



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills State Forest
Headquarters – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 1:05 PM, Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, 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, Robert Benton, Cara Morgan, Linda Herman, Renea Anderson, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Patty McCall, Terry Lewis, Nick Beeck, Rocky DeWitt, Jerry Self, Jeff Seago, Graham McGaffin, Tammy Bramley, Alan Dale, Glenn Pollock, Ed Cambridge, and Tim Peters.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the March 1, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A change was needed on the May 3, 2017 Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee Agenda. Under "New Business", "REAP Contribution" was added. A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Patty McCall to approve the amended May 3, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report. The Bills Paid Report showed that Campbell/Patterson Consulting, LLP was paid \$3,500.00 for the 2017 Session Invoice, Monona County Conservation Trust was paid \$2,500.00 for the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar, Our IA Magazine was paid \$332.00 for 1/6 vertical page ad-April/May 2017 issue, Loess Hills Nature School was paid \$6,000.00 for 2017 Nature School, and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was paid \$32,000.00 for the Rosie Hall Property. Total checks paid were \$50,378.77 with two Transfers. Total checking account balance for February 16, 2017 through April 25, 2017 is \$22,780.32.

Total Committee Open Funds To Obligate or Carryover:

Protection: \$898.67

Stewardship: \$16,935.48

Economic Development: \$11,017.42

Executive Committee Cash Balance: \$23,250.12

Total Special Projects Balance: \$56,707.82

Total FY2016-2017 Budget Balances by Committee as of 4/28/17 is \$266,581.23.

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed unobligated Funds as of 04/28/17 is \$128,656.00 with Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/17 is \$128,656.00 with 301 Other Current Assets. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Bob Benton to transfer the Unrestricted LHA Stewardship Special-Training fund of \$2,213.00 to the LHA Stewardship Committee Funds. Motion carried.

With the transfer of the \$2,213.00 and the Stewardship Committee allocating \$1,500 to the Loess Hills Nature School, the new total for the Stewardship Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover is \$17,648.48.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Glenn Pollock presented the Stewardship Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Glenn reported that Nicholas Salick and Jake Holt presented their PL Position reports to the Committee members. Woodbury County hosted a CRP workshop on March 22, 2017 with 32 attendees. A Cover Crop Field Day was held in Randolph, IA on March 22, 2017 with 37 attendees. Glenn reported that Jake Phillips presented the Loess Hills Nature School report to the Committee. A Citizen Science Day will be held at Gleason-Hubel Wildlife Area on May 21, 2017. Jack reported that Harrison County Conservation Board has donated \$1,500.00 to help support the summer workshops of the Loess Hills Nature School and asked if the LHA Stewardship Committee would match \$1,500.00 to help support the Loess Hills Nature School. The Stewardship Committee allocated \$1,500 to the Loess Hills Nature School to help with the summer workshops through June 2017.

Protection: Graham McGaffin presented the Protection Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Graham reported that the 2015 Rosie Hall Acquisition has been finalized and the check is ready. The Protection Committee Grant Cooperative Agreement for the Muller Conservation Easement has been signed and will be finalized by the end of the calendar year. The RFP applications will be sent out in August.

Economic: Renea Anderson presented the Economic Development report to the Executive Committee members. Renea reported that funding has been set aside for reprinting and mailing of LH Marketing materials as needed. The loesshillsalliance.com website report still shows predominantly the international visitor, Russia. The Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Truck Wrap of the Loess Hills is still traveling around the country and has been seen on the Eastern side of the state.

A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Terry Lewis to accept the Committee Reports. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

LHA Authority Appointees (Jeff Seago & Whitney Riemers): The LHA Authority has appointed Jeff Seago to represent the Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Whitney Riemers to represent the Director of the Iowa Bankers Association for the Loess Hills Alliance. Jeff announced that a dedication for Brent Olson will be held on June 8, 2017 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm with a cookout. To honor Brent, The Loess Hills State Forest Visitor Center will be renamed as The Brent Olson Visitor Center. A tree will be purchased and planted to honor Brent. Rich Pope is going to send a thank you letter to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

NEW BUSINESS

Vannorsdel Bequeath-Request From Nick Beech: Nick Beech, Plymouth County Conservation Director has requested the Vannorsdel Bequeath remaining funds (\$986.00) to be used for a land acquisition project in the Loess Hills of Plymouth County. The Plymouth County Pheasants Forever partnered with Plymouth County Conservation Foundation and Plymouth County Conservation Board for this 168 acres project. The future plan for the property will consist of management by the Plymouth County Conservation Board and will be open to the public.

A Motion was made by Terry Lewis, seconded by Bob Benton to authorize the payment of \$986.00 (remaining Vannorsdel Bequeath Funds) to Plymouth County Conservation Foundation for the Land Acquisition Project. Motion carried.

Legislature State Funding: The State funding for the Loess Hills Alliance has been cut from \$150,000.00 to \$40,000.00. The Executive Committee will be discussing some financial cut backs in the future. The Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee makes the final decision on how funding is allocated. A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Linda Herman to disconnect the Loess Hills Alliance phone line in Monona County. Motion carried.

Loess Hills Heritage Week-Youth Poster Contest Support: The Loess Hills Heritage Week will be held September 23, 2017 - October 1, 2017. A poster contest will be held for the youth within the school systems in all 7 Counties. There will be 3 winners for each County. Rich Pope asked the LHA Executive Committee if they would help support the poster contest. The LHA would receive funds from the contest and then reissue the checks to the winners. A line item would need to be created in the Executive Committee Financial Report. Plymouth County Conservation Board has donated \$300.00 to help support the Youth Poster Contest.

A Motion was made by Linda, seconded by Patty McCall to have the LHA help with the funds for the Youth Poster Contest. Motion carried.

REAP Contribution: The REAP Alliance organization is a volunteer organization. In the past, the LHA has allocated \$100.00 to help with this organization. The REAP Alliance organization is requesting \$100.00 to help support them. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Renea Anderson to not allocate any funding for the REAP Alliance at this time. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Little Sioux Scout Ranch will be hosting a Youth Pollinator Habitat Program on Saturday, May 13, 2017.

The Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held June 2, 2017 - June 4, 2017 in rural Castana.

The Iowa Prairie Conference will be held July 14, 2017 - July 15, 2017 in Council Bluffs.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Terry Lewis, seconded by Patty McCall to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 PM.

Next Meeting June 7, 2017 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah at 10:30am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg, LHA Office Secretary