



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DRAFT MINUTES  
Loess Hills State Forest  
Headquarters – Pisgah, IA  
Wednesday, February 1, 2017**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:02 PM, Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah, IA by Chairman, Robert Benton with no quorum declared. Introductions were made and the travel sheet was signed.

Those present at today's meeting: Robert Benton, Cara Morgan, Linda Herman, Renea Anderson via phone, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Lance Brisbois, Graham McGaffin, and Rich Pope.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** No Motion was made to approve the December 7, 2016 Minutes because of no Quorum.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** A change was needed for the LHA Executive Committee February 1, 2017 Agenda. Under "New Business", "Brent Olson Memorial" was added. No Motion was made to approve the amended February 1, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Agenda because of no Quorum.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Bills Paid Report showed that Golden Hills was paid \$10,650.00 for Capacity Building#6, The Nature Conservancy was paid \$5,313.16 for Cooperative Burn Invoice, Pottawattamie County Conservation Board was paid \$6,000.00 for the Loess Hills Nature School, Anita Gaswint was paid \$1,291.50 for an AGO Initiative Grant, Roger Gaswint was paid \$5,827.50 for an AGO Initiative Grant, and Pheasants Forever was paid \$7,500.00 for the LH Farm Bill Biologists. Total checks paid were \$43,181.00 with two transfers. Total checking account balance for December 1, 2016 through January 26, 2017 is \$31,385.52.

No Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report because of no Quorum.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Stewardship:** Rich Pope presented the Stewardship Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Rich reported that Nicholas Salick and Jake Holt presented their Farm Bill Biologist LHA Quarterly Reports to the Stewardship Committee. Rich stated that the 2017 Cooperative Burn Week will be held March 20-24, 2017. The Cooperative Burn Week will be centered around the Loess Hills State Forest and hosted at Harrison County Conservation Board's Willow Lake Recreation Area. The Stewardship Committee allocated up to \$4,500.00 to help fund the 2017 Cooperative Burn Week. Over 1000 acres of good fire was accomplished last year. Jack Phillips presented the Loess Hills Nature School 2016-17 report to the Stewardship Committee. Monona County Conservation Board Naturalist and the LH Prairie Seminar Coordinator, Andrea Porter presented the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar report to the Stewardship Committee. A proposal was made to hold the funding for the LH Prairie Seminar until the next LHA Stewardship Committee meeting on March 1, 2017. Glenn Pollock was appointed as the new LHA Stewardship Committee Chairman.

**Protection:** Graham McGaffin presented the Protection Committee report to the Executive Committee members. The Committee discussed options concerning funding for the Threatened & Endangered Species Project. Serious monitoring of the threatened & endangered species will take additional funding. At this time, the Protection Committee decided to use the endangered species data that is already available or rare species data that was found on some of the Protection Committee's funding projects and have Michelle Wodtke Franks put the information on the LHA website. Graham McGaffin was appointed as the new Loess Hills Protection Committee Chairman. Glenn Pollock was appointed as the new Protection Committee Grant Scoring Committee Member. Rick Schneider and Scott Nelson are also members of the Grant Scoring Committee.

**Economic:** Renea Anderson via phone presented the Economic Development report to the Executive Committee members. Renea reported that at this time, advertising will stay the same. Thank you cards are still being received from the Lucky I Prize winners for the Our Iowa magazine. At this time, the Economic Development Committee members decided to wait until needed to reprint the Loess Hills Scenic Byway Guidebooks. The Committee will be looking at the guidebook for any needed changes. The web traffic stats report is still showing that the international visitor, Russia, has the most sessions.

No Motion was made to accept the Committee Reports because of no Quorum.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Update/Special Projects Funding:** At this time, the Signage for Projects (Sponsored by the Loess Hills Alliance) are going to cost \$516.00 apiece. Eleven signs were already made so new signs will be ordered at a later date. At this time, the direct mail hard copy of the Loess Hills Annual Report to every address in each Loess Hills 7 Counties has an estimated cost of \$24,351.00. At this time, it is the Committee's recommendation to not do the direct mailing. Suggestions were to have the Loess Hills Annual Report put on the Loess Hills Alliance websites, distribute at the Loess Hills events, in the packets for the Legislatures for the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill, and distribute in the offices of Nic Salick, Jake Holt, and Graham McGaffin.

**Draft/New LHA Websites:** Michelle Wodtke Franks and Lance Brisbois presented the new LHA Website to the Executive Committee. The LHA Comprehensive Plan is on the website. Each LHA Committee has their own page. The Loess Hills Prairie Seminar, Cooperative Burn Week, and the LHA Day on the Hill information will be announced on the website. The Committee suggested to incorporate the LHA logo onto the website too. The LHA Executive Committee were impressed with the LHA website and said it looked really good.

**Update/Day on the Hill:** The Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill will be held on Monday, March 13, 2017 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda. The LHA display panel, Loess Hills brochures, Farm Bill Biologists, Nic Salick and Jake Holt's LHA Quarterly Reports, and the Loess Hills Alliance 2016 Annual Report will all be on display. Suggestions were to also have lavender cookies, coffee, Loess Hills soil, newspaper articles that publicize the Loess Hills, and goat cheese or other foods made in the Loess Hills at the Day on the Hill event.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**LHA Treasurer Authority Appointee:** On February 24, 2017, the Authority will vote on two Positions to represent the Iowa Bankers Association Director and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Director for the Loess Hills Alliance. The new Appointees will be mentioned at the next LHA Executive Committee meeting on March 1, 2017.

**REAP Alliance Contact:** Michelle Wodtke Franks, Rich Pope, and Robert Benton are the LHA contacts for the REAP Alliance. The REAP Alliance is pushing for the Iowa's Water & Land Legacy's (IWILL) proposal, an increase in the sales tax by 3/8 of a cent to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. The next REAP Alliance meeting will be on February 21, 2017. More discussion will be held at the next LHA Executive Committee meeting on March 1, 2017.

**Brent Olson Memorial:** A sign will be made in honor of Brent Olson. An example of the sign was shown to the Executive Committee members. Funding for the sign will be discussed at the next LHA Executive Committee meeting on March 1, 2017.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A thank you note was received from Amy Olson and was shown to all the Executive Committee members.

The LHA Executive Committee members thanked Cara Morgan for her service as a Loess Hills Alliance Board member.

**ADJOURN** Robert Benton adjourned the meeting at 2:17pm.

**Next Meeting** March 1, 2017 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah at 10:30am.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Jeannette Riesberg, LHA Office Secretary