



**LHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Loess Hills State Forest
Headquarters – Pisgah, IA
Wednesday, September 6, 2017**

The Executive Committee of the LHA was called to order at 10:32 AM, Wednesday, September 6, 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, Linda Herman, Renea Anderson, Bob Benton, Craig Patterson, Michelle Wodtke Franks, Jeff Seago and Patty McCall.

APPROVE MINUTES: A change was needed in the August 2, 2017 Minutes. Under Adjourn, "It should read 1:50 PM". A motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the amended August 2, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Minutes. Motion Carried.

APPROVE AGENDA: A change was needed to the September 6, 2017 Executive Committee Agenda. Under New Business, "Craig Patterson/Lobbyist was added". A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Renea Anderson to approve the amended September 6, 2017 LHA Executive Committee Agenda. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Executive Committee Members. The Bills Paid Report showed West Bend Mutual Insurance Company was paid \$450.00 for D & O Insurance 8/2017-8/2018, The Nature Conservancy was paid \$3,891.19 for the Cooperative Burn, and Golden Hills was paid \$2,615.96 for Final Invoice Capacity Building and \$4,611.03 FY13 AGO Final Bookkeeping. Total checks paid were \$13,369.47 with no transfers. Total checking account balance for July 26, 2017 through September 5, 2017 is \$26,607.29.

Total Committee Open Funds to Obligate or Carryover:

Protection: \$12,898.67

Stewardship: \$32,304.25

Economic Development: \$13,995.42

Executive Committee: \$7,056.51

Executive/Board Reserve Funds: \$95,373.36

The Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report showed Total Unobligated Funds as of 08/25/17 is \$163,712.00 with Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/18 is \$163,712.00 with 825 Other Current Assets. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Herman to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Michelle Wodtke Franks presented the Stewardship Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Michelle reported that Nicholas Salick and Jake Holt presented their updates to the Stewardship Committee. The Stewardship Committee obligated \$15,000.00 for SWCD PL Position (Jake Holt) and \$15,000.00 for SWCD PL Position (Nicholas Salick) FY18-19. Michelle stated that Governor, Kim Reynolds signed the Loess Hills & Heritage Week Proclamation on Thursday, August 24, 2017. Loess Hills & Heritage Week will be held on September 23, 2017 thru October 1, 2017 with activities scheduled throughout the 7-county Loess Hills region.

Protection: Rich Pope presented the Protection Committee report to the Executive Committee members. Rich reported that the RFP for 2017 Protection Committee funding has been sent out for distribution. The Scoring Committee are looking at Source Water Protection as one of the possible projects for consideration for the grant. Applications must be received by October 6, 2017.

Economic: Renea Anderson presented the Economic Development report to the Executive Committee members. Renea reported that the Economic Development Committee met on August 28, 2017. The Committee worked on any updates that were needed for the RVing, Motorcycling, and Birding brochures before reprinting. The Brochures will be drop shipped to the different locations. Renea reported that the Loess Hills Alliance Economic Development Committee FY 2017 Annual Report has been turned in.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

LHA Protection Project Review: Renea Anderson reported that at this time, the report concerning lands that the LHA has helped support and their Iowa tax role status is still in process. The report will present the years from 2010 to present.

Loess Hills & Heritage Week-Poster Contest: Rich Pope reported that Dawn Snyder will be presenting the Loess Hills Poster Contest report to the LHA Full Board Members at the 1:00 pm meeting. An educational poster contest will be held for the youth during the Loess Hills & Heritage Week. \$750.00-\$850.00 has been raised for the cash awards.

NEW BUSINESS

Loess Hills State Forest “Friends of the LHSF”: Jeff Seago presented the “Friends of the Loess Hills State Forest” report to the Executive Committee Members. This group would help organize garner support, hold educational opportunities and raise grant money for possible projects throughout the LHSF. The IDNR has limitations on what it can do as far as social media, etc. The LHA’s 501 © 3 status could allow for funds to be collected and donations to be raised for things in the LHSF such as walking trails signage, a Bio Blitz, mapping, etc. Some of the discussion that was held was: there is insurance and tax issues to be considered, the “Friends of the LHSF” group would need to have the same beliefs and follow the LHA Mission Statement, a new Committee could be made to get Grant funding, and, or to look into legal help for this issue. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Renea Anderson to create an ad hoc Committee to study the “Friends of the LHSF” subject. Motion carried. The new ad hoc Committee members are Rich Pope, Renea Anderson, Linda Herman, Dawn Snyder (pending permission from Dawn), Michelle Wodtke Franks, and Liaison member Jeff Seago. The ad hoc Committee will meet on the 3rd week of October and report back to Executive Committee members at the next Executive Committee meeting on November 1, 2017.

Iowa Tourism Conference: Renea Anderson reported that the 2017 Iowa Tourism Conference will be held on October 25-27, 2017 in Sioux City, IA. The LHA Economic Development Committee will be setting up a booth at the Iowa Tourism Conference to display the RVing, Motorcycling, and Birding brochures and the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebooks. A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by Bob Benton to allocate \$500.00 to help support the LHA booth at the Iowa Tourism Conference. Motion carried.

Craig Patterson/LHA Lobbyist: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that the State Legislatures cannot close FY2017 with a 105 Million dollar deficit. The Governor and the Legislatures are trying to avoid making special cuts. 50 Million dollars can be moved out of the emergency funds to help with the deficit. The May and June bills were held to pay until July to help with the deficit. A decision will be made by the end of September. Some of the issues that the Legislatures will be working on in the future is tax reform and water quality. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Craig Patterson for the Legislative update.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Nicholas Salick was represented in the August 2017 issue of Corn & Soybean Digest working with Precision Ag Projects.

The Loess Hills Alliance received a thank you letter from the LHPS Coordinator, Andrea Porter for the LHA support of the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar.

The Loess Hills Alliance received a thank you note from Kelsey Flemming, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist for attending the Iowa Prairie Conference.

A pamphlet introducing Nature Calls 2017 was passed around to the Executive Committee Members. Nature Calls 2017 will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at the Sioux City Convention Center from 6:00 - 10:00 pm. There will be nature art vendors, cash raffles, and a charity auction benefiting the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center.

ADJOURN A Motion was made by Linda Herman, seconded by Patty McCall to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 AM.

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

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeannette Riesberg