

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –September 6, 2023
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor’s Center–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

John Straight-Director	Dawn Snyder-Director
Renea Anderson-Director	Patty McCall-Director
Rich Pope-Director	Gary Horton-Director
Bob Benton-Director	John Meis-Director
Lance Brisbois-Director	Craig Patterson-Lobbyist
Linda Herman-Director	

Chairman, Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:14 pm, with no quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: No Motion was made to approve the March 1, 2023 Minutes and the June 7, 2023 Minutes due to no Quorum.

AGENDA: No Motion was made to approve the September 6, 2023 Agenda due to no Quorum.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report to the Full Board Committee. Shirley Phillips, Executive Director of Western Iowa Tourism Region will be the Fiscal Agent for the Loess Hills Alliance. At this time, the Loess Hills Alliance has not been able to access the final reports that were received from Golden Hills RC & D. The Loess Hills Alliance may need to purchase a QuickBooks for Nonprofits Program to access the reports. The Loess Hills Alliance has one checking account and two savings accounts. Two signatures are required on each check. Funds were transferred into the checking account to pay West Bend Mutual Insurance Company-\$473.00, Addison Insurance-United Fire-\$400.00, Pheasants Forever-\$7,500.00 (Iowa Farm Bill Biologist Partnership of the Loess Hills region), and Pottawattamie County Conservation-\$1,000.00 (Native Pollinator Demonstration Garden).

The Loess Hills Alliance 2023-2024 Executive Budget was presented to the Executive Committee members.

Administrative Fee-LHCDA	800.00
990, 1099 Preparation	350.00
Office Assistant, Reimbursement	6,000.00
Bookkeeping	7,500.00
Insurance	825.00
Lobbying (Campbell/Patterson)	3,500.00
Postage, Office supplies	500.00
Website, Maintenance, Domain Names	500.00
Exhibit Space-Tourism Conference	600.00

TOTAL **20,575.00**

No Motion was made to accept the September 6, 2023 Treasurer's Report due to no Quorum

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope stated that the Executive Committee met this morning at 11:00 am. LHA Stewardship Chairman, Lance Brisbois stated that he has a Weebly Account to post information on the Loess Hills Alliance website. For future information that needs added to the website, Lance will invoice the Loess Hills Alliance. Chairman, Rich Pope will be added to the accounts to have access to the LHA Website and the Loess Hills Alliance Facebook page. More information that was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting will be discussed at the Full Board meeting.

Stewardship Committee – Stewardship Committee Chairman, Lance Brisbois reported that the Stewardship Committee did not meet this morning. At this time, no report was presented.

Economic Development Committee – Chairman, Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee met on August 28th at Missouri Valley. Advertising will continue in the Iowa Travel Guide, Our Iowa magazine, and the Western Iowa Visitors Guide. At this time, the Economic Development Committee decided to discontinue advertising in the Sioux City Visitors Guide and the Council Bluffs Visitors Guide. The Alcohol Beverages Division (ABD) Loess Hills truck wrap is still traveling through Iowa. The pink Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebooks will be updated and reprinted.

No Motion was made to accept the Committee Reports due to no Quorum.

OLD BUSINESS: No "Old Business" at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Legislature Report: Lobbyist, Craig Patterson presented the Legislature Report to the Executive Committee members. The Iowa Legislature is in-between Sessions right now. Next year's Agenda will be based on election year. The legislators will be working on tax relief bills including the State Income Tax. With an increase in revenue from the casinos in Nebraska, Iowa's revenue will decrease for budgeting next year. The Governor's Boards & Commissions Review Committee met to discuss eliminating or merging some of the Boards & Commissions to reduce the size of State Government. The Committee has recommended to eliminate approximately 116 Board & Commissions. With the decreasing of State revenue, Loess Hills Alliance is encouraged to go to the Iowa Legislative Forums and visit with the Legislators about the projects throughout the Loess Hills. A presentation on the Jones Creek Wildfire and the 2023 Cooperative Burn Week by Kody Wohlers will be done later this year for the local Legislators, Fire Departments, etc. to build advocates for the Loess Hills. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Lobbyist, Craig Patterson for the Legislative update.

Merger of the Protection & Stewardship Committees: The merging of the Stewardship and Protection has been approved and the new Committee will be named "Stewardship".

FY23-24 State Budget: The FY23-24 State Budget, \$40,000.00 has been approved for the Loess Hills Alliance. Approval was made at the August 2nd Executive Committee meeting FY23-24 LHA Committee Budget Allocations to each Committee as states:

Stewardship	\$18,000.00
Econ Dev.	\$9,000.00
Executive	\$9,000.00
Admin. Fees	\$4,000.00

Fire Partners Grant Proposal Assistance: As a 501c3 Tax Exempt Status, the Loess Hills Alliance was approached by Gary Barrineau and Kody Wohlers to act as the Fiscal Agent for a King Foundation Grant to purchase new radios for the Fire Partners. The Fire Partners serve all 7 Counties of the Loess Hills. Approval was made at today's Executive Committee meeting to use the Loess Hills Alliance as acting Fiscal Agent for the Fire Partners Grant proposal at no cost.

Iowa State University Extension & Outreach Master Conservationist Program Request: At today's Executive Committee meeting, Carter Oliver, Harrison County Extension reported that Iowa State University is hosting a "Master Conservationist Program Graduates Statewide Meet-up" on September 29th and 30th. The event will begin with a dinner and social at the Desoto National Wildlife Refuge on September 29th, followed by a day of field trips around the Loess Hills on September 30th. The goal for this event is to get graduates together to explore different parts of Iowa while providing space for socializing and learning. Carter requested \$250.00 funding to help fund food and promotional items. Approval was made at today's Executive Committee meeting to allocate \$250.00 to the Harrison County Extension to help fund the "Master Conservationist Program Graduates Statewide Meet-up" event. The funds will come from the Loess Hills Alliance Reserve funds. Chairman, Rich Pope will be a speaker at this event. The Loess Hills Alliance sponsorship will be listed and the LHA logo will be shown on the press relief. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Carter Oliver for the Zoom Video Communications information for the Loess Hills Alliance's meetings.

Logan Community Foundation Fiscal Sponsor Assistant: At today's Executive Committee meeting, Chris Hartwig, Logan Community Foundation reported that the Logan Community Foundation has lost their nonprofit status. Currently, the \$2,000.00 leftover funds are with the Omaha Community Foundation, but would like to get the funds transferred back into the Logan Community Foundation. As a 501c3 Tax Exempt Status, Chris asked the Loess Hills Alliance to act as the Fiscal Agent to get the funds back from Omaha Community Foundation to move forward. The Loess Hills Alliance will hold the funds until a nonprofit status is established which could take up to a year. Approval was made at today's Executive Committee meeting to use the Loess Hills Alliance as acting Fiscal Agent for the Logan Community Foundation at no cost and any accrued interest will be the property of the Logan Community Foundation. A separate LHA account will be opened at the Logan State Bank for these funds.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: December 6th, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Adjournment: Chairman, Rich Pope adjourned the meeting at 1:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg, LHA Secretary

