

Draft Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –March 1, 2017
Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Earl Hendrickson	Bob Benton	Mark Shoemaker
Brett Bengard	Renea Anderson	Terry Lewis
Michelle Wodtke Franks	Linda Herman	Rich Pope
Scott Pape	Graham McGaffin	Tim Sproul
Gary Horton	John Meis	Jeff Franco
Ed Cambridge	Cara Morgan	Jacob Bossman
John Straight	Nick Beeck	
Paul Moorhead	Patty McCall	

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

MINUTES: A motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve the December 7, 2016 Minutes. Motion carried.

AGENDA: A change was needed for the March 1, 2017 Board of Directors Agenda. Under “Old Business”, “IWILL” was added. Under “New Business”, “New Signage” and “LHA Authority Appointee” was added. A motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Rich Pope to approve the amended March 1, 2017 Agenda. Motion carried.

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

Open Funds To Obligate:

Protection Funds: \$898.67

Stewardship Funds: \$25,435.48

Economic Development Funds: \$11,312.42

Executive Committee Cash Balance: \$28,806.22

Total Special Projects Balance: \$54,807.82

Total FY2016-2017 New and Current Budget Balances by Committee as of 2/15/17 is \$317,223.00.

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds at 2/15/2017 is \$128,469.00.

Total Fund Account Balance Funds: \$135,517.00 with 522 current assets.

The Economic Development Committee's Open Funds of \$11,312.42 will be set aside for the reprinting of the Loess Hills Scenic Byway Guidebooks. After allocating \$2,500.00 for the 2017 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar and allocating \$6,000.00 FY17 to help expand the Loess Hills Nature School at Hitchcock Nature Center, the Stewardship Committee Open Funds will be approximately \$16,935.48.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Robert Benton presented the Executive Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Bob reported that Rich Pope and he were appointed as the new contacts for the REAP Alliance. \$400.00 was allocated to pay Jeff Davis for the Brent Olson Memorial sign. More “Sponsored by the Loess Hills Alliance” signs will be ordered for the Loess Hills Alliance’s funded projects.

Protection Committee – Graham McGaffin presented the Protection Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Graham reported that the Protection Committee met on February 1, 2017. The Protection Committee decided to use the endangered species data that is already available or rare species data that was found on some of the Protection Committee's funding projects and have Michelle Wodtke Franks put the information on the LHA website. Graham McGaffin was appointed as the new Loess Hills Protection Committee Chairman.

Stewardship Committee – Rich Pope presented the Stewardship Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Rich reported that the two Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist PL Positions' Grants for Jake Holt and for Nicholas Salick have been completed and signed. The Grant for the Little Sioux Scout Ranch Pollinator Habitat Project has been signed. The Stewardship Committee allocated funding to help expand the Loess Hills Nature School at Hitchcock Nature Center and the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. Glenn Pollock was appointed as the new LHA Stewardship Committee Chairman.

Economic Development Committee -Renea Anderson presented the Economic Development Committee Report to the Full Board Members. Renea reported that the Economic Development Committee met on February 27, 2017. The Loess Hills Guidebook photo and a Ken West photo from Hitchcock Nature Center was shown in the Travel Iowa Guide. The Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Truck Wrap of the Loess Hills is still traveling around the country. Thank you cards are still being received from the Lucky 1 Prize winners for the Our Iowa magazine. All seven Counties are being showcased through the Lucky 1 Prize and the Committee is getting a lot of good feedback. The Motorcycling, RV ing, & Birding Brochures and the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Guidebook are all doing well. The January stats for the visitloesshills.org website were 1,173 visits with 85.25% new visits and 2,172 page views. The report showed the visitor, United States, with 907 Sessions (77.32%). The January stats for the loesshillsalliance.com website were 183 visits with 84.15% new visits and 234 page views. The report showed the international visitor, Russia, with 95 Sessions (51.91%).

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Golden Hills RC & D Capacity Report** : Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Golden Hills RC & D Report. Michelle reported that Golden Hills RC & D has been working with the Loess Hills Alliance for two years now. The Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development and the Loess Hills Alliance will expire on June 30, 2017. Both Loess Hills Alliance and visit Loess Hills websites are updated.

The photos that are shown on the websites were taken by Lance Brisbois. If any changes are needed for the websites, the Committee members will need to email the information to Lance Brisbois. The Loess Hills Alliance Board Manual has been updated. An orientation for the Loess Hills Board Members will be done annually. Work is being done with Facebook, Instagram, and a quarterly digital LHA Newsletter. Cara Morgan and Becca Castle were introduced as new employees with Golden Hills RC & D.

- **2017 Day on the Hill:** The Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill will be held on Monday, March 13, 2017 from 11:00am to 4:00pm at the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda. At least one person from each County is encouraged to come to the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill. Members are encouraged to talk with all Legislatures about the Loess Hills for the future of the Loess Hills Alliance. Treats will be provided, name tags will be made, wear LHA shirts if possible, and a car pool to Des Moines will be in place.

- **IWILL:** Tom Hazelton and Joe McGovern are Co-chairman for the Iowa REAP Alliance. In their last meeting, the Iowa REAP Alliance allocated \$10,000 towards Iowa's Water & Land Legacy (IWILL) campaign. The IWILL Coalition will be in Des Moines on April 11, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2017 Officer Positions:** The LHA Nominating Committee, Robert Benton, Lynn Grobe, and Nick Beeck, nominated these members for the Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee:

Rich Pope/Chairman
Robert Benton/Vice-Chairman
Patty McCall/Secretary
Renea Anderson/Treasurer

At Large:
Linda Herman
Terry Lewis
Graham McGaffin

A Motion was made by Nick Beeck, seconded by Gary Horton to cease the nominations and to accept the Nominating Committee's Report. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Gary Horton, seconded by Michelle Wodtke Franks to approve the Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee slate of officers. Motion carried.

- **New Signage:** A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Renea Anderson to appoint the Loess Hills Alliance Chairman, Rich Pope to be the new signee along with the Loess Hills Alliance Treasurer, Renea Anderson. Motion carried.

- **New LHA Website:** Both the www.visitloesshills.org and www.loesshillsalliance.com websites have been updated and are up and running. All members of the Loess Hills Alliance are encouraged to visit both websites. Links to each Committee, the LHA Comprehensive Plan, the Loess Hills Alliance Annual Report, and the LHA Brochures are all available to see on the LHA website. All members are encouraged to like or share the LHA Facebook page to share with family and friends.

- **LHA Authority Appointee:** The Loess Hills Development & Conservation Authority will meet on March 17, 2017 to appoint two open vacancies for the Loess Hills Alliance Board of Directors. At this time the LHA members decided to surface names for the LHA Authority Appointees and also have alternate names available. Several names were presented and if anyone else has suggestions, they are to email the information to Michelle Wodtke Franks before the Loess Hills Development & Conservation Authority meeting on March 17, 2017.

- **Legislative Update:** Jacob Bossman reported that at this time, discussions have been held on the Farm Bill and the Health Care Bill. More discussions will be held in the Summer and Fall seasons.

- **Upcoming Events:** The Iowa Prairie Conference will be held at the Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs on July 14 - 15, 2017.

The 2017 Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held on June 2-4, 2017.

The Loess Hills & Heritage Week will be held on September 23, 2017 thru October 1, 2017.

Harrison County Tourism is sponsoring a Hospitality Training on March 21, 2017 at 5:30 PM at the Mondamin Community Center. The program will be conducted by ISU Extension specialist, Abbie Gaffey.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: June 7, 2017 at 1:00 PM Loess Hills State Forest Headquarters, Pisgah

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Graham McGaffin, seconded by Renea Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary