



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson
Visitor's Center – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, November 6, 2019**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 12:59 PM, Wednesday, November 6, 2019 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, Lance Brisbois, Renea Anderson, Graham McGaffin, Larry Green, Patty McCall, Jeff Seago, Scott Nelson, Dawn Snyder, and Bob Benton.

APPROVE MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the September 4, 2019 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: An update was needed to the November 6, 2019 Executive Committee Agenda. A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Patty McCall to add under "New Business", "Legislative Forum-December Meeting Discussion" to the November 6, 2019 Agenda. Motion carried. A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Dawn Snyder to approve the amended November 6, 2019 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 \$6.60 for 1st Qtr. Postage and \$1,032.00 for 1st Qtr. Bookkeeping, Harlan Newspapers was paid \$261.70 for Retractable Banners, and Western Iowa Tourism Region was paid \$175.68 for Fulfillment 1st Qtr. FY20. Total checks paid were \$2,517.18 with zero transfers. Total checking account balance for August 31, 2019 through October 28, 2019 is \$15,171.36.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Lance Bribois reported that the Stewardship Committee met this morning at 10:30 am. Total Stewardship Committee Funds to obligate or carryover FY19/20 is \$7,000.00. Jake Holt presented the Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Quarterly Partners Report to the Stewardship Committee Members. The Stewardship Committee discussed funding options; helping fund the PL Positions, Jake Holt and Nic Salick from July 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021, future RFP projects, Cooperative Burn week, Loess Hills Prairie Seminar, etc. More discussion concerning the \$7,000.00 budget funding will be held at the next Stewardship Committee meeting on December 4, 2019.

“Friends of LHSF/Preparation Canyon SP”: Larry Green reported that the “Friends of LHSF/Preparation Canyon SP” worked on the “Fulton Avenue Clean up Ridge Road” project on November 9, 2019. The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2019. The “Friends Group” will be pursuing grant funding for Gis Mapping System for the trails. The DOT has been working with Pisgah and Moorhead on new signs. They should be completed by the end of December. A suggestion was made to take pictures of groups of people next to the signs to promote the Loess Hills.

Protection: Scott Nelson reported that the Protection Committee met this morning at 9:00 am. Total Protection Committee Funds Balance as of November 6, 2019 is \$12,500.00. Reports on the FY19 RFP’s Christensen Farm Prairie Restoration Project and the Monona Complex Vegetation Management Project were presented to the Protection Committee. Three Loess Hills Alliance Protection Committee Grant Applications FY20 were submitted. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation-Project Title: Monona Complex Vegetation Management 2019-20/Grant Request/\$4,000.00 received a score of 70 and The Nature Conservancy-Project Title: Hebert Conservation Easement/Grant Request/ \$12,500.00 received a score of 60 by the Grant Scoring Committee, Jeff Seago, Nic Salick, and Scott Nelson. The Protection Committee allocated funding of \$4,000.00 towards the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation-Project Title: Monona Complex Vegetation Management 2019-20 and allocated funding of \$8,500.00 towards The Nature Conservancy-Project Title: Hebert Conservation Easement. A recommendation was made by the Protection Committee to the Executive Committee to fund the remainder \$4,000.00 for The Nature Conservancy-Project Title: Hebert Conservation Easement with permission from Graham McGaffin, Protection Committee Chairman to accept the recommendation. Protection Committee Chairman, Graham McGaffin has accepted the recommendation. A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Dawn Snyder to allocate \$4,000.00 to fulfill Project 1(Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation-Project Title: Monona Complex Vegetation Management 2019-20) and Project 2 (The Nature Conservancy-Project Title: Hebert Conservation Easement). Motion carried. Graham McGaffin abstained.

The 3rd RFP that was received was Friends of Waubonsie State Park-Project Title: Necessary Infrastructure at Blackburn's Green Hollow Addition to Waubonsie State Park. Grant Request/\$1,250.00. The Grant Scoring Committee did not score this project. The Protection Committee recommended to present the Friends of Waubonsie State Park Project to the Executive Committee for funding. The project objective is to install necessary infrastructure (a pit latrine) at Green Hollow Center, a 158 acre natural area in the southern Loess Hills, before the property is transferred from private owners, Bill Blackburn & Sara Murphy, into public ownership by Iowa DNR. A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Dawn Snyder to allocate \$1,250.00 towards the Friends of Waubonsie State Park-Project Title: Necessary Infrastructure at Blackburn's Green Hollow Addition to Waubonsie State Park based on the Protection Committee's recommendation. Motion carried.

Economic: Renea Anderson reported that the Pull-Up Banners have been made and will be shown at the next Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. 5000 Birding Brochures were made. The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 2, 2019.

A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Graham McGaffin to accept the Committee Reports. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Report Status: The 2019 Annual Reports are to be turned in to Rich Pope, Executive Committee Chairman by December 2019. The annual reports for Economic Development and Protection Committees have been submitted.

Officer Elections Discussion (March 2020): Today's members were asked if they were interested in keeping their Executive Committee Officer Positions FY2020.

Robert Benton/yes
Renea Anderson/yes
Patty McCall/yes
Graham McGaffin/yes
Dawn Snyder/yes

Rich Pope reported that his term has ended as the Loess Hills Alliance Chairman in March. A new replacement will be needed and the nominee has to be chosen from the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board members. Members are to be thinking about recommendations for the Nominating Committee and the 2020 Loess Hills Alliance Chairman.

NEW BUSINESS

Friends of LHSF/Preparation Canyon SP-Granting Progress & Process: The Gilchrist Foundation has awarded \$5,000.00 to the “Friends of LHSF/Preparation Canyon State Park”. A Trail Mower was purchased through this grant and donated to the Loess Hills State Forest. The Harrison County Community Foundation grant request for permanent trail markers for Brent’s Trail was denied. The King Foundation grant request for Sawmill/Log Skidder to be used for local school projects was denied. More grant funding opportunities will be pursued for example. REAP, Missouri River Historic Development (MERGE), etc.

Legislative Forum-December Meeting Discussion: The Western Iowa Legislative Forum will be held on December 4, 2019 at the Mondamin Community Center from 9am – 11am. A presentation on IWILL-Iowa’s Water and Land Legacy will be presented by Graham McGaffin. The December 4th LHA meetings will need to be changed. A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Patty McCall to change the Executive Committee meeting to 12:00 pm on December 4, 2019 and to cancel the Stewardship Committee meeting. Motion carried. The LHA Full Board meeting will be held on December 4, 2019 at 1:00 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

REAP Assembly Dates:

12/2/2019-Correctionville Community Center

12/03/2019-Arrowhead Park-Harrison County

12/05/2019-Shenandoah Public Library

The 2020 REAP Congress will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2020 in Des Moines.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Renea Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 PM.

Next Meeting December 4, 2019 at Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor’s Center, Pisgah at 12:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg