

## **Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee**

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

VIA Conference Call

**DRAFT**

In Attendance: Bob Benton, Brent Olson, Linda Herman, Terry Lewis, Rich Pope, Michelle Wodtke Franks

Absent: Patty McCall, Renea Anderson, Cara Marker-Morgan

Due to weather, the Executive Committee met via conference call. Chairman Bob Benton called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm. Michelle Wodtke Franks agreed to take minutes of the call.

Benton requested a motion to table the approval of minutes and financial report until the March 2, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Brent Olson made a motion to table these items, Linda Herman seconded. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Stewardship Committee

Rich Pope provided an update on the Stewardship Committee. The new private land biologist staff, partially funded through the committee in partnership with Pheasants Forever and NRCS, are doing great. They are hosting a series of workshops for landowners who would like to learn more about wildlife habitat and conservation programs that can help cultivate it including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Meetings will be held:

Monday, February 1 - 10:00am NRCS Service Center Council Bluffs, 305 McKenzie Ave., Council Bluffs, IA

Tuesday, February 2 - 10:00am ISU Extension Harrison County, 304 E 7th St., Logan, IA

Thursday, February 4 - 10:00am ISU Extension Monona County, 119 Iowa Ave., Onawa, IA

Friday, February 5 - 10:00am Oakland Community Building, 614 Dr Van Zee Rd., Oakland, IA

#### Protection Committee

No report

#### Economic Development Committee

No report

### **Old Business**

#### Loess Hills Day on the Hill

Michelle reported that the date and room 115 are secured with the Capitol and posted on the social calendar. She provided an overview of the day's activities. The Browns are confirmed to open the House Chamber at 8:30 am and the Senate Chamber at 9:00 am with the National Anthem. They will be staying in Des Moines the evening before to ensure that they are there in case of bad weather. Franks described the LHA legislative packet that was developed for a presentation to the House Environmental Protection Committee and asked for input to refine or revise for the legislative day.

Michelle will get in touch with Cara to discuss the speech or presentation to recognize Jack Drake. She suggested a framed and matted photograph of the Loess Hills to present to Mrs. Drake. Golden Hills has a good library of professional images to choose from. Michelle will coordinate the gift.

We will set up the LHA display in room 115. We will plan to serve cookies or light refreshments. Brent Olson suggested looping a slide show presentation on a lap top during the reception. Michelle will work with GH staff to develop the slide show.

#### Golden Hills Capacity Update

Michelle provided a copy of the quarterly report to the Executive Committee via email prior to the meeting.

#### Board Manual Update

The Golden Hills team continued to write and develop the draft Board Policies and Orientation manual based on historic document collection. We received and reviewed historical files from B. Olson for inclusion into the revised manual. We will plan to have three revised policies for the executive committee's consideration at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> executive committee meeting. The goal is to revise a few policies and chapters throughout the year with final document completion by the fall, to be presented for review and adoption by the full board.

#### **New Business**

##### Iowa REAP Alliance

Brent Olson shared that the LHA is now a member of the REAP Alliance. The REAP Day & Environmental Lobby Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22.

IWILL Legislative Day – March 3, 2016, Legislative breakfast, Room 15, 7 am to 9 am

##### Nominations/Election

Per the last Board meeting, the recommended slate of officers included incumbent officers for another term. No new nominees have emerged. Bob Benton will accept nominations from the floor at the March 2 Board meeting. If none are received, the slate will include re-election of current officers.

##### Loess Hills & Heritage Week

Michelle shared that the planning committee, led by Bill Blackburn, is currently meeting every two months and has developed a draft time line for the week. The next meeting will be 11:30 am, Wed., April 6 at the Classic Café in Malvern. They are in the process of promoting the event through the media and recruiting members to the planning committee as well as ideas for activities and events during the week. The event is planned for the week of September 23 through October 3, 2017.

#### **Announcements**

Bob and Michelle shared that they presented to the House Environmental Protection Committee on January 20, 2016 along with John Thomas of the Hungry Canyons Alliance. Information about the Loess Hills Development and Conservation Authority was shared as well as the specific objectives of the LHA and the HCA with regard to the unique environmental challenges and opportunities within the Loess Hills region. John Thomas presented a power point on stream bank erosion and gullies in the Loess Hills and the impact on roads, bridges, crop land and protected areas.

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Michelle Wodtke Franks