

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –December 5, 2018
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Jeff Seago-Director	Renea Anderson-Director	John Meis-Director
Linda Herman-Director	Brett Bengard-Director	Gary Horton-Director
Rich Pope-Director	Graham McGaffin-Director	Nick Beeck-Director
Dawn Snyder-Director	Alan Dale-Director	Paul Moorhead-Alternate
John Straight-Director	Mark Shoemaker-Director	Cara Morgan-Alternate
Bob Benton-Director	Ed Cambridge-Director	Craig Patterson-LHA Lobbyist

Chairman Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:01 pm, with a quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Graham McGaffin to approve the September 5, 2018 Minutes. Motion Carried.

AGENDA: A change was needed to the December 5th Full Board Agenda. Under “New Business”, the “LH Family Friends Group” was added. A motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the amended December 5, 2018 Board of Directors Agenda. Motion Carried.

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

Open Funds To Obligate:

Protection Funds: \$20,000.00
Stewardship Funds: \$7,000.00
Economic Development Funds: \$8,293.30
Executive Committee Funds: \$177.24
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$96,272.03
Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand: \$110,955.13

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds at 11/27/2018 is \$128,558.00.
Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/19 is \$128,558.00 with 706 Other Current Assets.

A motion was made by Alan Dale, seconded by Bob Benton to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope reported that Jerry Self, Regional Director for the Sioux City office of U.S. Senator Joni Ernst and Kolby DeWitt, District Representative for the Sioux City office of U.S. Congressman Steve King were present at the Executive Committee meeting today, December 5th. Jerry and Kolby reported that a lot of work is being done to try and get the Farm Bill finalized and passed. More discussion will be held with the Full board Members concerning the December 5th Executive Committee Agenda items later in today's meeting.

Protection Committee – Graham McGaffin reported that the Protection Committee did not meet today, December 5th. The revised version of the 2018 Loess Hills Alliance Protection Committee Grant Application was approved and sent out in November. All language concerning Acquisition was taken out of the new RFP. The deadline for applications is January, 11, 2019. The Grant awards will be made from available funds provided by the Iowa Legislature up to \$20,000 in 2018-19.

Stewardship Committee – Jeff Seago reported that the Stewardship Committee met at 9:00 a.m. today. Discussion was held on Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week. Paperwork will be sent to Golden Hills RC & D to finalize the Balance to Pay/ Obligated project for \$5,413.06, DNR-SWG-C restoring Royalties Cooperative Burn Week 2018. The next Loess Hills Fire Partners meeting will be held on December 19th. The State Legislators will be invited to the next Loess Hills Cooperative Burn Week.

Economic Development Committee - Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee did not meet on Monday, December 3rd. Renea presented the total Economic impact of tourism for the Loess Hills 7 County Region report to the Full Board members. The total 2017 expenditures was \$722,550,000.00. The Western Iowa Legislative Forum will be held on December 19th from 9am to 11am at the Mondamin Community Center. Erin Mullinex will report on City Characteristics & Property Tax Levy Trends and Shirley Phillips will report on Travel Federation of Iowa Legislative Issues. The LHA Economic Development Committee FY 2018 Annual Report was presented to the Full board Members. Advertising was done in the Iowa National Guard Post magazine, Sioux City Visitors Guide, Council Bluffs Visitors Guide, Our Iowa magazine, Iowa Travel Guide, and the Website Ad. The Loess Hills Scenic Byway Guidebooks and the Birding, Motorcycling, and R Ving Brochures are being distributed to welcome centers throughout the state. Michelle Wodtke Franks saw the Loess Hills Truck Wrap on the eastbound I-80 rest stop near Des Moines.

A motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Dawn Snyder to accept the Committee Reports.
Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion Protection Committee RFP: The first Loess Hills Alliance Protection Committee Grant Application was sent out in August 2018. Nick Beeck, Plymouth County Conservation Board Director had sent back an application for funding for Project Title: Newberg Addition to Hillview Recreation Area. In response from the concern of the State Legislature, a Motion was made and passed at the September 5th Executive Committee meeting that the LHA will not use funds for the acquisition of land for resource protection (including, but not limited to, source water, remnant prairie habitat, etc.”). The revised version of the 2018 Loess Hills Alliance Protection Committee Grant Application was sent out in November and is on the Loess Hills Alliance website. Any and all Grant Applications can be denied. The LHA Executive Committee apologized to Plymouth County Conservation Board Director, Nick Beeck.

NEW BUSINESS:

2018 Annual Report: The Loess Hills Alliance 2018 annual Report was presented to the Full Board members. All edits are to be turned in to Michelle Wodtke Franks by the end of next week. This required annual report is due to the State Legislature by January 15, 2019. The Loess Hills Alliance 2018 Annual Report can be used for marketing the Loess Hills, the 2019 Iowa Tourism Conference, and Legislative Forums.

2019 Officer Nominations and Positions (Nominating Committee): Loess Hills Alliance Chairman, Rich Pope will decide who will be selected to be on the LHA Officer Nominating Committee. The 2019 LHA Officer Positions will be voted on at the next Full Board Meeting on March 6, 2019.

LHA 2019 Meeting Dates: A Motion was made by Alan Dale, seconded by Linda Herman to keep the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board meetings the same as last year, first Wednesday of the month. Motion Carried. A Motion was made by Dawn Snyder, seconded by Bob Benton to hold the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board meetings at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor’s Center, Pisgah, IA. Motion Carried.

March 6, 2019

June 5, 2019

September 4, 2019

December 4, 2019

Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill: A suggestion was made at the Executive Committee meeting to present a program on a LHA project to the State Legislature for the Loess Hills Alliance Day on the Hill and to present it on the same day as the Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee. A request will be needed to be put on the State Legislature Agenda. State Legislators will be contacted by some of the Executive Committee members. Packets that will be made for the LHA Day on the Hill will include the Loess Hills Alliance 2018 Annual Report.

Discuss Mills County “Borrow Pit” Issue: Loess Hills Alliance Director, Ed Cambridge presented the Mills County “Borrow Pit” Issue to the Full Board and pictures of the destruction from the Grading-Borrow Site were also shown. In 2013, a Mills County landowner applied for a permit to remove 960,000 cubic yards of LOESS soil for a MidAmerican Energy Plant project within a 2 year project. This site has been used for many years as a resource extraction site, predating the current zoning ordinance. By October 2017 (4 years later), nothing had been closed down and there is no blend to the natural topography of the Loess Hills and no native planting on the slopes. In 2018, the Mills County landowner applied for another permit to remove an additional 650,000 cubic yards of Loess soil. Woodbury County had turned down the permit, but after a lawsuit was filed, this permit was approved. The Loess Hills Alliance Full Board Members thanked Ed Cambridge for presenting this concerning issue.

LH Family Friends Group: Jeff Seago presented a report on Loess Hills State Forest Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishments to the Full Board members. With the help of volunteers, staff, and the LH Family Friends Group, this list showed some of their accomplishments such as: GPS survey of 75 miles of hiking trails (50 Miles of that is groomed), constructed 4 miles of new trail, widened 10 miles of trail, cleared 21 acres of eastern red cedar (prairie restoration), worked a total of 26 prescribed fires (7,925 acres), etc. This List can be used as an example for the Loess Hills Alliance to use for Grant funding opportunities, advertising accomplishments for public use, and to share with the State Legislature.

Announcements:

The Loess Hills Alliance will host a Fire Refresher training course in the spring of 2019 to help with a burn in the Sloan area, Woodbury County and a burn in Pottawattamie County or Mills County area.

Next Meeting: March 6, 2019 at 1:00 PM Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah

Adjournment: A Motion was made by John Straight, seconded by all LHA Members in attendance to adjourn the meeting at 2:23 PM. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary