



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center
Sioux City, IA
Wednesday, September 2, 2020**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:40 AM, Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Sioux City, IA by Chairman, Dawn Snyder with quorum declared. Introductions were made and the travel sheet was signed.

Those present at today's meeting: Rich Pope, Bob Benton, Dawn Snyder, Lance Brisbois, Tammy Bramley (by zoom), Renea Anderson (by zoom), Michelle Wodtke Franks (by zoom), and Craig Patterson (by zoom).

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Rich Pope to approve the August 5, 2020 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Rich Pope, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve the September 2, 2020 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 from July 1, 2020 through August 25, 2020 showed that The Hoffman Agency was paid \$400.00 for General Liability Insurance and \$450.00 for D & O Insurance, Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$6.60 for Postage, Our Iowa Magazine was paid \$2,178.00 for 6 ads Oct 2020 – Sept 2021, and Images of Western Iowa Calendar was paid \$240.00 for 2021 Calendars. Total checks paid was \$4,061.00 with 1 Transfer. Total checking account balance for July 1, 2020 through August 25, 2020 is \$8,118.98.

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Funds as of 08/25/20 is \$242,935.00 with Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/21 is \$242,935.00 with 850 Other Current Assets.

Total Executive Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover as of 08/25/20 is \$179.20. Balance to Pay Approved Projects as of 08/25/20 is \$17,857.00. Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand as of 08/25/20 are \$122,022.03. Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand as of 08/25/20 is \$139,058.23.

A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Rich Pope to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Lance Brisbois reported that the Stewardship Committee met today, September 2nd at 9:30 am at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. A motion was made to rescind the funding of last year's projects (\$1,500.00 funding for financial support for the 2020 Hitchcock Nature Center BioBlitz and the \$2,000.00 funding for financial support for the 2020 Cooperative Burn Week) and to open the funds up again for this years' projects. Applications for funding of future projects will need to re-apply. Total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY20/21 is \$14,000.00. The Stewardship Committee will be working on a RFP for an option for the \$14,000.00 funding. Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Jason Andersen, representing Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties presented his report to the Stewardship Committee. Jason reported that Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Jake Holt is no longer with Pheasants Forever and the Loess Hills Alliance. Jake is employed with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Sidney, Iowa. The Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee would like to thank Jake Holt for all his work in the Loess Hills.

"Friends of LHSF/Preparation Canyon SP": No Report.

Protection: Dawn Snyder reported that the Protection Committee has been working on another RFP, due October 2, 2020. Total Protection Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY20/21 is \$7,000.00. A Motion was made by Rich Pope, seconded by Bob Benton to add this language to the RFP cover letter and also include in any forthcoming project contracts between potential partners and the Loess Hills Alliance:

Due to potential economic uncertainty, the Loess Hills Alliance shall have the right to cancel this request for proposals and/or any awards granted without penalty should adequate funds not be appropriated as a result of unforeseen state budget adjustments.

Motion carried. This statement was made generic to include any potential crisis and fiscal year. The updated RFP contract will be posted on the LHA Website, emailed to the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board Members, and sent to the local papers for a press release.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development did not meet on August 31st due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Committee will be looking at doing a zoom meeting in the future.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Legislative: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that he has been attending zoom meetings to keep connected to the Legislators. At this time, there is a lot of uncertainty with the election going on. Some of the state budgets have had reductions. The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship budget which funds the Loess Hills Alliance is doing ok. The Infrastructure Budget has gone down due to the decrease of lottery sales. With the closing of Iowa's casinos, the lottery sales have decreased for the first time in Iowa's history. The gas tax revenue has also decreased. Governor Kim Reynolds is still in support of IWILL but is concerned about the economy. The new Legislators will need to know all the programs that are up for renewal. With the new Legislative races coming up, Members are to reach out and educate about the Loess Hills Alliance. Lobbyist, Craig Patterson will email the Legislative retirement list to the LHA secretary, Jeannette Riesberg and then she will forward the list to the LHA Full Board Members.

Proposed Allocation of Funds-Budget: On Wednesday, August 5th, a Motion was carried by the Executive Committee to recommend to the LHA Full Board FY20-21 allocations of:

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

A Motion was made by Rich Pope, seconded by Renea Anderson to vote electronically to approve the FY20-21 budget for the LHA Full Board's September 2nd meeting if no quorum. Motion carried. Due to the payment increase of the State Audit Contract, the Loess Hills Development & Conservation Authority informed Loess Hills Alliance that their payment would increase. The State Audit Contract is a 3 year contract with a total cost of \$6,000.00 per year. Hungry Canyons Alliance and Loess Hills Alliance share the State Audit Contract cost.

COVID-19 Concerns: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Loess Hills Alliance meetings have been canceled or postponed, done virtually through zoom meetings or conference calls, or in person with the practice of social distancing and wearing a mask. Members continue to listen to Governor Kim Reynolds updates.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Membership: At this time, no research has been done concerning Loess Hills Alliance Committee Membership (voting members, attendance of meetings, etc.). Members will check with the Loess Hills Alliance Board Manual for reference. This will be an open discussion during today's Full Board meeting at 1:00 pm.

Meeting Notifications: Meeting notifications are going well. Meeting information is emailed to all Loess Hills Alliance Members and State Legislatures. Meeting Agendas are emailed to all 7 Loess Hills Counties auditors. Any other information that pertains to information or events concerning the Loess Hills is getting emailed with “For Your Information” in the subject line of the email. If any Members change their email address, please contact the LHA Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg.

Other:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Rich Pope, seconded by Bob Benton to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 AM.

Next Meeting November 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM Tentative Location: Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor’s Center, Pisgah.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg