



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DRAFT MINUTES  
Waubonsie State Park  
Hamburg, IA  
Wednesday, September 7, 2016**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:40 AM, Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at Waubonsie State Park, Hamburg, 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, Graham McGaffin, Rich Pope, and Cara Morgan.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** A motion was made by Cara Morgan, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the June 1, 2016 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** A change was needed on the LHA Executive Committee September 1, 2016 Agenda. Under "New Business", "Nominating Committee" and "Greenhill Ranch Update" was added.

A Motion was made by Brent Olson, seconded by Cara Morgan to approve the amended September 1, 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 National Guard of Iowa was paid \$165.00 for The Guard Post Ad-August 2016, The Nature Conservancy was paid \$667.66 for Coop Burn Invoice, Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$6,950.00 for Capacity Building-5<sup>th</sup> Invoice and \$1,500.00 for 4th Qtr. Bookkeeping, Russell and Nancy Pope was paid \$25,965.00 for AGO Initiative Grant(61.30 Acres), and Our Iowa Magazine was paid \$332.00 for the 1/6 Vertical Page Ad-Aug/Sept 2016 Issue. Total checks paid were \$65,102.86 with 4 Transfers. Total checking account balance for June 1, 2016 through August 29, 2016 is \$17,468.99.

Total Committee Open Funds To Obligate or Carryover:

Protection: \$898.67

Stewardship: \$39,904.82

Economic Development: \$23,048.86

Executive Committee Fund Balance: \$1,958.86

Total Special Projects Balance: \$54,807.82

Total FY2015-2016 New and Current Budget Balances by Committee as of 8/29/16 is \$222,719.82.

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report unobligated Funds to 06-30-16 is \$137,067.00 with Total Funds of \$144,115.00. These funds do not include the FY2017 appropriations. The Bequeath Grants-Plymouth County Stewardship Projects is at a zero balance.

A suggestion was made to set aside \$15,000.00 of the Special Projects Funds for a project. The LHA Executive Committee will discuss options for the Special Projects Funding at the next Executive Committee meeting on November 2, 2016.

A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Cara Morgan to approve the Loess Hills Alliance Bills Paid Report. Motion Carried.

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Stewardship:** The Stewardship Committee appropriated \$6,000 towards the Pottawattamie County project, The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center pending the availability of funds. The Stewardship Committee allocated up to \$1000.00 for the Loess Hills Fire Partners-Cooperative Burn Week and \$2,500.00 for the Loess Hills Conservation Corps Iowa Program. The Stewardship Committee tentatively approved \$30,000 for the two PL Positions and renew the Cooperative Agreement between The Loess Hills Alliance Stewardship Committee and Pheasants Forever, Inc. The Stewardship Committee discussed that water quality will need to be implemented into future Loess Hills Alliance projects.

**Protection:** The Loess Hills Alliance Protection Committee 2016 Grant Application information is advertised in the local papers and on facebook. The applications are due on October 7, 2016.

**Economic:** The LHA Economic Development met on August 29, 2016 at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center in Missouri Valley, IA. John Doershuk and Brennan Dolan presented the State Archaeologist program to the LHA Economic Development Committee Members. With the dirt being moved for the Highway 20 project, it has impacted the environment through cultural, archeology, and natural resources. With the good preservation of the soil, artifacts and a soil outline of a bison was found within the Correctionville Locality. The Economic Development Committee will be reprinting the Motorcycling, RV ing, and Birding Brochures and obligated up to \$20,000.00 in funds for reprinting and mailing of LH marketing materials as needed. An Iowa West Foundation Grant will be applied for to help with reprinting of the Brochures and the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Guidebook. Suggestions were made to add the Loess Hills Bird Conservation Area information(which contains approximately

95,000 acres) to the Birding Brochure and check with the Iowa Audubon Society for sponsorship of the Birding Brochures.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Loess Hills Alliance Capacity Building Support to the Executive Committee. Michelle is working on finalizing the draft Board manual for review. Michelle continues to work on marketing plans, social media promotions, LHA website updates, press releases for LHA events, promoting LHA through Facebook page, and public speaking engagements throughout the year. The LHA Facebook page has increased to 257 followers. Michelle is working with the planning committee for the 2017 Loess Hills & Heritage week, scheduled a Loess Hills presentation for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Roadside Conference on September 22, 2016, and will be working on the 2016-2017 Iowa State Capital Legislative Event.

A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Cara Morgan to accept the Loess Hills Alliance Capacity Building Support Report. Motion Carried.

**LHA Policies & Procedures Manual:** Michelle Wodtke Franks discussed the updates that were done on the 2016 Board Manual to the Executive Members. The Executive Committee members will email any changes that need to be done to Michelle before the next Executive Committee meeting on November 2, 2016. The final 2016 LHA Policies & Procedures Manual will be presented to the Full Board on December, 7, 2016 to be approved. A suggestion was made to have an orientation for the new 2017 LHA Full Board Members in March 2017.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**SFY Committee Funding & Budget:** The Loess Hills Alliance has received 150,000 FY2017 Appropriations-not yet distributed. A Motion was made by Cara Morgan, seconded by Linda Herman to recommend to the LHA Full Board \$32,000 each for Protection, Stewardship, Economic Development Committees and 54,000 for Executive Committee with the attention that the Executive Committee help fund a special project. Motion carried.

**Speakers/Topics for the December Full Board Meeting:** The Executive Committee discussed ideas for speakers/topics for the December Full Board meeting. Suggestions that were made were: Lobbyists-Campbell/Patterson, Legislatures David Sieck or Jason Schultz, Local Business Owners, Public Outreach Presentation, Tour for the Legislatures, Loess Hills Lavender Farm, and Loess Hills Vineyard & Winery.

**Legislative Outreach Planning:** A discussion was held concerning the Legislative Outreach Planning. Suggestions that were made were: whether to hold the Day On the Hill in February or March, obtain a presenter for the Legislators, to hold an evening

event, have the Brown Family Music Show perform at the Day On the Hill, and promote the 2017 Loess Hills & Heritage Week. A Motion was made by Cara Morgan, seconded by Brent Olson to hold the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill, date to be determined. Motion carried. Michelle Wodtke Franks will set up a date with Lobbyists-Campbell/Patterson for the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill.

**Nominating Committee:** A discussion was held concerning the LHA Nominating Committee. A nominating committee of 3 Full Board Members will be asked to nominate the new 2017 LHA Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee Members. At this time, Bob Benton and Lynn Grobe has volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee.

**Greenhill Ranch Update:** Graham McGaffin presented the Greenhill Ranch update to the Executive Committee Members. The Greenhill Ranch is approximately 500 acres, five minutes south of Council Bluffs, and adjacent to Folsom Point Preserve. Suggestions that were made to help with the funding of the Greenhill Ranch TNC project were: Iowa West Foundation , Kiewit Foundation, The Susan Buffett Foundation, REAP, and the Lakin Foundation. Michelle Wodtke Franks will write letters of support from Loess Hills Alliance and Iowa Scenic Byway.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Michelle Wodtke Franks passed around information about the 2016 Southwest Iowa Art Tour on September 17-18, 2016 and the Golden Hills RC & D Open House on September 16, 2016 information to the Executive Committee Members.

**ADJOURN** Chairman, Bob Benton adjourned the meeting at 12:36 PM.

**Next Meeting** November 2, 2016 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Jeannette Riesberg, LHA Office Secretary