



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:35 AM, Wednesday, June 6, 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, Dawn Snyder, Patty McCall, Graham McGaffin, Renea Anderson, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Bob Benton, Jeff Seago, and Craig Patterson.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the May 2, 2018 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Dawn Snyder to approve the June 6, 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 \$15.17 for Domain Renewal visitloesshills.com; The Nature Conservancy was paid \$32,000.00 for Muller Easement Invoice #8521-1F; Western Iowa Tourism Region was paid \$939.64 for Invoice #4339 (Website Advertisement, Membership Dues, and Guidebook Postage); and Council Bluffs Convention & Visitors Bureau was paid \$1,200.00 for Council Bluffs Visitor Guide-Invoice 12. Total checks paid were \$34,755.88 with no transfers. Total checking account balance for April 27, 2018 through May 29, 2018 is \$20,831.94.

Total Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover:

Protection: \$12,898.67

Stewardship: \$0.00 All funds have been Obligated

Economic Development: \$0.00 All funds have been Obligated

Executive Committee: \$10,412.54

Executive/Board Reserve Funds: \$91,785.90

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Funds as of 05/29/18 is \$130,746.00 with Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/18 is \$130,746.00 with 230 Other Current Assets.

A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Graham McGaffin to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Jeff Seago reported that the Stewardship Committee met at 9:00 a.m. today. Jake Holt and Nic Salick were not available for the PL Position reports. The 2018 RAGBRAI will be held from Sunday, July 22nd through Saturday, July 28th. There will be a Gravel Loop Day through Moorhead on Sunday, July 22nd. Information will be taken to Loess Hills Hospitality Gift Shop & Visitor Center in Moorhead to advertise the Loess Hills and to recognize the Loess Hills Alliance during RAGBRAI. Rebecca Castle and Lance Brisbois will be bicycling across Iowa during RAGBRAI. The PL Positions funding for Nic Salick and Jake Holt and the CCI funding for Cooperative Burn Week are considered very important projects that the Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee would like to help continue funding. A suggestion was made to contact Gilchrist Foundation for Grant Funding opportunities. Members were also encouraged to look for other Grant opportunities or donations from private citizens.

Protection: Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee met on May 2, 2018. A presentation for the Raymond Muller Family Trust Conservation Easement was presented to the Protection Committee. 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. 16 acres of row crop and a 4 acre building site for Raymond Muller's grandson has been set aside. This site will be used for future tours to promote the Loess Hills and can be used for topic of discussion during the LHPS. The Protection Committee discussed inviting State Representative Matt Windschitl, State Representative Norlin Mommsen, State Senator Jason Schultz, and State Senator Tom Shipley for a Day in the Hills to present an AGO Project that was completed by Pottawattamie County Landowner, Trent Larson and had received an Iowa Pheasants Forever award. The Protection Committee has decided to pause for now concerning the \$12,898.67 budget funding and are open to use the funding as best possible. Members were also encouraged to look for Grant funding opportunities.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee met 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. Advertising will continue in the Sioux City Visitors Guide, Council Bluff's Visitors Guide, the WITR digital website, Our Iowa magazine, and a 1/6 Vertical Ad in the State Visitors Guide.

A discussion of possible chicken barns being built near the Byway was discussed and will be forwarded on to the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Council. The barns are currently being considered in Harrison County and are being discussed in Monona County as well. The Brown Family Music Show will be filming in the Loess Hills and performing at the music theater in Le Mars.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

“Friends of the Loess Hills Group” Draft: A proposed draft was shown to the Executive Committee Members for discussion. This draft would include verbiage as; establishment of “Friends of the Loess Hills State Forest” as a working committee of the Loess Hills Alliance, annual fee for the Loess Hills Alliance to cover additional audit and financial services, recognize the Alliance through acknowledgement language and /or use of the logo, a clear statement about liability and coverage as volunteers with the Iowa DNR, Funds raised by the Friends group will be deposited with the Alliance, and disbursements will be overseen by the Executive Committee of the LHA to ensure they are in compliance of LHA bylaws and mission, and quarterly or annual reports due to the Loess Hills Alliance. Stone State Park will also be contacted for more suggestions. The Loess Hills Alliance would like to know the dates of the “Friends of the Loess Hills Group” meetings when established. An informal “Friends of the Loess Hills Group” meeting will be held on July 10th at 7:00 pm. When the “Draft” between Loess Hills Alliance and the “Friends of the Loess Hills Group” is finalized, a copy of the draft will be sent electronically to the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board Members.

LHA Committees Allocation FY18-19 Funding: A proposed “Working Executive Budget for FY19” was presented to the Executive Committee Members. The Loess Hills Alliance has received \$40,000.00 FY18-19 from the State of Iowa. Only 10% of the Loess Hills Alliance allocation from the State Legislatures can be used for the Executive Committee overhead expenses.

Estimated proposed 2019 Budget:

State FY 2019 Appropriation	\$40,000.00
2019 County Contributions (est.)	\$8,000.00

Total	\$48,000.00
Estimated Operating Overhead	\$21,525.00

Allocatable Funds	\$26,475.00

Suggested Allocatable Funds Distribution:

Stewardship	\$7,000.00	
Protection	\$7,000.00	
Econ Dev.	\$7,000.00	Executive Committee \$5,475.00 (Minimum)

A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Graham McGaffin to recommend to the LHA Full Board Members the “Working Executive Budget for FY19”, an allocation of \$7,000.00 to Economic Development Committee, \$7,000.00 to Protection Committee, \$7,000.00 to Stewardship committee and a minimum of \$5,475.00 to the Executive Committee. Motion Carried. Chairman, Rich Pope thanked everyone for contacting their State Legislatures. Loess Hills Alliance members Linda Herman, Rich Pope, and Bob Benton attended the LHA Day at the Capital. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Lobbyist, Craig Patterson and Amy Campbell for all the work that they do for the future of the Loess Hills. Thank you letters will be sent out to the State Legislatures for the Loess Hills Alliance funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Lobbyist Agreement FY19: A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Renea Anderson to accept the Consulting Agreement between the Loess Hills Alliance and Campbell/Patterson Consulting commencing on July 1, 2018 and continuing through June 30, 2021. Motion Carried. Loess Hills Alliance Chairman, Rich Pope will sign the Consulting Agreement. Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon 30 days written notice to the other party.

Golden Hills/LHA Agreement FY19: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills RC & D and Loess Hills Alliance to the Executive Committee Members. A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Graham McGaffin to accept the 1 year renewal (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019) Cooperative Agreement Contract between Golden Hills RC & D and the Loess Hills Alliance. Motion Carried. The Cooperative Agreement Contract was signed by Michelle Wodtke Franks and Loess Hills Alliance Chairman, Rich Pope on June 6, 2018.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Literary Loess will be held on Saturday, September 22nd, 2018 from 10am - 2 pm. Local and regional authors and producers will be making connections between the Landscape, Literature, and Local Foods.

“Experience The Loess Hills” will be held on Thursday, September 27th through Sunday, September 30th, 2018. This event is a four day cycling tour of western Iowa’s Loess Hills starting from Stone State Park to Waubonsie State Park.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Dawn Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 PM.

Next Meeting August 1, 2018 at Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor’s Center, Pisgah at 1:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg

