



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Loess Hills State Forest
Headquarters – Pisgah, IA**

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:35 AM, Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah, IA by Chairman, Bob Benton. Introductions were made and the travel sheet was signed. Condolences and sympathy were expressed by the Executive Committee Members for the loss of Brent Olson, Loess Hills Alliance Treasurer.

Those present at today's meeting: Bob Benton, Cara Morgan, Patty McCall, Linda Herman, Tim Sproul, Jake Holt, Nic Salick, Renea Anderson, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Lance Brisbois, Terry Lewis, Graham McGaffin, and Rich Pope.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Cara Morgan, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the November 2, 2016 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A change was needed for the LHA Executive Committee December 7, 2016 Agenda. Under New Business: (LHA Treasurer's Position and Signage For Projects was added). A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Cara Morgan to approve the amended December 7, 2016 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Treasurer's Report to the LHA Executive Committee Members. The Bills Paid Report showed that Harrison County GIS & Mapping was paid \$75.00 for Map Creation-Motorcycle Brochure, Western Iowa Tourism Region was paid \$457.04 for LHNSB Fulfillment and \$4,620.00 for an Ad, Web Graphics was paid \$1,604.53 for 3rd Reprinting of 3 Brochures, Our Iowa Magazine was paid \$332.00 for the 1/6 Vertical Page Ad-Dec/Jan 2017 Issue, and National Guard of Iowa was paid \$165.00 for The Guard Post Ad-Nov 2016. Total checks paid were \$11,870.09. Total checking account balance for October 28, 2016 through November 30, 2016 is \$24,566.52. A letter was sent out to every County's Board of Supervisors to request support for the Loess Hills Alliance. These funds are used for the salary of the Lobbyist, Craig Patterson and Amy Campbell.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: The two Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist PL Positions for Jake Holt and Nicholas Salick have been renewed for 2017. The Stewardship Committee allocated \$1,500.00 to help fund the Educational signage for the Little Sioux Scout Ranch Pollinator Habitat Project and \$6,000 towards the Loess Hills Nature School in Pottawattamie County. The Stewardship Committee Members honored Brent Olson by expressing their personal stories with each other.

Protection: At this time, no report from Chairman, Scott Nelson.

Economic: At this time, the Economic Development Committee members decided to wait until needed to reprint the Loess Hills Scenic Byway Guidebooks. The web traffic for the loesshillsalliance.com website is still predominantly Russian. A Western Iowa Legislative Forum will be held on December 14, 2016 at the Mondamin Community Center from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Some of the topics and speakers will be PDI Legislative Perspective, LHA Lobbyist (Craig Patterson), and IWILL Representatives.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Special Projects Funding: Total Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover for the Special Projects Funding is \$54,807.82. Ideas that the Executive Committee suggested to use the funding for were: Outreach Promotional Funding with the use of the annual report and face-book page, sending out a letter to the Legislators every two weeks regarding projects that the Loess Hills Alliance has helped support, use the Loess Hills Alliance logo in the different projects, advertising in local papers and local news stations, sending out press releases, face to face contact presentations with the public highlighting the LHA, hold meetings in the local Extension offices and schools, helping the youth in the school classroom, update the Children's LH Kits, and hold a hike in the hills with the youth(one school in the Spring and one in the Fall). A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Linda Herman to send out a hard copy of the Loess Hills Annual Report as a drop mail piece to every address in each Loess Hills 7 Counties, to the Iowa Legislators, and to the State Department Heads. Motion passed. The Special Projects Funding issue will be discussed more at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Participation/Attendance Board Members: A letter was sent out by the Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee to all LHA Board Director's and Alternates encouraged to attend the December 7, 2016 Full Board Meeting at 1:00 PM. A positive response for attendance was received.

2016 Draft Annual Report: The 2016 Draft Annual Report was passed around to the LHA Executive Committee Members. The Committee discussed a few changes that were needed. If any more changes are needed, please send to Michelle Wodtke Franks before the final printing. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Renea Anderson to accept the amended 2016 Annual Report. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

LHA Website Contract/John Zeman: John Zeman will be sending an invoice for his service/LHA Website updates. The domain registration has been free for the LHA website, but is not mobile-friendly. A Motion was made by Cara Morgan, seconded by Patty McCall to have Golden Hills RC & D rebuild the Loess Hills Alliance Website and to add running activities. Motion carried. A draft of the website will be shown at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Signage For Projects: Ideas that were presented during discussion were: to have a "Sponsored by the Loess Hills Alliance" sign put up near all LHA projects when appropriate, to order a box of signs to have available for all LHA Committees to use, and to use the special projects funding to help fund the signs. A Motion was made by Cara Morgan, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve 29 "Sponsored by the Loess Hills Alliance" signs to be ordered and use the Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee Special Projects Funding to pay for the signs. Motion carried.

LHA Treasurer's Position: Due to the passing of the LHA Treasurer, Brent Olson, a new appointee for the Treasurer's Position will be needed. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Linda Herman to appoint Renea Anderson as the Pro-tem LHA Treasurer until March elections. Motion carried. Flowers were sent for Brent Olson from Golden Hills RC & D and Loess Hills Alliance. To honor Brent, the Committee would like to name Murray Hill Scenic Overlook after Brent or have a bench made in his honor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill will be held on Monday, March 13, 2017 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Cara Morgan to adjourn the meeting at 12:13 PM.

Next Meeting To Be Announced

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg, LHA Office Secretary