



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, May 2, 2018**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:03 PM, Wednesday, May 2, 2018 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, Tammy Bramley, Graham McGaffin, Renea Anderson, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Bob Benton, Jeff Seago, Kolby DeWitt, and Jerry Self.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the March 7, 2018 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Tammy Bramley abstained. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Tammy Bramley to approve the May 2, 2018 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 Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$96.00 for Website Weebly Renewal, \$1,317.00 for 3rd Qtr. Bookkeeping, and \$46.45 for 3rd Qtr Postage/Printing; Pheasants Forever was paid \$15,000.00 for Farm Bill Biologist, Jake Holt and Nic Salick; The Naturalist School, Jack Phillips was paid \$1,500.00 FY18 Winter/Early Spring Workshops; Western Iowa Tourism Region was paid \$52.35 for Guidebook Postage, Jan-March; and Campbell/Patterson Consulting was paid \$3,500.00 for 2018 Session. Total checks paid were \$22,356.10 with no transfers. Total checking account balance for March 1, 2018 through April 26, 2018 is \$7,087.82.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Jeff Seago reported that Jake Holt and Nic Salick reported on their PL Position quarterly reports. The 42nd Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 1st -3rd at the Sylvan Runkel State Preserve, Castana. The Stewardship Committee allocated \$2,000.00 for the 2018 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. The Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week was held on March 19th -23rd with a total of 75 participants from 26 agencies or organizations, volunteers, and volunteer fire departments. Many individuals participated in the S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use course that was offered. Cooperative Burn Week was based at the DNR Loess Hills State Forest with a focal area of Harrison and southern Monona Counties, including the Little Sioux Scout Ranch, Gramm Wetland, Old Town Conservation Area, Missouri Valley, Loess Hills State Forest lands, and private lands. A news release will be done for the local papers, for the Loess Hills Alliance website and annual report, and for the State Legislature to promote the Loess Hills, Cooperative Burn Week, and use for educational purposes. The Stewardship Committee will be looking for Grant funding opportunities.

Protection: Graham McGaffin reported that the FY18-19 funding of \$40,000.00 for the Loess Hills Alliance has yet to be determined. The Protection Committee discussed inviting State Representative Matt Windschitl, State Representative Norlin Mommsen, State Senator Jason Schultz, and State Senator Tom Shipley to an AGO Project showing that was completed by Pottawattamie County Landowner, Trent Larson and had received an Iowa Pheasants Forever award. The Raymond Muller Family Trust (560-acre) Conservation Easement closed on March 30, 2018. The Muller Conservation Easement is located in Grant Center SLA, Monona County, approximately 4 miles SW of Rodney. White Lady Orchid Prairie Flower and Yucca plants have been found on the property. Funding for this project was received from the NRCS Agricultural Lands Easement program, Loess Hills Alliance, landowner donation, and private funding raised from The Nature Conservancy in Iowa. This site will be used for future tours to promote the Loess Hills. The Protection Committee discussed an option to fund a Fall 2018 RFP restoration project for a one year partnership with the Stewardship Committee with two separate scoring committees. Members were encouraged to look for Grant funding opportunities.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee will meet on Monday, June 4th at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center in Missouri Valley. The 53' Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Truck Wrap of the Loess Hills was approved and will be traveling around the country as a rolling billboard for the Loess Hills. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebooks are being distributed as needed and new guidebooks will be reprinted soon. Members were encouraged to look for Grant funding opportunities. Connecting multi-use trails (walking and bicycling) throughout the Loess Hills Counties is being done and will bring tourism into Iowa.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

“Friends of the Loess Hills Group” Update: The “Friends of the Loess Hills Group” is a volunteer group that would help organize garner support, hold educational opportunities and raise grant money for possible projects throughout the LHSF. The Friends Groups provide their own funding. The Loess Hills Alliance would have no cost. Stone State Park has their own 501c3 status and their Friends Group is called, “Friends of Stone Park”. Lewis and Clark State Park has their own Friends Group called, “Friends of Discovery”. The LHA’s 501c3 status could allow for funds to be collected and donations to be raised for things in the LHSF such as walking trails signage, a Bio Blitz, mapping, etc. The “Friends of the Loess Hills Group” process has been started and will be meeting to get the documents in place. Insurance will be required to cover the volunteers. A suggestion was made to include a Loess Hills Alliance member in the “Friends of the Loess Hills Group”. A draft will be put together and be presented to the LHA Full Board Members on June 6, 2018.

“Legislative Funding Status” Update: In the FY18-19 Iowa Budget, Governor, Kim Reynolds designated \$40,000.00 for the Loess Hills Alliance in the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship budget. The Loess Hills Alliance line item has been passed by the Iowa House of Representatives and is currently in the Iowa Senate. Final decision has yet to be determined. Some of the discussion that was held by the Executive Committee was: reduce allocations for each Committees; keep allocation funding in the Executive fund and each Committee would have to request funding for projects as needed; if zero funded, funding would still be needed for the required state audits; and the Stewardship and Protection Committees merging projects together. The Loess Hills Alliance members are also encouraged to look for donations from private citizens or Grant funding opportunities for example; Dean J. King Family Foundation Grant, Community Partners Foundation Grant, Iowa West Foundation Grant, Rural Business Development Grant, Missouri River Historic Development Grant, Sierra Club Foundation Grant, etc. The Executive Committee will be holding a joint meeting with the Economic Development Committee Chairman, Protection Committee Chairman, and Stewardship Committee Chairman to discuss the future FY18-19 funding for the Loess Hills Alliance. The FY18-19 Loess Hills Alliance Committee allocation funding will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting on June 6, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS No new business at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The LHA Day at the Capital, held on March 15th, with the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, worked out really well with more personal interaction with the Iowa Legislators. Loess Hills Alliance members Linda Herman, Rich Pope, and Bob Benton attended the LHA Day at the Capital.

The Loess Hills Alliance welcomed visitors, District Representative, Kolby DeWitt from Congressman Steve King's office and Regional Director, Jerry Self from Senator Joni Ernst's office to the Executive Committee meeting on May 2, 2018.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Bob Benton to adjourn the meeting at 2:58 PM.

Next Meeting June 6, 2018 at Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah at 10:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg