



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center - Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, August 4, 2021**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:06 PM, Wednesday, August 4, 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, Dawn Snyder, Renea Anderson, Lance Brisbois, Graham McGaffin, Patty McCall, Lynn Grobe, Wesley Fopma (Representative Randy Feenstra's office), Kolby DeWitt (Senator Ernst's office), and Lobbyist, Craig Patterson.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Bob Benton to approve the June 2, 2021 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Patty McCall to approve the August 4, 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 Kody Wohlers was paid \$2,052.19 for 2021 Cooperative Burn, IEDA Foundation was paid \$3,200.00 for Truck Wrap, Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$943.50 for 4th Qtr. Bookkeeping and \$7.15 for Postage, Our Iowa Magazine was paid \$4,392.00 for Loess Hills ads, and West Bend Mutual Insurance Company was paid \$473.00 for D & O Insurance, 08/2021-08/2022. Total checks paid was \$12,015.36 with zero transfers. Total checking account balance for May 25, 2021 through July 28, 2021 is \$11,854.55.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Lance Brisbois reported that the Stewardship Committee met this morning at 10:30 AM. Thad Pothast presented a report on the Harrison County Conservation Board Seasonal Natural Resource Technician position to the Stewardship Committee Members. The technician helped with sweet clover cutting, trail maintenance, prairie restoration, etc. The Stewardship Committee allocated \$7,500.00 to Pheasants Forever Inc. and Quail Forever to help fund the Private Lands Positions/Farm Bill Biologist program. A RFP will be done in the spring for the remaining funds.

Protection: Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met this morning at 9:00 AM. A total of \$18,000.00 will be available for this fall's Protection Committee RFP. A press release will be sent out this month. The RFP will be sent out on September 1, 2021 and due back into the office by October 1, 2021. The Scoring Committee Members, Scott Nelson, Jeff Seago, and Graham McGaffin will look over the RFP applications and make recommendations. Due to the Heberts choosing not to participate in an easement at this time, \$8,000.00 funding that was awarded to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to help fund the Hebert Conservation Easement has been returned to the Protection Committee budget.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that the committee approved a change in the Our Iowa magazine Loess Hills ad from 1/6 to 1/3 of a page. A 45' Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Loess Hills truck wrap was approved for 2 years and is traveling the countryside, primarily Eastern Iowa. Brochures for Birding, RVing, and Motorcycling and the Loess Hills Visitors Guides have been going out more, as more businesses open up for tourism. There has been an increase interest in walking the trails within the Loess Hills. Loess Hills advertising will be shown at the Spencer Fair and the Iowa State Fair.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Campbell/Patterson Consulting LLP Agreement Approval: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Patty McCall to approve the 3 year/\$3,500.00 Consulting Agreement between Loess Hills Alliance and Campbell/Patterson. Motion Carried. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Craig Patterson and Amy Campbell for all their work in promoting the Loess Hills and keeping everyone informed.

6/7 Email Vote Approval/\$55.19 Cooperative Burn: The final invoice for Cooperative Burn Week 2021 is \$2,052.19. \$2,000.00 was allocated for Cooperative Burn Week 2021 from the Stewardship Committee leaving \$52.19. On June 7th, an email vote was approved to pay \$52.19 out of the Executive Committee Project Driven funds for the rest of the Cooperative Burn Week invoice. A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the June 7, 2021 email vote to pay \$52.19 out of the Executive Committee Project Driven funds. Motion Carried.

Legislature Report: Thank you's were received from Wesley Fopma, Representative Randy Feenstra's office and Kolby DeWitt, Senator Ernst's office. Both, Wesley and Kolby are fans of the Loess Hills and enjoyed Cooperative Burn Week. Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that the Special Session for redistricting is pushed back until late October. At this time, there is a lot of turnover in the Governor's staff. IWILL and Tax Relief Package will be worked on during the next budget. Unemployment rate has rebounded. A thank you was received from Craig Patterson for being able to work with the Loess Hills Alliance.

Committees-Annual Reports: Annual reports will need to be prepared from each Committee. The same format will be used. The Loess Hills Alliance Annual Reports are to be presented to the State Legislators per state law.

FY22 Annual Budget: The Loess Hills Alliance budget allocation is \$40,000.00 FY21-22. A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Patty McCall to approve 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.

Act on Last Year's Executive Committee Additional Allocation to Protection Committee for Project That Was Not Completed: 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 the Heberts choosing not to participate in an easement at this time, the funding has been returned. A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Patty McCall to leave the \$4,500.00 in the Protection Committee budget. Motion Carried.

Discussion-bewildrewild.org/LoHi Trek: A Grant was received from the bewildrewild.org organization to help sponsor the LoHi Trek in Monona County. The Loess Hills Alliance is bound by state law for all projects. More discussion will be held during the September 1, 2021 Executive Committee meeting concerning the bewildrewild.org organization.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The REAP program has been redone and is more useable friendly. The deadline for REAP Grant applications is Monday, August 30th.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Patty McCall to adjourn the meeting at 2:02 PM.

Next Meeting September 1, 2021 at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg