

Meeting Draft Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –September 7, 2022
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

John Straight-Director	Brett Bengard-Director	Gary Horton-Director
Renea Anderson-Director	Cara Morgan-Alternate	
Graham McGaffin-Director	Terry Lewis-Alternate	
Rich Pope-Director	Dawn Snyder-Director	
Bob Benton-Director	Nick Beeck-Director	
Linda Herman-Director	Craig Patterson- LHA Lobbyist	
Lance Brisbois-Director	Wesley Fopma (Representative Randy Feenstra's office)	

Chairman, Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:05 pm, with quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Nick Beeck to approve the March 2, 2022 Minutes and the June 1, 2022 Minutes. Motion carried.

AGENDA: A Motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the September 7, 2022 Agenda. Motion carried.

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

Open Funds to Obligate:

Total Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover:
Protection: \$19,050.00 (12,450.00 Obligated Projects)
Stewardship: \$9,000.00 (\$17,520.00 Obligated Projects)
Economic Development: \$8,208.79 (\$14,256.98 Obligated Projects)
Executive Committee: \$00.00 (\$17,230.00 Obligated Projects)
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$143,749.84
Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand: \$151,813.25

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/22 is \$256,052.00 with 873 Other Current Assets.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope reported that the Executive Committee met this morning at 11:00 am. The Executive Committee approved renewing The Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development and the Loess Hills Alliance FY2023. More information discussed at the Executive Committee meeting will be discussed at the Full Board meeting.

Protection Committee – Chairman, Graham McGaffin reported that Protection Committee met on August 3rd. The Protection Committee has \$19,050.00 to be used towards the 2023 RFP Grant funding process. The 2022 RFP Grant has been finalized and the Press Release has been sent out. Loess Hills Alliance Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg will send out a copy of the 2022 RFP Grant to all Loess Hills Alliance Members. Applications are due in the office by October 7, 2022.

Stewardship Committee – Lance Brisbois reported that the Stewardship Committee met this morning at 10:00 am. Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Tabitha Panas was hired as the representative for the Loess Hills Alliance PL Position, representing Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties. Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Hallie Uhlig was hired as the representative for the Loess Hills Alliance PL Position, representing Mills, Fremont, Montgomery, and Page Counties. As a private landowner, Kody Wohlers reported on his Watershed Enhancement Project to the Stewardship Committee. A total of \$9,000.00 will be available for the 2023 RFP to be presented this winter.

Economic Development Committee – Economic Development Chairman, Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee did not meet in August. Loess Hills advertising was renewed in the Sioux City Journal and Our Iowa magazine. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebook were distributed at the Iowa State Fair and will be taken to the Clay County Fair.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion/Possible Action on Golden Hills Proposed Fiscal Agent Agreement with LHA- Becky Von Weihe and Marylou Goettsch has retired from Golden Hills RC & D. Michelle Franks has accepted a new position at Iowa West Foundation. Cara Morgan and Lance Brisbois are sharing the Interim Executive Director Position until a new person is hired. Last week, the Loess Hills Alliance met with Golden Hills RC & D concerning the Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills RC & D and the LHA. Golden Hills will be outsourcing their financial management to Hamilton Associates P.C. Loess Hills Alliance will need to provide their own budgeting and reporting. Golden Hills will provide quarterly reports. Lance Brisbois will continue to provide website services at \$50.00 per hour. Grant writing will be \$55.00 per hour. The Cooperative Agreement will go through June 30, 2023. Approval was made by the Executive Committee today at the Executive Committee meeting to renew The Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development and the Loess Hills Alliance FY2023. After discussion with the Full Board Members, a decision was made to have an email go out to all Executive Committee Members with Motion made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Rich Pope to move the LHA Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg's pay from every two weeks to a monthly salary pay of \$500.00.

Re-request for Annual Report Copy from Various Committees: Please send project information and photographs to LHA Chairman, Rich Pope. The deadline for the annual report is September 15, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

Legislature Report: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that the State Legislatures are busy visiting with the public during the County & State fairs, parades, etc. Republican Representative, Bobby Kaufmann was named Chair of Iowa House Ways & Means Committee (Tax Writing Committee). Discussion on IWILL and Property Tax Cuts will continue into next year. With new redistricting in the State Legislature, the new Legislators have been staying in their own territory meeting the public. Craig reported that the State Revenues are doing ok for now and that at this time, no discussion is being made concerning public land issues. Craig and Amy continue to reach out to the State Legislatures. The Loess Hills Alliance should reach out and educate the new Legislators about the different projects that are being done throughout the Loess Hills.

Purchase of a Portable Hard Drive to Capture Financial Records as a Back-up from Fiscal Agent: At today's Executive Committee meeting, the Executive Committee approved the purchased portable hard drive to capture Loess Hills Alliance financial records from Golden Hills RC & D as a back-up.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: December 7, 2022 at 1:00 PM

Adjournment: A Motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Linda Herman to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 PM. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary