



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

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 11:09 AM, Wednesday, September 7, 2022 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, Renea Anderson, Graham McGaffin, Lance Brisbois, Craig Patterson, Nick Beeck, Kody Wohlers, Cara Morgan, and Dawn Snyder.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve the August 3, 2022 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve the September 7, 2022 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report as of September 6, 2022 to the Executive Committee Members. The Bills Paid Report showed payments for Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg's work, West Bend Mutual Insurance was paid \$473.00 for D & O Insurance, and The Hoffman Agency was paid \$400.00 for General Liability Insurance. Total checks paid was \$1,993.00. Total checking account balance as of September 5, 2022 is \$11,983.97. Balance to pay for Executive Committee total approved projects FY23 is \$17,230.00. Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand is \$143,749.84. Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand is \$151,813.25.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Stewardship Committee Chairman, Lance Bribois reported that the Stewardship Committee met this morning. Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Tabitha Panas was hired as the representative for the Loess Hills Alliance PL Position, representing Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties. Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Hallie Uhlig was hired as the representative for the Loess Hills Alliance PL Position, representing Mills, Fremont, Montgomery, and Page Counties. As a private landowner, Kody Wohlers reported on his Watershed Enhancement Project to the Stewardship Committee. The site is located in Pottawattamie County, 5 miles northwest of Underwood, IA, Hazel Dell Township. A total of \$9,000.00 will be available for the 2023 RFP to be presented this winter.

Protection: Protection Committee Chairman, Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met in August. A total of \$19,050.00 funds are available for the 2022 RFP Grant. The 2022 RFP Grant has been finalized and the Press Release has been sent out. Loess Hills Alliance Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg will send out a copy of the 2022 RFP Grant to all Loess Hills Alliance Members. Applications are due in the office by October 7, 2022.

Economic: Economic Development Chairman, Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee did not meet in August. Loess Hills advertising was renewed in the Sioux City Journal and Our Iowa magazine. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebook were distributed at the Iowa State Fair and will be taken to the Clay County Fair.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion/Possible Action on Golden Hills Proposed Fiscal Agent Agreement with LHA: Last week, the Loess Hills Alliance met with Golden Hills RC & D concerning the Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills RC & D and the LHA. Golden Hills will be outsourcing their financial management to Hamilton Associates P.C. Loess Hills Alliance will need to provide their own budgeting and reporting. Golden Hills will provide quarterly reports. Lance Brisbois will continue to provide website services at \$50.00 per hour. Grant writing will be \$55.00 per hour. The Cooperative Agreement will go through June 30, 2023. A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve renewing The Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development and the Loess Hills Alliance FY2023. Motion Carried.

Re-request for Annual Report Copy from Various Committees: Please send project information and photographs to LHA Chairman, Rich Pope. The deadline for the annual report is September 15, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislature Report: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that the State Legislatures are busy visiting with the public during the County & State fairs, parades, etc. Republican Representative, Bobby Kaufmann was named Chair of Iowa House Ways & Means Committee (Tax Writing Committee). Discussion on IWILL and Property Tax Cuts will continue into next year. With new redistricting in the State Legislature, the new Legislators have been staying in their own territory meeting the public. Craig reported that the State Revenues are doing ok for now and that at this time, no discussion is being made concerning public land issues. Craig and Amy continue to reach out to the State Legislatures. The Loess Hills Alliance should reach out and educate the new Legislators about the different projects that are being done throughout the Loess Hills.

Purchase of a Portable Hard Drive to Capture Financial Records as a Back-up from Fiscal Agent: A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded Graham McGaffin to approve the purchased portable hard drive to capture Loess Hills Alliance financial records from Golden Hills RC & D as a back-up. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Bob Benton to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 am.

Next Meeting November 2, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg