

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

Members signing the attendance log:

John Straight-Director	Mark Shoemaker-Director
Renea Anderson-Director	Patty McCall-Director
Rich Pope-Director	Dawn Snyder-Director
Bob Benton-Director	Nick Beeck-Director
John Meis-Director	Craig Patterson- LHA Lobbyist
Lance Brisbois-Director	Terry Lewis-Alternate

Chairman, Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:04 pm, with no quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: No Motion was made to approve the September 7, 2022 Minutes due to no Quorum.

AGENDA: No Motion was made to approve the December 7, 2022 Agenda due to no Quorum.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rich Pope 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

Stewardship: \$9,000.00

Economic Development: \$2,965.58

Executive Committee: \$00.00

Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$137,749.84

Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand: \$143,200.12

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/23 is \$250,258.00.

No Motion was made to accept the December 7th, 2022 Treasurer's Report due to no Quorum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope reported that the Executive Committee met this morning at 11:00 am and did have a quorum. The Executive Committee approved to transfer \$10,000.00 from the Loess Hills Alliance Board Reserve funds to the Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee budget FY23. More information discussed at the Executive Committee meeting will be discussed at the Full Board meeting.

Protection Committee – Rich Pope presented the Protection Committee report to the Full Board Members. Loess Hills Alliance received two applications for projects in response to this Fall's RFP/\$19,050.00: Brush grinding at Old Town Conservation area by Harrison County Conservation/\$2,000.00 and Vegetation Management at the Smokey Hill Complex and Armstrong property by INHF/\$15,000.00. The Scoring Committee recommended both projects to receive funding. Both projects had match of at least 3:1. Protection Committee met virtually on November 15th and approved funding for both projects. Unspent funding of \$2,050.00 will carry forward into 2023.

Stewardship Committee – Lance Bribois reported that the Stewardship Committee met this morning. The PL Position Reports were presented by Tabitha Panas and Hallie Uhlig. 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. A total of \$9,000.00 will be available for the 2023 RFP to be sent out in January. A priority will be made to fund the PL Positions.

Economic Development Committee – Rich Pope reported that Harrison County Development Corporation is taking over the toll free number from Western Iowa Tourism Region and taking over some of the fulfillment process due to changes within the WITR.

No Motion was made to accept the Committee Reports due to no Quorum.

OLD BUSINESS:

2022 Annual Reports Status- A draft of The Loess Hills Alliance 2022 Annual Report was presented to the Full Board Members. The banner head has been changed to represent the City of Castana in Monona County. Please email Rich Pope by December 15th with any needed updates. The 2022 LHA Annual Report will be sent out electronically to the State Legislators for State requirements. The Executive Committee accepted the 2022 Loess Hills Alliance Annual Report pending the needed changes at the December 7th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sharing a Letter from the Chair to Harrison County Supervisors: Rich Pope presented a letter to the Full Board Members, written to the Harrison County Board of Supervisors from the LHA Chairman on behalf of the Loess Hills Alliance in response to a private citizen's request concerning a proposed subdivision on Ivanhoe Trail near the top of "Suicide Hill" just off Hwy 127 between Mondamin and Magnolia. The mission of the Loess Hills Alliance is to "Protect special natural and cultural resources of Iowa's Loess Hills while ensuring economic viability and promoting awareness". The LHA is more a promotional/educational organization than regulatory. It is in the general interest that development be regulated within the region largely through rural zoning ordinances.

Legislature Report: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that Republicans won both chambers in the Iowa Legislature. Republicans picked up two seats to bring the balance of power in the Senate to 34 Republicans – 16 Democrats. In the House, Republicans increased their margin by four seats to 64 Republicans – 36 Democrats. Loess Hills Alliance member, Rocky DeWitt was elected to the Iowa State Senator for District I. Congratulations to Rocky De Witt. Representative, Tom Jeneary, LeMars is the new Committee Chair for Natural Resources. Senator, Dan Zumbach is the new Committee Chair for Agriculture & Natural Resources, Joint Budget Subcommittees. Senator, Dan Dawson is the new Committee Chair for Ways & Means. Representative, Donna Barry is retiring in December 2022. Currently, there is still an interest in the IWILL Bill. With 53 new Legislators, the Loess Hills Alliance will need to reach out to them to discuss the different projects throughout the Loess Hills. A letter will be sent out to the newly elected Legislatures within the Loess Hills to introduce the Loess Hills Alliance to them and describe the sponsored projects that is being done throughout the Loess Hills. 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.

(March) Executive Committee Elections: The Executive Committee Elections will be held at the March 1st Full Board meeting. Dawn Snyder announced that she is retiring on February 2, 2023. Congratulations to Dawn and we hope you enjoy your retirement. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Dawn for all her help in promoting the Loess Hills.

2023 Nominating Committee: Rich Pope will contact members to be on the 2023 Nominating Committee.

LHA 2023 Executive Committee & Full Board Meeting Dates and Times: The Loess Hills Alliance meetings will stay the same, as the 1st Wednesday of the month and times at 10:00 am, 11:00 am, and 1:00 pm. Dates for the 2023 Loess Hills Alliance meetings are as follows.

Full Board Meetings.

March 1st
June 7th
September 6th
December 6th

Executive Committee Meetings.

February 1st
March 1st
May 3rd
June 7th
August 2nd
September 6th
November 1st
December 6th

Due to no Quorum, an email will be sent to the Full Board members for approval of the meeting dates and times at a later date.

Discussion-Acres of Permanent Conservation Land in the Loess Hills: Graham McGaffin was not here today to give an update on this information. "Acres of Permanent Conservation Land in the Loess Hills" discussion will be tabled until the next Full Board meeting on March 1st, 2023.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: March 1st, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Adjournment: Chairman, Rich Pope adjourned the meeting at 1:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary