



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

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:38 AM, Wednesday, September 1, 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, Kody Wohlers, Nick Beeck, and Lobbyist, Craig Patterson.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the August 4, 2021 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Dawn Snyder to approve the September 1, 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 The Hoffman Agency was paid \$400.00 for General Liability Insurance, Harrison County Conservation Board was paid \$2,000.00 for Seasonal Natural Resource Technician, and Western Iowa Tourism Region was paid \$106.76 for Fulfillment 4th Qtr. 2021. Total checks paid was \$2,980.52 with zero transfers. Total checking account balance for July 29, 2021 through August 23, 2021 is \$8,874.03.

Total Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover:
Protection: \$22,500.00 (\$5,250.00 Obligated Projects)
Stewardship: \$8,000.00 (\$9,000.00 Obligated Projects)
Economic Development: \$4,932.29 (\$11,844.40 Obligated Projects)
Executive Committee: \$737.96 (\$16,454.59 Obligated Projects)
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$134,969.84
Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand: \$152,162.39

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/22 is \$251,050.00 with 873 Other Current Assets.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Lance Brisbois reported that the Stewardship Committee met this morning at 9:00 AM. Amy Campagna, Environmental Education Coordinator for Pottawattamie County Conservation presented a report on the Bioblitz 2021 that was held at Hitchcock Nature Center on June 11th and June 12th. Approximately, 30 scientists participated in the 24 hour event. Over 700 species were identified. No report was received from Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Jason Andersen. The Stewardship Committee RFP Grant funding, \$8,000.00, will be sent out in January 2022. Voting will be done at the February 2022 Stewardship Committee meeting.

Protection: Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met on Wednesday, August 4th at 9:00 AM. The Protection Committee RFP Grant funding, \$22,500.00, has been updated and a press release was sent out. The RFP Grant is 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. Voting will be done at the November 3rd Protection Committee meeting.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that the committee met on Monday, August 30th at 10:00 AM. 5,000 Birding, RVing, and Motorcycling brochures were last printed in 2017. The Loess Hills Alliance Economic Development Committee will look at updating the brochures for reprinting at a later date. Anderson will contact Web Graphics and ask that the design files be sent so we can make our own edits. The 2020 census was presented to Executive Committee Members.

Plymouth County/2.8% increase-Total Population 25,698
Woodbury County/3.7% increase-Total Population 105,941
Monona County/5.3% Decrease-Total Population 8,751
Harrison County/2.3% Decrease-Total Population 14,582
Pottawattamie County/.5 Increase-Total Population 93,667
Mills County/3.8 Decrease-Total Population 14,484
Fremont County/11.2 Decrease-Total Population 6,605

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Act on Last Year's Executive Committee Additional Allocation to Protection Committee for Project That Was Not Completed/Needs Amended: At the August 4th Executive Committee meeting, a paragraph was stated as "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." It should have read \$4,000.00 from the Executive Committee. A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Nick Beeck to change the wording as "leave the funds of \$4,000.00 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. This group studies converting land back to nature and mandating landowners. The LoHi Trek crossed into private land with permission, but there is some concern about future projects. The Loess Hills Alliance is bound by state law for all projects and needs to be mindful of that. More discussion will be held during the September 1, 2021 Full Board meeting concerning the bewildrewild.org organization.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislature Report: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that the 1st map for redistricting will be released on September 16th to the Iowa lawmakers and the public. The redistricting commission will hold three public hearings on September 20th, 21st, and 22nd. Lawmakers must wait at least three days before voting on the plan. During this special session, lawmakers may also discuss the issue of private businesses mandating mask or vaccine. The State Legislature has been working 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. In the southern hills they have older Loess soil. Funding for the Southern Iowa Development & Conservation Authority will be combined with the Loess Hills Alliance and Hungry Canyons Alliance. The Loess Hills Alliance will reach out to them to find ways to work together. 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. Craig has been on the road doing groundwork for next year. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The 75th Anniversary of the Western Iowa Experimental Association field day will be held at Western Iowa Research Farm, 3.5 miles east of Castana on September 15, 2021 from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. A full steak sandwich lunch will be provided by the Monona County Cattlemen's Association at noon. Educational sessions will include technology in agriculture (use of drones, etc.), animal science research and the youth livestock club activities at the farm, soil and water conservation studies and practices, and the weather station and climate information to agri-industries, On September 14th, the high school youth from Monona, Harrison, Woodbury, and Crawford Counties, with interest in agriculture, will be attending the one-day youth educational event.

A discussion was held on changing the times of the LHA meetings to 10am, 11 am, and 1:00pm to start in January 2022. At this time, there has been more waiting time in-between the LHA meetings. The "LHA Meeting Times" discussion will be added to the Full Board agenda under "New Business" for the 1:00 meeting.

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

Next Meeting November 3, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg