Lake Nature Center project to the Executive Committee Members. Scott reported that phase 1 (Design of the new Nature Center) is complete and they are working on phase 2 (Construction of the Building) at this time. Harrison County Conservation Board is requesting funding from the Loess Hills Alliance for the Nature Center. Other Grant request funding has been received to help fund the Willow Lake Nature Center. A Motion was made Bob Benton, seconded by Graham McGaffin to help fund this project. Motion carried. Renea Anderson abstained. Discussion was held on the amount of funding to allocate, formal documentation will be needed, etc. After discussion, a Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Dawn Snyder to table the previous Motion until the next Executive Committee meeting on June 2, 2021. Motion Carried. Formal documentation will be written and sent on to the Executive Committee Members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lobbyist Craig Patterson reported that at this time, the State Legislature is on pause. The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship budget which funds the Loess Hills Alliance \$40,000.00 is still in the budget FY21-22. Craig thanked the Loess Hills Alliance for the support letters that was sent to the State Legislatures. Craig stated that State Representatives, Chris Hall and Jacob Bossman attended the Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week. 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.

The Executive Committee held a discussion concerning the June Loess Hills Alliance meetings. Ideas that were discussed: Whether to hold the meetings by Virtual, In-Person, or both, inquire whether the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center in Pisgah is open for public use, have the LHA meetings outside, etc. More information concerning the June LHA meetings will be decided at a later date.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Graham McGaffin to adjourn the meeting at 2:04 PM.

Next Meeting June 2, 2021 at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg