

Draft Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –March 2, 2016
Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters – Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Scot Nelson	Nick Beeck	Bob Benton
Renea Anderson	Lynn Grobe	Brent Olson
Michelle Wodtke Franks	Linda Herman	Tim Sproul
Dawn Snyder	Graham McGaffin	Brett Bengard
Patty McCall	John Meis	Cara Morgan
Walter Utman	Cindy Thompson	
Brady Hanson	Terry Lewis	

Chairman Bob Benton called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:03 pm, with a quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Brent Olson, seconded by Tim Sproul to approve the December 2, 2015 Minutes. Motion carried.

AGENDA: A motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the March 2, 2016 Agenda. Motion carried.

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

Open Funds To Obligate:

Protection Funds: \$898.67

Stewardship Funds: \$49,072.48

Economic Development Funds: \$50,158.19(Approximately \$31,000.00 Total after current payments are made)

Executive Committee Fund Balance: \$15,498.96

Total Special Projects Balance: \$92,861.91

Total FY2015-2016 New and Current Budget Balances by Committee as of 2/24/16 is \$300,739.59.

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds to 06-30-2016 is \$122,872.00.

Total Fund Account Balance Funds: \$155,795.00 with 688 current assets.

A motion was made by Tim Sproul, seconded by Patty McCall to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Michelle reported the Loess Hills Alliance Capacity Building Support quarterly report to the Executive Committee. The Committee made some changes on the 1st half of the Draft LHA Board Policies and Procedures Manual. The Committee will read the final pages of the Board Manual and report any changes that will be needed at the next Executive Committee meeting. The 2015 LHA Annual Report and updates will be presented to the Loess Hills Development & Conservation Authority(LHDCA) on March 4, 2016. Thank you letters were received from the Conservation Corps of Iowa and the Brown Family.

Protection Committee - The 2015 Grant was awarded to the Iowa DNR-Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit. The Protection Committee will be working on the 2016 Grant cycle.

Stewardship Committee – The Stewardship Committee had 2 visitors attend the March 2, 2016 meeting. The Committee allocated \$2,500.00 to help fund the 2016 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar 40th Anniversary. Nicolas Salick and Jake Holt presented their PL POSITION quarterly reports to the Stewardship Committee. The Committee allocated \$8,637.00 for the Loess Hills Fire Partners-Cooperative Burn Week. The Cooperative Burn Week will be held at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Waubesa State Park in Fremont County. Volunteers will come from Nebraska, Eastern Iowa, Central Iowa, and the Conservation Corps of Iowa.

Economic Development Committee - The 2016 Iowa Visitors Guide full page ad was shown to the Full Board. Ads were also placed in Iowa Outdoors, Midwest Living, Council Bluffs Visitors Guide, Sioux City Visitors Guide, Omaha World Herald, Iowa National Guard Post, Tri-State Package and the Re-marketing Program from traveliowa.com. The Economic Development Committee will obligate the remaining \$31,000.00 funds for updating and reprinting the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Guidebook. The Committee will be applying for Grant Funds to help with the printing cost. The Committee is sponsoring the Heartland Byways Conference. The Brown Family will perform the National Anthem at the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill on March 8, 2016. The web traffic continues to be predominantly Russian. It has been turned in to several agencies and is now with the cyber terrorism division of the FBI. The LHA Full Board received a copy of the State of Iowa 86th General Assembly Senate and House Natural Resources listings for contact information. The Iowa's Water & Land Legacy Coalition Lobby Day(IWILL) will be on March 3, 2016.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Loess Hills Day on the Hill:** The Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill is Tuesday, March 8, 2016. The musical family, The Browns, from Le Mars, will perform the National Anthem at the House Chamber at 8:30 am and the Senate Chamber at 9:00 am. The LHA Members and legislators are meeting in room 15 with refreshments from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The LHA Display, an informational packet including Loess Hills brochures, Loess Hills Guidebook, and the 2015 LHA Annual Report, and a laptop featuring a power point and images from Ken West will be all on display. To recognize the late Representative Jack Drake, a pictured frame of a Wild Rose and Yucca Plant in the Loess Hills will be given to the Jack Drake Family. At this time 12 Members of the Loess Hills Alliance will be attending the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill.

- **Golden Hills Update:** Michelle Wodtke Franks continues to work on social media promotions, marketing plans, press releases, and Facebook to help promote the Loess Hills. Loess Hills promotions are being worked on through the 2017 Loess Hills & Heritage week and the 2016 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar.

- **Board Manual Policy Revisions:** The Executive Committee is reviewing and updating the Loess Hills Alliance Board Manual Policy. The "Iowa's Sunshine Advisories" section was added to the Board Manual.

- **2016 Nominations/Election:** A recommendation was made by the Loess Hills Alliance Nominating Committee to keep the same Slate of Executive Committee Members. A Motion was made by Lynn Grobe, seconded by John Meis to accept the Nominating Committee Report. Motion Carried.

Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee Members:

Chairperson: Robert Benton

Vice-Chairman: Cara Morgan

Secretary: Patty McCall

Treasurer: Brent Olson

At Large:

Renea Anderson

Terry Lewis

Linda Herman

NEW BUSINESS:

Loess Hills & Heritage Week: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the information for the 2017 Loess Hills & Heritage Week to the Full Board Members. The Loess Hills & Heritage Week will be held the week of September 23, 2017. Michelle would like to engage all 7 Loess Hills Counties to come up with some marketing ideas and communities or organizations that would like to host an event. The Omaha World Herald and the Sioux City Journal will showcase the Loess Hills events. The Planning Committee is holding a meeting on April 6, 2016 at the Classic Cafe in Malvern, IA, Mills County at 11:30 am.

Iowa REAP Alliance: As per request by Brent Olson, Bob Benton, and Michelle Wodtke Franks, a \$100.00 donation from the Executive Committee was sent to join the Iowa REAP Alliance in hoping that REAP funding will continue. The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program protects the state's natural and cultural resources.

Announcements:

Next meeting is June 1, 2016 at 1:00 pm at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center Sioux City, IA

Adjournment – A Motion was made by Cara Morgan, seconded by Bob Benton to adjourn the meeting at 1:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary