



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills State Forest
Headquarters – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, May 4, 2016**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:07 PM, Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at Loess Hills State Forest, Pisgah IA by Chairman, Bob Benton. Introductions were made and the travel sheet was signed.

Those present at today's meeting: Bob Benton, Linda Herman, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Brent Olson, Rich Pope, Graham McGaffin, Terry Lewis, Brady Hanson, and Renea Anderson.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Brent Olson, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the March 2, 2016 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A change was needed on the LHA Executive Committee May 4, 2016 Agenda. Under "New Business", "IA West Foundation" was added. A Motion was made by Michelle Wodtke Franks, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the amended May 4, 2016 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brent Olson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Committee Members. The Bills Paid Report showed that IEDA Foundation was paid \$2,500.00 for ABD Truck Wrap, Northwest AEA was paid \$2,500.00 for the Sponsorship 2016 LH Prairie Seminar, Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$32.02 for Jack Drake Recognition Gift, Pheasants Forever was paid \$15,000.00 for the 2 LH Farm Bill Biologist FY16 (\$7,500.00 apiece) and Our Iowa Magazine was paid \$332.00 for the 1/6 Vertical Page Ad-April/May 2016 Issue. Total checks paid were \$31,977.49 with 2 Transfers. Total checking account balance for February 26, 2016 through April 26, 2016 is \$5,911.27.

The Loess Hills Alliance Committees-Work Plan Budgets are approximately the same as the last Budget Totals. At this time, the Loess Hills Alliance has received \$6,000.00 for the Fiscal Year 2017 Support Funding from Monona, Plymouth, and Pottawattamie Counties.

A motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Linda Herman to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: The LHA Stewardship Committee allocated \$8,637.00 for the Loess Hills Fire Partners-Cooperative Burn Week which included the burn at Waubonsie State Park, Rosie Hall Property, and private land in Monona County. 1,083 acres was burned with 39 participants attending. Nicolas Salick and Jake Holt presented their Farm Bill Biologist LHA Quarterly Reports to the Stewardship Committee. The 40th Anniversary of the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 3 - 5, 2016 with a presentation by the Loess Hills Alliance. Rich Pope and Michelle Wodtke Franks attended the IZAAK Walton League Iowa State Convention on April 29-May 1, 2016 in Schleswig, IA. The LHA Stewardship Committee and the LHA Protection Committee members will meet at 9:00 AM at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center on June 1, 2016 for a tour of Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve.

Protection: The LHA Protection Committee discussed the overview of the LHA Policies & Procedures Manual. Funding for the RFP Grants and the time line for advertising will be discussed at the next LHA Protection Committee meeting on August 3, 2016 . The LHA Protection Committee and the LHA Stewardship Committee members will meet at 9:00 AM at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center on June 1, 2016 for a tour of Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve.

Economic:

Thank you cards continue to be received from the Lucky I Prize winners for the Our Iowa magazine. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Guidebooks will be reprinted this fall. The ED Committee will be turning in the changes for the Motorcycling , Birding, and RV ing Brochures to be reprinted. The new Iowa Travel Guide is available now to view. The April stats for the visitloesshills.org website were 2,366 visits with 85.55% new visits and 4,749 page views. The report showed the visitor, United States, with 1,878 Sessions(79.37%). The April stats for the loesshillsalliance.com website were 448 visits with 89.06% new visits and 540 page views. The report showed the international visitor, Russia, with 159 sessions(35.49%).

The next Economic Development meeting will be on May 16, 2016 at the Harrison County Welcome Center in Missouri Valley.

A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Terry Lewis to accept the Committee Reports. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Golden Hills Update: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Loess Hills Alliance Capacity Building Support quarterly report to the Executive Committee. Michelle continues to work on the draft Board Policies and Orientation manual, distributes the work plan and budget surveys to Committee Chairs, work on social media promotions and marketing plans for the Loess Hills, promote LHA through Facebook page with currently 154 followers, met with the planning committee and developed a press release and event survey for the 2017 Loess Hills & Heritage week, work on press releases for

LHA events throughout the year, presented with Rich Pope and staffed the LHA exhibit at the IZAAK Walton League State Conference in Schleswig, coordinated the LHA Day on the Hill held March 8, 2016, and is working on the coordination of LHA member presence at local legislative coffees in the region.

Board Manual Policy Revisions: The input for the Board Manual Policy Revisions has been received from the Committees. Michelle Wodtke Franks will be compiling the data that the Committees submitted and will have an updated draft of the Board Manual at the June 1, 2016 LHA meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Iowa West Foundation: Golden Hills RC & D would like to apply for an Iowa West Foundation Grant through the Loess Hills Alliance with in-kind match. The Proposal will need to be submitted by June 15, 2016. The Grant Funding would help fund the reprinting of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Guidebooks, biannual LHA newsletters, Loess Hills color books, and LHA advertising. A Motion was made by Terry Lewis, seconded by Linda Herman to have Golden Hills RC & D apply for the Iowa West Foundation Grant through the Loess Hills Alliance. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Loess Hills District Wine Trail has received the American Viticultural Area Designation from the Federal Government. Wine with an AVA name on the label must be made from 85% locally grown grapes.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Terry Lewis, seconded by Linda Herman to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 PM.

Next Meeting June 1, 2016 at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Sioux City, Iowa at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg, LHA Office Secretary