



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center - Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, June 2, 2021**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:45 AM, Wednesday, June 2, 2021 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, Nick Beeck, Dawn Snyder, Renea Anderson, Rebecca Castle, Scott Nelson, and Lobbyist Craig Patterson.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Dawn Snyder to approve the May 5, 2021 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: Under "New Business" "Legislative Update-Craig Patterson" was added. A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Nick Beeck to approve the amended June 2, 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, Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$1,062.00 for 3rd qtr. Fiscal Management and \$55.62 for Postage/Supplies/1099 Filing, Western IA Tourism Region was paid \$109.04 for Fulfillment 2nd & 3rd Qtrs, Our Iowa Magazine was paid \$738.00 and \$4,392.00 for Loess Hills ads, and Monona County Conservation Trust was paid \$1,000.00 for Loess Hills Prairie Seminar 2021. Total checks paid was \$23,642.82 with two transfers. Total checking account balance for February 24, 2021 through May 24, 2021 is \$19,477.91.

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Funds as of 05/24/21 is \$247,983.00 with Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/21 is \$247,983.00 with 306 Other Current Assets.

Executive Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover is \$179.20. Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand as of 05/24/21 is \$124,459.51.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: No report at this time.

Protection: No report at this time.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that advertising will continue in the Sioux City Visitors Guide, Council Bluffs Visitor Guide, and the Our Iowa magazine. The committee approved a change in the Our Iowa magazine Loess Hills ad from 1/6 to 1/3 of a page. The Lucky I Prize \$100.00 gift donation for Our Iowa magazine continues to be well received with hand written "Thank-you's". A 45' Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Loess Hills truck wrap was approved for 2 years and is traveling the countryside. Brochures for Birding, RVing, and Motorcycling and the Loess Hills Visitors Guides have been going out more, as more businesses open up for tourism. Boxes of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebooks are stored at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center and available to distribute.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Willow Lake Nature Center: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Dawn Snyder to remove the tabled "Willow Lake Nature Center" topic and bring it back up for discussion. Motion Carried. Scott Nelson reported that the Willow Lake Nature Center is a proposed \$3.9 million project focused around the education of conservation & preservation of nature. Phase 1 (Design of the new Nature Center) is complete and they are working on phase 2 (Construction of the Building) at this time. Phase 3 will be constructing displays and exhibits. At this time, the exhibits will be permanent, but will also be looking into traveling exhibits to be used throughout the Loess Hills. Harrison County Conservation Board has received \$1.8 million towards this project and is actively raising more funding. A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder to allocate \$5,000.00 towards the Willow Lake Nature Center. After discussion, an amended Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Dawn Snyder to allocate \$15,000.00 to Harrison County Conservation Board towards the Willow Lake Nature Center for the display or displays representing water conservation in the Loess Hills with the Loess Hills Alliance receiving recognition. Motion carried.
Renea Anderson abstained.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Update-Craig Patterson: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that the 2021 State Legislative Session convened on January 11th and adjourned on May 19th, 19 days overtime. Some Committees were shut down and 1/3 of the Lobbyist did not come.

A Special Session is expected to be announced in August for redistricting.

The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship budget which funds the Loess Hills Alliance \$40,000.00 is still in the budget FY21-22. REAP has been extended for 3 years. Mental Health funding at the state level has been funded. The State Legislature has been partnering with Southern Iowa Development & Conservation Authority on projects related to the unique natural resource, rural development, and infrastructure problems of counties in the most fragile areas of the southern Iowa drift plain.

Craig stated that he will be on the road a lot now going into the next year. The Consulting Agreement between Loess Hills Alliance and Campbell/Patterson will end on June 30, 2021. The \$3,500.00, 3 year contract will stay the same, but will be updated with the changed dates at the August 4th Loess Hills Alliance Executive meeting. The Loess Hills Alliance thanked Craig Patterson for keeping everyone informed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hitchcock Nature Center Bio Blitz, Pottawattamie County will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2021.

Loess Hills Alliance Chairman, Rich Pope will be visiting State Representative, Randy Feenstra at the Western Research & Demonstration Farm on June 2, 2021.

Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 4th – June 6th, 2021. The G.R.A.S.S. (Great Race Against Shrubs & Shade) event will be held on Friday, June 4th from 9am to 12pm.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Dawn Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 AM.

Next Meeting August 4, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg