



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center
Sioux City, IA
Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:57 AM, Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Sioux City, IA by Chairman, Bob Benton. Introductions were made and the travel sheet was signed.

Those present at today's meeting: Bob Benton, Linda Herman, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Brent Olson, Graham McGaffin, Justin Herbst, and Patty McCall.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Patty McCall to approve the May 4, 2016 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A change was needed on the LHA Executive Committee June 1, 2016 Agenda. Under "New Business", "Golden Hills RC & D and the Loess Hills Alliance Cooperative Agreement" was added. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the amended June 1, 2016 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brent Olson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Committee Members. The Bills Paid Report showed that National Guard of Iowa was paid \$165.00 for The Guard Post Ad-April 2016, Golden Hills RC & D was paid \$134.82 for LHNSB Guidebook Mailings, \$6,943.51 for Capacity Building-4th Invoice, and \$704.99 for Domain Renewal & Hosting, and Our Iowa Magazine was paid \$332.00 for the 1/6 Vertical Page Ad-June/July 2016 Issue. Total checks paid were \$8,804.42 with 1 Transfer. Total checking account balance for April 27, 2016 through May 31, 2016 is \$22,106.85

Total Committee Open Funds To Obligate or Carryover:

Protection: \$898.67

Stewardship: \$46,572.48

Economic Development: \$9,081.32

Executive Committee Fund Balance: \$8,649.71

Total Special Projects Balance: \$54,807.82

Total FY2015-2016 New and Current Budget Balances by Committee as of 5/31/16 is \$261,857.68.

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed unobligated Funds to 06-30-16 is \$123,050.00 with Total Funds of \$155,973.00.

Letters have been sent out to all 7 Loess Hills Counties' Supervisors requesting support with a funding commitment of \$2000.00 for Fiscal Year 2017. At this time, the Loess Hills Alliance has received \$6,000.00 for the Fiscal Year 2017 Support Funding from Monona, Plymouth, and Pottawattamie Counties. This County funding is used for lobbying.

The LHA Executive Committee will discuss options for the Special Projects Balance(\$54,807.82) to help fund a good goal project at the next Executive Committee meeting on August 17, 2016.

The Loess Hills Alliance will know more concerning the FY16-17 appropriations by August 1, 2016. There is a concern that funding FY17-18 may be cut back. The Loess Hills Alliance members will need to engage with the Legislatures to raise awareness for future funding for the Loess Hills.

A motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Patty McCall to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Graham McGaffin presented the Stewardship report to the Executive Committee. The LHA Stewardship Committee allocated \$8,637.00 for the Loess Hills Fire Partners-Cooperative Burn Week. The LHA Stewardship Committee and the LHA Protection Committee members met jointly at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center on June 1, 2016 for a tour of Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve. The Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve is approximately 3000 acres with approximately 175 adult bison and 60 calves run through 1800 acres of the Preserve. Prairie rattlesnakes live on the north end of the Preserve with approximately 200 of them tagged. The group also visited the Interpreter Panel. Discussion was held on whether a Transportation Enhancement Grant could help upgrade Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve for future tours or drone pictures to see the bison.

Protection: No Report

Economic: Justin Herbst presented the Economic Development report to the Executive Committee members. Loess Hills information has been distributed to interested parties through the LH advertising of the 2016 Iowa Visitors Guide, Midwest Living, Tri-State Package, Iowa Outdoors, and the Remarketing Program from Traveliowa.com. The ED Committee has turned in the questionnaire information for the LHA Policies & Procedures Manual. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Guidebooks will be updated

and reprinted this fall with help to offset expenses from a possible Iowa West Foundation Grant. Currently 5000 of each of the Motorcycling, RV ing, and Birding Brochures are getting reprinted. Thank you cards continue to be received from the Lucky I Prize winners for the Our Iowa magazine. The ad is placed in this publication 6 times a year. Web traffic is still predominantly Russian and is still with the cyber terrorism division of the FBI. The Brown Family Music Show performance of the National Anthem at the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill in March went well.

The ED Committee helped sponsor the Heartland Byways Conference held in Council Bluffs in April. Approximately 90- 95 attendees from 8 states were in attendance. Byway tours were held for DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Harrison County Welcome Center, and Hitchcock Nature Center. This event is held every 2 years. There is an interest in hosting this event in the future.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Golden Hills Update: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Golden Hills Update to the Executive Committee. Michelle continues to work on the draft Board Policies and Orientation manual with the final draft finished by this fall. Michelle and Rich Pope staffed the LHA exhibit at the IZAACK Walton League Iowa State Convention on April 29-May 1, 2016 in Schleswig, IA. Approximately 60 guests were in attendance. Craig Patterson will present a Legislative Session update(via speaker phone call) to the Full Board at 1:00 PM. The LHA would like to visit with Craig concerning future funding. Suggestions were made to get Committee speakers or previous LHA project funded owners to talk with the Legislators to promote the Loess Hills.

LHA Policies & Procedures Manual: Michelle Wodtke Franks passed out the updated 2016 Board Manual to the Executive Members. The Executive Committee members will read pages 14 - 29 of the Board Manual and report any changes that will be needed at the next Executive Committee meeting on August 17, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

Golden Hills RC & D and the Loess Hills Alliance Cooperative Agreement: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Cooperative Agreement to the Executive Committee members. A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Linda Herman to accept the 1 year renewal Cooperative Agreement Contract between Golden Hills RC & D and the Loess Hills Alliance. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Loess Hills Alliance was asked if they would like to use the Flipcause Fund-raising Company to help with local fund-raising. At this time, the Executive Committee decided to not work with this company.

Brent Olson passed around a picture of the Bur oak tree that was planted at Pony Creek Park in Mills County in honor of Joe Blankenship.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Brent Olson, seconded by Patty McCall to adjourn the meeting at 11:56 AM.

Next Meeting August 17, 2016 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg, LHA Office Secretary