

Meeting Draft Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –September 2, 2020
Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center–Sioux City, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

Dawn Snyder-Director	Renea Anderson-Director-via Zoom
Nick Beeck-Director	Scott Belt-Director-via Zoom
Rich Pope-Director	John Straight-Director-via Zoom
Bob Benton-Director	Michelle Wodtke Franks-Director-via Zoom
Lance Brisbois-Director	John Meis-Director-via Zoom
Gary Horton-Director	Brett Bengard-Director-via Zoom
	Tammy Bramley-Director-via Zoom
	Craig Patterson-Lobbyist-via Zoom
	Linda Herman-Director-via Telephone
	Marty Pottebaum-Director-via Telephone

Chairman Dawn Snyder called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:06 pm, with a quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Gary Horton, seconded by Rich Pope to approve the March 4, 2020 Minutes. Motion Carried.

AGENDA: A motion was made by Tammy Bramley, seconded by Nic Beeck to approve the September 2, 2020 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: \$7,000.00 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$17,750.00
Stewardship Funds: \$14,000.00 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$7,000.00
LHA-Friends of the LH State Forest: \$288.37 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$.00
Economic Development Funds: \$11,677.27 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$12,948.53
Executive Committee Funds: \$179.20 Balance to Pay-Obligated Projects \$17,857.00
Executive/Reserve Funds on Hand: \$121,022.03
Executive/Board Total Funds on Hand: \$139,058.23

Loess Hills Alliance Funds Report: Total Unobligated Funds @ 08/25/2020 is \$242,935.00.
Total Unobligated Remaining Funds to 06/30/21 is \$242,935.00 with 850 Other Current Assets.

A motion was made by Rich Pope, seconded by Tammy Bramley to accept the Treasurer's Report.
Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Dawn Snyder reported that the Executive Committee met today at 10:30 AM at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center with a quorum. Committee reports were presented. During the Protection Committee report, a Motion was carried to include this language to any forthcoming project contracts between potential partners and the Loess Hill Alliance.

Due to potential economic uncertainty, the Loess Hills Alliance shall have the right to cancel this request for proposals and/or any awards granted without penalty should adequate funds not be appropriated as a result of unforeseen state budget adjustments.

This statement was made generic to include any potential crisis and fiscal year. More information discussed at the Executive Committee meeting will be discussed at the Full Board meeting.

Protection Committee – Dawn Snyder reported that the Protection Committee has been working on another RFP, due October 2, 2020. Total Protection Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY20/21 is \$7,000.00. The language for the RFP will include the “Motion Carried” information from today’s Executive Committee meeting. The updated RFP contract will be posted on the LHA Website & Facebook, emailed to the Loess Hills Alliance Full Board Members, and sent to the local papers for a press release.

Stewardship Committee – Lance Brisbois reported that the Stewardship Committee met today at 9:30 am at Dorothy Pecaut nature Center. A Motion was carried to rescind the funding of last year’s projects (\$1,500.00 funding for financial support for the 2020 Hitchcock Nature Center BioBlitz and the \$2,000.00 funding for financial support for the 2020 Cooperative Burn Week) and to open the funds up again for this years’ projects. Total Stewardship Committee Funds to Obligate or Carryover FY20/21 is \$14,000.00. A RFP option was discussed at the Stewardship Committee meeting. Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Jason Andersen reported that Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Jake Holt representing Fremont/Mills/Montgomery/Page Counties is no longer with Pheasants Forever and the Loess Hills Alliance. Jake is employed with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Sidney, Iowa. The Loess Hills Alliance Full Board would like to thank Jake Holt for all his work in the Loess Hills.

“Friends of the Loess Hills State Forest”- Linda Herman reported that all thirty Loess Hills 2021 Calendars that were purchased from Images of Western Iowa Calendar for \$240.00 have been sold.

Economic Development Committee – Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development did not meet on August 31st due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Committee will be looking at doing a zoom meeting in the future. Members continue to listen to Governor Kim Reynolds updates. Advertising through Our Iowa magazine continues and is doing well. Loess Hills State Forest Visitor Center in Pisgah is putting 10-12 Loess Hills advertising packets out front for the public.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Legislative: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson reported that he has been attending zoom meetings to keep connected to the Legislators. At this time, there is a lot of uncertainty with the election going on. The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship budget did fund the \$40,000.00 for the Loess Hills Alliance. The Infrastructure Budget has gone down due to the decrease of lottery sales. With the new Legislative races coming up, Members are to reach out and educate about the Loss Hills Alliance. Rich Pope requested that Lobbyist, Craig Patterson compile a listing of all retiring/leaving legislators so that the LHA Board could be aware of these changes and email to LHA Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg to distribute to the Board.

Committee Membership: Discussion was held during the March 4th Full Board meeting concerning “Committee Membership”: What constitutes membership, how many meetings do the members have to attend to be able to vote, do all Committees have the same membership rules, etc. No final decision was made at that time. A suggestion was made to put together a subcommittee to study this issue. The Loess Hills Alliance Members are to send suggestions concerning Committee Membership to Loess Hills Alliance Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg and she will forward the information to all Executive Committee Members. Members will also check with the Loess Hills Alliance Board Manual for reference.

Meeting Notifications: Meeting notifications are going well. Meeting information is emailed to all Loess Hills Alliance Members and State Legislators. Meeting Agendas are emailed to all 7 Loess Hills Counties auditors. Any other information that pertains to information or events concerning the Loess Hills is getting emailed with “For Your Information” in the subject line of the email. If any Members change their email address, please contact the LHA Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Allocation of Funds-Budget: A Motion was carried by the Executive Committee to recommend to the LHA Full Board FY20-21 allocations of:

Stewardship	\$7,000.00
Protection	\$7,000.00
Econ Dev.	\$7,000.00
Executive	\$15,000.00
Admin. Fees	4,000.00

Due to the payment increase of the State Audit Contract, the Loess Hills Development & Conservation Authority informed Loess Hills Alliance that their payment would increase. The State Audit Contract is a 3 year contract with a total cost of \$6,000.00 per year. Hungry Canyons Alliance and Loess Hills Alliance share the State Audit Contract cost.

A Motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Tammy Bramley to approve the FY20-21 Loess Hills Alliance budget. Motion carried.

COVID-19 Concerns: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Loess Hills Alliance meetings have been canceled or postponed, done virtually through zoom meetings or conference calls, or in person with the practice of social distancing and wearing a mask. Members continue to listen to Governor Kim Reynolds updates. Loess Hills Alliance Members would like to thank Michelle Wodtke Franks for setting up the zoom meetings information.

Other:

Announcements:

Next Meeting: December 2, 2020 at 1:00 PM Tentative Location: Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center, Pisgah

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Gary Horton, seconded by John Straight to adjourn the meeting at 1:53 PM. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary