

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Loess Hills Alliance
1:00 PM –March 6, 2024
Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor's Center–Pisgah, Iowa

Members signing the attendance log:

John Straight-Director	Terry Lewis-Alternate
Gary Horton-Director	Matt Jones-Director
Rich Pope-Director	Dawn Snyder-Director
Bob Benton-Director	Nick Beeck-Director
Bo Fox-Director	Patty McCall-Director
Brett Bengard-Director	Renea Anderson-Director
Linda Herman-Director	Wesley Fopma (Representative Randy Feenstra's office)

Chairman, Rich Pope called the regular meeting of the Loess Hills Alliance to order at 1:02 pm, with quorum declared. Introductions and signatures on travel documentation followed.

MINUTES: A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Linda Herman to approve the December 6, 2023 Minutes. Motion carried.

AGENDA: A Motion was made by Patty McCall, seconded by John Straight to approve the March 6, 2024 Agenda. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer, Renea Anderson presented the Treasurer's report to the Full Board Members. The Arbor Bank Statement Ending 02/29/2024 showed that \$2,500.00 has been paid to DAK Land Management for the 2023 Eli Slusher Tree Removal, \$68.00 has been paid to Postmaster for Postage, \$1,000.00 has been paid to Monona County Conservation LHPS for the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar, and \$116.93 has been paid to Golden Hills RC & D for Noted Services.

Summary of Accounts ending 02/29/2024:

Checking Account Balance \$27,674.67.

Savings Account: \$258,152.49

Savings Account: \$4,027.82

Total Current Value: \$289,854.98

Loess Hills Alliance Committee Balances 02/29/2024:

Executive-\$8,340.67

Stewardship-\$17,550.00

Economic Development-\$19,860.51

A Motion was made by Bob Benton, seconded by Bo Fox to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Rich Pope reported that the Executive Committee met this morning at 11:00 am. \$2,360.80 was allocated to the Stewardship Committee to help fund the remaining funds of the Stewardship Committee’s RFP Grants. The funds will come from the Loess Hills Alliance Reserve funds. The Committee decided to apply for Grant funding through the Missouri River Historical Development (MRHD) to help fund the publishing and distribution of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Guidebook and to apply during the Fall round of the MRHD Grant for the new radios for the Fire Partners. More information discussed at the Executive Committee meeting will be discussed at the Full Board meeting.

Stewardship Committee – No report at this time. The Stewardship Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 13th, 10:00 AM at the Loess Hills Brent S. Olson Visitor’s Center, Pisgah.

Economic Development Committee – Chairman, Renea Anderson reported that the Economic Development Committee met on March 4th at Uncommon Grounds, Sloan. Advertising will continue in the Iowa Travel Guide, Our Iowa magazine, and the Western Iowa Visitors Guide. Approval was made to allocate any Economic Development leftover fund balance towards Guidebook Printing & Distribution, targeted advertisement, marketing the Loess Hills, and the Western Iowa Tourism Region Membership. The Committee is working on the process of updating the pink Loess Hills National Scenic Byway guidebooks for reprint. A disclaimer will be added to the Guidebook: “Please call ahead if you are planning on an excursion to see if it is accessible to the public”. Please send any updated information and photos (with permission from the owner of the photos) to Chairman, Renea Anderson.

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

OLD BUSINESS: No “Old Business” at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Legislature Report: No report from Lobbyist, Craig Patterson. The Loess Hills Alliance Secretary, Jeannette Riesberg emailed the March 3rd LHA Legislative Update from Craig Patterson to all LHA Members. The Loess Hills Alliance thanks Craig Patterson for the continued LHA Legislative Updates. Wesley Fopma stated that Representative, Randy Feenstra is working in Washington on the Ways & Means Committee for the next couple of weeks. The State of the Union Address will be held on 03/07/2024. The Loess Hills Alliance thanked Wesley Fopma for attending today’s meeting and his report.

2024 Nominating Committee: Chairman, Rich Pope stated that his term is finished. The 2024 Nominating Committee are Linda Herman and Rich Pope.

2024 Executive Committee Elections: A slate of Executive Committee nominees was presented to the Full Board Members, with additional nominations taken from the floor at today's meeting.

Dawn Snyder, Chairman
Rich Pope, Vice-Chairman
Nick Beeck, Secretary
Renea Anderson, Treasurer
Bob Benton, At-Large
Patty McCall, At-Large
John Straight, At-Large

A Motion was made by Renea Anderson, seconded by Linda Herman to cease the nominations and accept the 2024 Loess Hills Alliance Executive Committee slate of officers. Motion carried.

Audit Bills: The Cooperative Agreement between Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development and the Loess Hills Alliance ended on June 30, 2023. Shirley Phillips, Executive Director of Western Iowa Tourism Region will be the Fiscal Agent for the Loess Hills Alliance. The Loess Hills Alliance received invoices from Golden Hills RC & D-\$1,965.68 for Preparing for Audit, printing costs for Board meeting, website renewal, etc. and Schroer & Associates-\$3,250.00 for Preparation of Audited Financial Statements. Part of Schroer & Associates' invoice belongs to Hungry Canyons Alliance. Approval was made at the Executive Committee meeting on February 7, 2024 to pay Golden Hills RC & D \$116.93 for Postage, Printing, Website renewal, etc. At this time, negotiations are being continued with Golden Hills RC & D for the remaining amount of the Golden Hills invoice and the Schroer & Associates invoice.

Announcements:

The Loess Hills Development and Conservation Authority will hold their meeting on March 22, 2024, 1:00 pm at Atlantic.

Next Meeting: June 5, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Adjournment: A Motion was made by John Straight, seconded by Bob Benton to adjourn the meeting at 1:31 PM. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Riesberg,
LHA Office Secretary