

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –December 6, 2017
Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Jeff Seago	Renea Anderson	Jake Holt
Linda Herman	Brett Bengard	Scott Belt
Rich Pope	Graham McGaffin	Craig Patterson
Dawn Snyder	Tim Sproul	Cara Morgan
John Straight	Nick Beeck	Sandy Harris
Paul Moorhead	Patty McCall	David Weigelt
Tammy Bramley	Nic Salick	

Chairman Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:06 pm, with a quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by John Straight to approve the September 6, 2017 Minutes. Motion carried.

AGENDA: A motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the December 6, 2017 Board of Directors Agenda. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Full Board Committee.

Open Funds To Obligate:

Protection Funds: \$12,898.67

Stewardship Funds: \$2,304.25

Economic Development Funds: \$12,300.47

Executive Committee Funds: \$5,792.14

Total Executive/Board Reserve Funds: \$95,373.36

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds at 11/30/2017 is \$130,720.00.

Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/18 is \$130,720.00 with \$690.00 current assets.

A motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Tammy Bramley to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope presented the Executive Committee Report to the Full Board Members. A proposal from Jeff Seago, Loess Hills State Forest was presented to the Executive Committee Members for funding of \$5,400.00 for Cooperative Burn Week. Two crews of six from Conservation Corps Iowa will be contracted for cedar removal, clearing shrubs, training, and burning during Cooperative Burn Week. The Executive Committee voted to assist in the funding of the Cooperative Burn Week. A suggestion was made to also have the Protection and Stewardship Committees help with the funding of Cooperative Burn Week. A new map of the Loess Hills was on display for the 2017 Iowa Tourism Conference. Cities and towns were added on the map along Interstate 29 to show the interchanges into the Loess Hills. The Executive Committee voted to have nine maps made for \$330.00. Each of the 7 Loess Hills Counties will receive one map for display and 2 extra maps will be used for Loess Hills presentations.

Protection Committee – Graham McGaffin presented the Protection Committee report to the Full Board Members. Graham reported that the Protection Committee met on November 1, 2017. The Protection Committee received only one RFP grant application, City of Magnolia, project title “Magnolia Source Water Project” and was declined due to the application not falling into the criteria of the 2017 Loess Hills Alliance Protection Committee Grant Application. The Protection Committee decided to send out another LHA Protection Committee Request for Proposals (RFP) Grant next spring, (February 2018).

Stewardship Committee – Jeff Seago presented the Stewardship Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Jeff reported that Nicholas Salick and Jake Holt presented their updates to the Stewardship Committee. Nic and Jake have been working with landowners on EQUIP, Habitat, and CRP projects. A Pottawattamie County Landowner, who was approved for AGO funding and began restoring remnant prairies by doing cedar removal, implementing no-till farming, and planting cover crop, was nominated for an Iowa Pheasants Forever award. The Stewardship Committee allocated \$1,500 to the Loess Hills Nature School to help fund the workshops from December 2017 through June 2018. Seago reported that 2 crews of six from Conservation Corps Iowa will be contracted for 2 weeks for training and burning during Cooperative Burn Week.

Economic Development Committee - Renea Anderson presented the Economic Development Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Anderson stated that the Economic Development Committee met on Monday, December 4, 2017, 10:00 AM at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center in Missouri Valley. Anderson presented the Economic Impact of Travel Report of the 7 Loess Hills Counties to the Executive Committee Members.

Plymouth County: 24.71 Million/Ranked 41st

Woodbury County: 299.58 M/8th

Monona County: 19.36 M/51st

Harrison County: 27.85 M/36th

Pottawattamie County: 302.28 M/7th

Mills County: 8.13 M/82nd

Fremont County: 15.19 M/63rd

Over \$600 million through Iowa tourism was received throughout the Loess Hills Counties. Anderson asked the Full Board Members to thank the State Legislatures for supporting the Loess Hills Alliance. The Loess Hills Lavender Farm was presented in the Sept/Oct 2017 "The Iowan" magazine. Extra Copies of the magazine were available for the Full Board Members.

A motion was made by Nic Salick, seconded by Scott Belt to accept the Committee Reports. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Project Proposal-Executive Committee (City of Magnolia): David Weigelt, Mayor of city of Magnolia was introduced to the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board members. The Protection Committee received only one RFP grant application, City of Magnolia, project title "Magnolia Source Water Project" and was declined due to the application not falling into the criteria of the 2017 Loess Hills Alliance Protection Committee Grant Application, but does fall into an overall project for the Loess Hills Alliance to help fund. An eminent threat to Magnolia's water source exists as the two town pumps, (one of which went down and had to be replaced on an emergency basis), are in need of repair and replacement. The old pumps have not been providing the pressure volume needed for fire protection and City of Magnolia is currently not able to utilize the water system for emergency use at this time. The Executive Committee allocated \$12,000.00 from the Executive/Board Reserve Funds to the City of Magnolia for the Magnolia Source Water Project. Rich Pope along with Renea Anderson and the Mayor of Magnolia will set a date and hold a check presentation ceremony for LHA Board Members, Legislators, and Magnolia City officials among others to attend.

2018 Officer Nominations and Positions (Nominating Committee): The LHA Officer Nominating Committee will be John Straight, Rocky DeWitt, and Rich Pope with Nic Beeck as alternate. The 2018 LHA Officer Positions will be voted on at the next Full Board Meeting on March 7, 2018.

LHA 2018 Meeting Dates: A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Graham McGaffin to keep the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board meetings the same as last year, first Wednesday of the month at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah, IA.

March 7, 2018

June 6, 2018

September 5, 2018

December 5, 2018

Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill: The Executive Committee decided to schedule a day for the Loess Hills Alliance Members to visit with individual Legislatures about the Loess Hills, but not reserve the rotunda as in previous years. A date will be set before the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board meeting on March 7, 2018.

2017 Annual Report: The draft of The Loess Hills Alliance 2017 Annual Report was passed out to the Full Board Members. If any changes are needed, please email to Michelle Wodtke Franks, Golden Hills RC & D or Loess Hills Alliance Chairman, Rich Pope.

Announcements:

Dawn Snyder thanked the Full Board Members for supporting the Loess Hills Poster Contest for the seven counties within the Loess Hills Region of Iowa during Loess Hills Heritage Week. There were three overall winning posters. Each of the seven Loess Hills Counties will be able to display the winning posters.

A letter was received from Plymouth County Board of Supervisors asking that the Loess Hills Alliance present in writing the 2018-2019 budget request dollars between now and December 29, 2017. The letters of request will be sent out to each of the 7 Loess Hills Counties.

The Loess Hills Alliance Audit Report from Schroer & Associates, P.C as of June 30, 2017 and 2016 was presented to the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board Members.

Loess Hills Alliance Board Director and Executive Committee Board Member, Terry Lewis is moving to Missouri and will be leaving the Loess Hills Alliance. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Terry Lewis for all his support. The Fremont County vacancy for Loess Hills Alliance Director will be voted on at the March LHA Full Board Meeting on March 7, 2018.

Next Meeting: March 7, 2018 at 1:00 PM Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Scott Belt, seconded by Dawn Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 2:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary