

Loess Hills Development and Conservation Authority

712 S. Hwy. 6 & 59
Oakland, Iowa 51560-0189
Phone (712) 482-3029
Fax (712) 482-5590

April 16, 2015

Vince Sitzmann
Division of Soil Conservation
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dave Reynolds
Legislative Fiscal Services
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

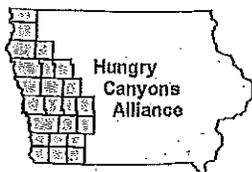
Richard Oshlo
Iowa Department of Management
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Mr. Sitzmann, Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Oshlo,

This report is being submitted pursuant to Iowa code section 161D.8.

If you need further information, please contact myself or Michelle Wodtke Franks at Golden Hills RC&D, 712-482-3029 or michelle@goldenhillsrca.org.

Sincerely,
Bernie Bolton
Chairman
Loess Hills Development and Conservation Authority



Hungry Canyons Alliance

712 S. Hwy. 6 & 59
Oakland, Iowa 51560-0189
Phone (712) 482-3029
Fax (712) 482-5590
Email: john@goldenhillsrccd.org

December 19, 2014

The purpose of the Hungry Canyons Alliance (HCA) is to focus attention on the problems of, and develop solutions related to, stream channel degradation in the loess soil region of western Iowa. The primary goal of the HCA is to provide financial and technical assistance for streambed stabilization, protecting bridges and other infrastructure.

Enclosed are the following documents:

- A short written narrative describing the HCA program.
- A list of accomplishments for FY2014 and projected activities for FY2015.
- A list of projects that have been approved by the HCA and are in progress, including project number (the first two digits indicates the fiscal year during which the project was approved), county, location by stream, total cost of each project, and funds obligated for the project.
- A list of small structure projects, funded with interest earned on state and county funds, including project number (the first two digits indicates the fiscal year during which the project was approved), landowner name, county, location by stream, total cost of each project, and funds obligated for the project.
- The approved HCA budget for FY2015.
- A list and graph of federal, state, and local funds given to the HCA.

Each dollar invested in an HCA project protects on average more than \$4.20 of property value and one ton of sediment. The HCA appreciates the funding received from the Environment First and General Funds and the opportunities it provides in the protection of public and private property.

We hope the governor and general assembly remain aware of the stream erosion problem that is globally unique to western Iowa and continue to place a priority on appropriating funds each year to the HCA. In order to have a chance of securing federal funds in the future, the federal government needs to see that the state of Iowa supports this program by providing matching funds.

We will be happy to provide additional information at your request.

Sincerely,

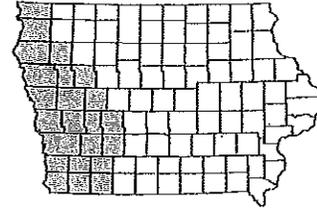
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Thomas".

John T. Thomas, Project Director
Hungry Canyons Alliance

HUNGRY CANYONS ALLIANCE

The Problem

The Hungry Canyons Alliance (HCA) was formed locally to research and implement solutions to the problem of stream channel erosion and degradation in a 23 county area of the deep loess soils region of western Iowa. Channelization of streams and land use changes during the first half of the 1900's caused stream channels to erode, causing an estimated \$1.1 billion in damages to public and private infrastructure (bridges, culverts, utility lines, etc.), loss of farmland, and increased sediment loads. A survey of western Iowa bridges in 2000 revealed that 404 were endangered due to stream channel degradation. Golden Hills RC&D in Oakland, Iowa helped to form and currently provides office space and administrative assistance to the Hungry Canyons Alliance.



23 counties eligible for Hungry Canyons Alliance cost share.



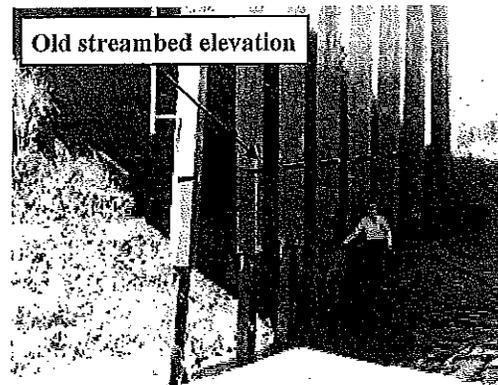
Straightened versus meandering stream.
(Walnut Creek, Pottawattamie County).

The Solution

A proven, affordable solution to this problem is to build grade control structures in streams. Grade control structures (GCS) at regular intervals help streams stabilize by changing their longitudinal profile from an erosive steep incline to a stable stair-step pattern. Streambed stabilization is the key to preventing further erosion and protecting infrastructure. GCS design is largely dependent on drainage area. Small drainage areas can often be controlled with reinforced concrete box (RCB) or corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culverts with drop inlets and/or flume outlets. Large drainage areas are often controlled with weirs constructed with steel sheet pile, driven into the streambed, with a riprap and concrete grout slope immediately downstream, a riprap stilling basin downstream of the weir slope, and riprap covered banks. Both RCB/CMP and weir designs allow the stream elevation to drop in a controlled setting, restore lost stream grade, prevent further degradation, and reduce streambed slope upstream creating a calm backwater condition where silt can settle out, decreasing sediment loads and turbidity and increasing water quality. Sediment re-deposited upstream also helps support exposed bridge pilings.

The Savings

The HCA provides state and federal money available to the 23 counties through a cost share program for grade control structures (GCS). County governments provide a minimum of 20% match for each GCS. Since 1992, the program has provided \$23.2 million in state and federal appropriations and the technical assistance needed to complete 358 GCS in 19 counties in western Iowa. Another 18 GCS are in progress. These GCS will protect an estimated \$90.5 million in property value. It is estimated that 686.5 acres of land, equivalent to 23.9 million tons of sediment, will be protected from erosion by construction of the 376 GCS. HCA grade control structures, with an average cost of \$65,400, protect approximately \$240,800 in property per GCS. **For every \$1 invested in HCA grade control structures, on average more than \$4.20 of property value and one ton of sediment are protected from streambed degradation.** During FY 2014, the HCA



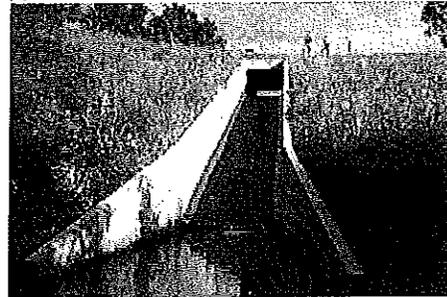
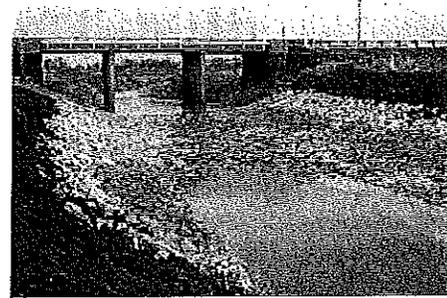
Bridge endangered by exhumation of pilings.

approved 12 GCS for cost share and completed construction on another five.

A second HCA program provides funding to landowners where grade control is necessary to stabilize active gully erosion. This program is funded with the interest earned from state appropriations. This program has built 117, and approved another five, structures for a total cost share of \$842,520.

The HCA has quarterly meetings at which issues concerning stream erosion and streambed stabilization are discussed. Regular attendees include county engineers, county supervisors, NRCS employees, SWCD commissioners, DNR fisheries biologists, engineer consultants, contractors, and landowners.

Over 1,500 GCS of all types have been constructed in western Iowa by county governments, the HCA, NRCS, NRCS-EWP, SWCD, Iowa DOT, cities, utility (water, gas, telephone, electric, etc.) companies, railroad companies, Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa DNR, and landowners. With so many GCS located in one area, western Iowa has been referred to as a "laboratory" for GCS design. Because western Iowa is still experiencing streambed degradation, the HCA is one of the unheralded leaders in innovative GCS research, design, and construction.



Top: Sheet pile weir with a 20:1 grouted riprap slope in Crawford County. Bottom: RCB flume with 25 feet of fall in Fremont County.

Matching Federal Funding for 2007-2008 Flood Recovery

Abnormally heavy precipitation throughout 2007 and 2008, particularly in May 2007 and June 2008, compounded by the ongoing channel instability, highly erodible loess soils, and steep stream gradients, maximized the erosive power of southwestern Iowa streams resulting in widespread stream channel damage endangering or destroying county road infrastructure. However, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), NRCS, HCA, and counties have all seen evidence that GCS have directly reduced infrastructure and channel damage costs and in numerous instances the number of FEMA and EWP Program claims. Infrastructure protected by GCS had no damage and the vast majority of GCS were undamaged. Although some GCS suffered minor damage, damages were minimal compared to the total loss of bridges that may have resulted without the GCS.

Federal NRCS-EWP funding was available, but required 25% local match. However, local governments were hurting financially. The HCA agreed to provide 10% match (using state cost share) for all EWP projects which provided grade control or were directly associated with existing GCS projects in order to complete as many projects as possible and reduce the counties' burden to 15% match. A total of 72 GCS projects were completed between September 2008 and January 2011 at a cost of \$12.83 million. **The EWP program provided \$9.50 million in cost share, the HCA \$1.28 million, and the sponsor counties \$2.05 million.** This influx of funding for construction came at the perfect time to also help stimulate western Iowa's economy.

HCA quarterly meetings served as important forums for the NRCS and county officials to discuss the EWP program. The HCA also provided technical assistance to the counties by documenting which aspects of past GCS designs have worked and what new techniques could be used to enhance performance of GCS.

HCA Research

Completed HCA research projects include design of GCS to provide fish passage and use of scrap tires in GCS. Ongoing research projects include aerial stream video and classification of western Iowa streams, knickpoint migration study, use of directional drilling in small watershed GCS projects, and a project to relate and monitor stage and discharge on western Iowa streams. Partners in these projects include: NRCS, Iowa DOT Highway Research Board, IHR-Hydroscience and Engineering at the University of Iowa, Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Iowa State University, Civil Engineering at Iowa State University, Iowa DNR, US Geological Survey, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Hungry Canyons Alliance

I. Project Overview

A. Purpose:

- Focus attention on the problems of, and develop solutions related to, stream channel degradation in the deep loess region of western Iowa.

B. Needs:

- 404 bridges susceptible to significant damage from stream degradation in 2000 (from correspondence with county engineers and Iowa DOT study).

C. Goals:

- Provide financial and technical assistance to construct grade control structures (GCS) in 19 counties in western Iowa.
- Conduct research and provide demonstration for members.

II. Progress Report (1992-2014)

A. HCA Structures as of 12-16-14:

1. GCS approved:	376
2. GCS completed:	358
3. GCS in progress:	18

B. HCA Costs as of 12-16-14:

1. Total costs:	\$ 24,591,617
2. Total HCA cost share spent:	\$ 17,350,435
3. Total HCA cost share obligated:	\$ 1,003,004
4. Cost share per structure:	\$ 48,812
5. Counties share of total cost spent:	\$ 5,887,780
6. Counties share of total cost obligated:	\$ 350,398

C. HCA Benefits as of 12-16-14:

1. Total property protected:	\$ 90,543,983
2. Property protected per structure:	\$ 240,808

For every \$1 invested in Hungry Canyons Alliance grade control structures (GCS), an average of more than \$4.20 of property value and more than one ton of sediment are protected.

Match for EWP Program:

Eighteen (18) western Iowa counties were declared eligible for federal disaster assistance due to severe rains in May 2007 and June 2008 which caused flooding and stream channel damage, endangering or destroying county infrastructure. The NRCS-EWP program provided cost share for new GCS and repairs to existing GCS. In order to complete as many EWP projects as possible while the money was available to western Iowa, the HCA agreed to provide 10% of the match, reducing the counties match to 15%, for any EWP projects which provided grade control or were directly associated with existing GCS projects. The state appropriated \$100,000 to the HCA for FY10 specifically for this purpose.

D. EWP Structures and Costs as of 5-1-11:

1. GCS completed:	72
2. Total costs:	\$ 12,837,731
3. Total HCA cost share spent:	\$ 1,282,640
4. Total NRCS cost share spent:	\$ 9,504,865
5. Total counties share spent:	\$ 2,050,226

III. Funding Summary (1992-2014)

A. Total Appropriations:

1. Federal:	\$ 11,944,394
2. State:	\$ 11,301,334
3. Total:	\$ 23,245,728
4. County share:	\$ 7,324,978

B. Funds Needed:

Total needed to reach goal of protecting 180 bridges: \$11.7 million

- Annual appropriations of \$0.9 million (\$0.45 million in state funds, \$0.45 million in federal funds) for 12.9 more years (assuming no disastrous floods)

IV. Accomplishments of the Past Year

- Approved cost share for 12 county GCS and 3 small GCS for landowners.
- Completed construction of 5 county GCS and 1 small GCS for landowners.
- Held four successful quarterly meetings, including two tours.
- Trip to Washington D.C. by HCA representatives to request funding for HCA program.
- Assisted with the watershed assessment and writing of a WIRB grant for Waubonsie Creek in Mills and Fremont Counties. Applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for a dam modification grant for a weir on the Tarkio River in Page County.
- Continued research project with the University of Iowa's IHR-Hydrosience and Engineering Department, to examine the mechanics of actively migrating headcuts and knickpoints for different flow conditions, done in partnership with the Iowa DOT Highway Research Board.
- Through my position on the Marketing Committee for the Partnership for River Restoration and Science in the Upper Midwest (PRRSUM), I successfully lobbied to have the next Upper Midwest Stream Restoration Symposium (UMSRS) be held in Dubuque, Iowa on February 8-11, 2015.

V. Strategy for the Coming Year

- Continue to protect infrastructure and prevent soil loss by providing state cost share to county governments and private landowners for streambed erosion control projects.
- Continue providing education to students and public about the fragility of loess soils and river channel stability and processes.
- Continue cooperation with Iowa DNR Fisheries Division and US Fish and Wildlife Service to modify existing grade control structures to allow fish migration.
- Continue monitoring, and build several more, experimental, cost-effective, grade control structures called bored headcut basins, which control 30+ feet deep gully headcuts with small drainage areas in the Loess Hills in conjunction with the USDA-NRCS. Continue trying to get the NRCS and IDALS to recognize this as an approved practice with a technical specification.
- Continue to develop stage-discharge relationships for western Iowa streams.
- Continue aerial classification of streams and with the help of GIS, locate areas of active erosion, and determine the impact of HCA grade control structures.
- Continue to provide technical assistance for bank stabilization projects.
- Continue to serve on various streambank stabilization advisory committees, including WIRB's.
- If requested, continue to provide technical assistance to Nebraska to help them form a grassroots organization like the HCA to provide cost share for streambed degradation there.

Hungry Canyons Projects in Progress as of 12-16-14

State Funds

<i>Project #</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Stream</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Requested Share</i>
11-1	Woodbury	Dutch Crk. Trib.	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 30,000.00
11-6	Woodbury	Reynolds Crk. Trib.	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 12,400.00
11-9	Woodbury	Elliott Crk.	\$ 13,600.00	\$ 9,000.00
11-10	Woodbury	Big Whiskey Crk.	\$ 14,800.00	\$ 8,650.00
12-1	Ida	Maple R. Trib.	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 96,000.00
12-2	Ida	Maple R. Trib.	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 56,000.00
14-1	Ida	Soldier R.	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
14-2	Mills	Waubonsie Crk.	\$ 192,780.00	\$ 140,000.00
14-3	Guthrie	Middle R.	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 96,000.00
14-5	Plymouth	Big Sioux R. Trib.	\$ 16,375.00	\$ 13,100.00
14-6	Plymouth	Mink Crk.	\$ 19,625.00	\$ 15,700.00
14-7	Woodbury	Miller Crk. Trib.	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
14-8	Ida	Maple R. Trib.	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
14-9	Ida	Maple R. Trib.	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
14-10	Fremont	W. Nishnabotna R. Trib.	\$ 210,729.00	\$ 140,000.00
14-11	Pottawattamie	W. Nishnabotna R. Trib.	\$ 16,693.00	\$ 13,354.00
14-12	Monona	Beaver Crk.	\$ 214,800.00	\$ 140,000.00
15-1	Montgomery	W. Nodaway R. Trib.	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 12,800.00
State Total			\$ 1,353,402.00	\$ 1,003,004.00

Hungry Canyons Alliance Small Structure projects in progress as of 12-16-14

<i>Project #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Location/Notes</i>	<i>Total cost</i>	<i>HCA Cost Share</i>
13-133	John Hanigan	Crawford	Boyer R. Trib.	\$ 186,245.00	\$ 8,500.00
14-137	Danny Newell	Adair	W. Fk. Mid. Nodaway R. Trib.	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 8,500.00
14-138	Vern Henrich	Harrison	Elk Crk. Trib.	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 8,500.00
14-139	Ron Arkfeld	Shelby	Willow Crk. Trib.	\$ 30,257.00	\$ 8,500.00
14-140	Sean Smith	Fremont	Waubonsie Crk./Missouri R. Trib.	\$ 31,900.00	\$ 20,000.00
Totals				\$ 391,402.00	\$ 54,000.00

**Hungry Canyons Alliance
FY2015 Budget
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015**

I. Available funds	State	Interest	County	Federal
A. New appropriations	\$ 450,000			\$ -
B. Unobligated state appropriations (pre-FY2015)	\$ 558,295			
C. Unobligated interest (5/23/14)		\$ 137,637		
D. County fees reserves (5/23/14)			\$ 146,604	
E. County dues expected (5/23/14)			\$ 57,000	
Total available funds	\$ 1,008,295	\$ 137,637	\$ 203,604	\$ -

II. Expenses from state and federal appropriations

A. NRCS administration				
1. NRCS 5% administration				\$ -
B. Available for projects				
1. HCA county structures	\$ 909,091			\$ -
C. HCA administration				
1. LHDCA administrative expenses from state appropriations (2%)	\$ 9,000			
2. GHRC&D administrative expenses (5% of previous fiscal year approp.)	\$ 22,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 10,000	
3. Staff (salary, benefits)	\$ 13,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 55,000	\$ -
D. Research and education				
1. Research, education, & development (GIS, special projects, stream table, other)	\$ 4,000			
2. Stage-discharge / crest-stage gages	\$ 1,000			
3. Knickpoint study	\$ 1,000			
4. Aerial video reconnaissance - misc.	\$ 5,000			
5. GIS to GPS, classification - UofI-IIHR	\$ 2,204			
6. Aerial video development	\$ -			
7. Road signs	\$ 1,000			
8. Stream profile surveys	\$ 10,000			
9. Experimental bored headcut basins	\$ 20,000			
10. Experimental scrap tire structures	\$ 10,000			

III. Expenses from interest fund

A. Available for projects				
1. HCA small structures		\$ 25,500		

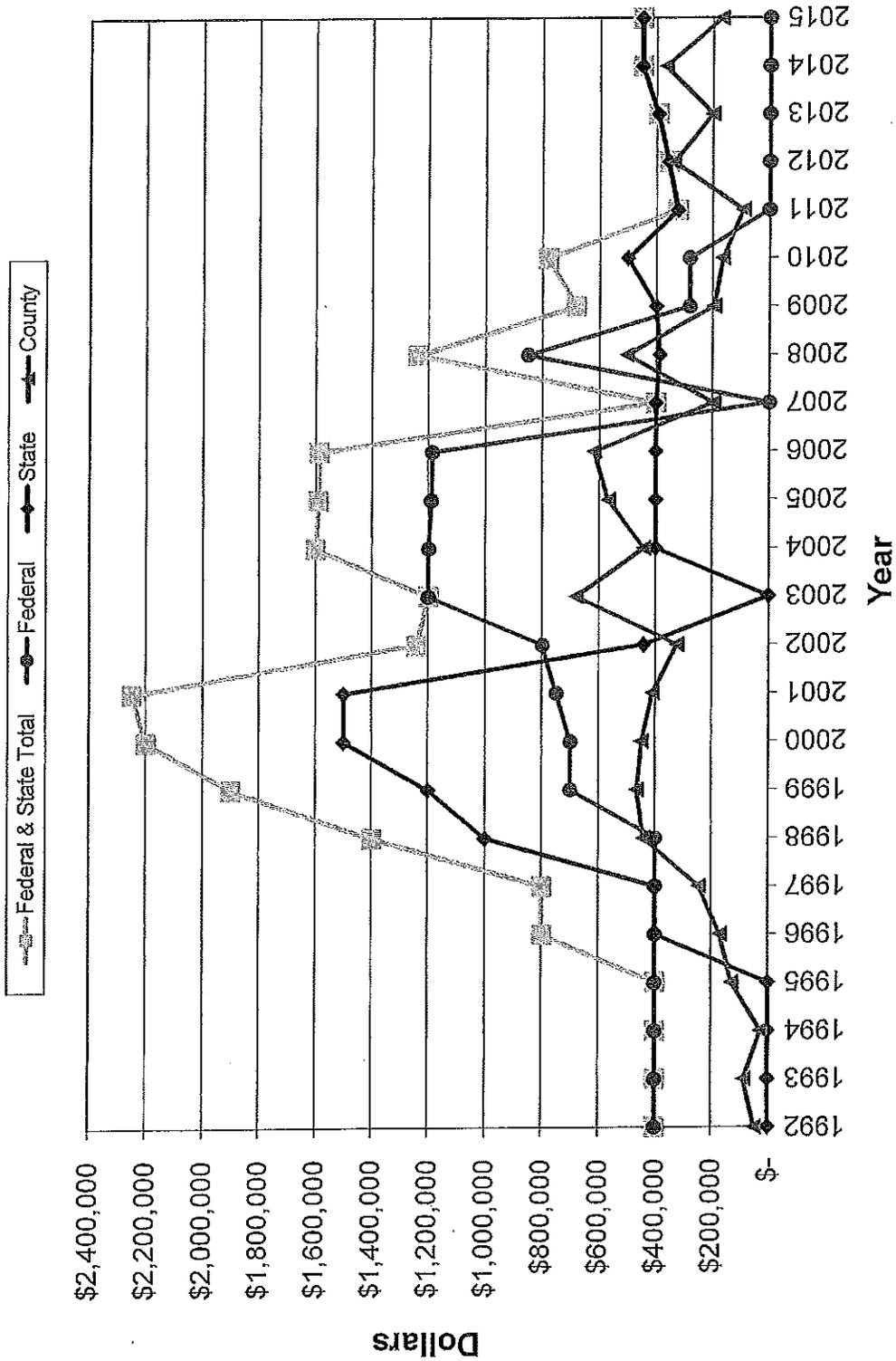
IV. Expenses from county fees

A. Administration				
1. Insurance			\$ 100	
2. Supplies/equipment (computer, camera, cell phone, etc.)			\$ 3,500	
3. Postage			\$ 750	
4. Office / field assistants			\$ 500	
5. Meeting expenses & travel			\$ 2,000	
6. Conferences/training			\$ 1,500	
7. Subscriptions, books, media			\$ 150	
8. Miscellaneous (cards, awards, etc.)			\$ 100	
9. HCA shirts			\$ 500	
B. Lobbying				
1. State lobbyist			\$ 8,000	
2. Lobbying trips (DC trip, Des Moines trip)			\$ 7,000	
C. Services to counties				
1. Services (web page, maps, etc.)			\$ 400	

V. Expenses from federal administration fund

A. Administration				
1. LHDCA administrative expenses from federal appropriations (1.5%)				\$ -
Subtotal of expenses (no county structures)	\$ 99,204	\$ 34,500	\$ 89,500	\$ -
Total budgeted expenses	\$ 1,008,295	\$ 34,500	\$ 89,500	\$ -

Hungry Canyons Alliance Funding





FY-2014 LOESS HILLS ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Iowa code 161D established the Loess Hills Alliance on March 15, 1999 as a part of the Loess Hills Development and Conservation Authority. The Hungry Canyons Alliance was also authorized under this authority. Funds are directed to both non-profit organizations through the Iowa legislature. State funds are used to match and fund projects under the discretion of each organization. Statutory responsibilities include:

- To apply for, accept, and expend public and private funds for planning and implementing projects, programs, and other components of the mission of the Loess Hills Alliance subject to approval of the authority.
- To study different options for the protection and preservation of significant historic, scenic, geologic, and recreational areas of the Loess Hills including but not limited to a federal or state park, preserve, or monument designation, fee title acquisition, or restrictive easement.
- To develop and implement pilot projects for the protection of Loess Hills areas with the use of restrictive easements from willing sellers and fee title ownership from willing sellers subject to approval of the authority.

The Loess Hills Alliance strives to protect special natural and cultural resources while ensuring the economic viability and private property rights of the region through the creation of a common vision for Iowa's Loess Hills.

The Loess Hills Alliance Executive Board Ensures that the funds appropriated from state funding are used wisely. The most successful use of those funds has included partnering with other organizations such as Pheasants Forever, local NRCS offices, and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation as well as farmers and private land owners to leverage the dollars for the best possible mutually beneficial outcome within the Loess Hills. The funds were used as follows:

- \$96,000 was allocated equally to the three standing committees – Economic Development, Protection, and Stewardship which was \$32,000 for each committee.

- \$15,000 was made available for administrative purposes such as board meetings and secretarial expenses.

In August 2012, the Loess Hills Alliance received from the Shirley Vannorsdel Estate a bequeath of \$280,739.05 that has been used for projects in Plymouth County. Plymouth County Conservation Board received \$80,000 towards equipment to protect Loess Hills acres and landowners received funding to protect approximately 183 acres. Donations such as these show genuine support of the Loess Hills Alliance from local residents.

In 2013 the Executive Committee, with a vote of the full Board of Directors, began exploring the feasibility of a National Reserve designation for the Loess Hills Region with the National Parks Service. The Executive Committee hired Michelle Walker part time to help facilitate this project with a subcommittee of volunteers.

- Beginning in January 2014 the Executive Board began hosting a series of public meetings in each county within the region to disseminate information and receive input and recommendations of the general public.
- Ultimately the Full Board voted to pursue other opportunities within the Loess Hills rather than a National Reserve Designation.
- Much information was gathered through this process and will be invaluable to the Alliance for future focus and direction of our organization.
- This information has led the Executive Board to return to a grass roots effort of support for the public and landowners within the Loess Hills.
- The Executive Board has continued and will continue to seek valuable input and direction from both the public and Full Board Members. The Loess Hills Alliance seeks to offer unique, collaborative leadership and address gaps in services to comprehensively protect the Loess Hills, which no other organization currently provides.

The Loess Hills Alliance Executive Board works continuously to ensure the work of all the Loess Hills Alliance committees falls within the parameters of our mission statement which is: *To protect the natural and cultural resources of the Loess Hills while ensuring economic viability and private property rights through the creation of a common vision for Iowa's Loess Hills.* All efforts of the Loess Hills Alliance work hand in hand with the Comprehensive Plan and Legislative Responsibilities.



318 E. Iowa Avenue
Onawa, IA 51040

Phone: 712-433-4645
Fax: 712-433-4645
Please call ahead if you need to fax
E-mail: lha@longlines.com

**Loess Hills Alliance
Protection Committee Projects Report
FY 2014**

The Loess Hills Alliance and other non-profit organizations are working in the region to balance development and permanent protection. Together, these organizations partner to restore native vegetation, protect cultural resources, educate landowners and the public and minimize human impact to significant areas. We all strive to promote the unique history and characteristics of the landscape.

The Protection Committee approved the amount of \$38,000 to be offered for grants this fiscal year. Listed here are projects funded by the *Protection Committee* of the LHA from FY 2014.

2014 RFP Funded Projects

1. The Nature Conservancy: \$30,000 towards an 18.4 acre acquisition in Pottawattamie County within the Folsom Point SLA.
2. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation: \$15,000 toward 152 acre acquisition in Monona County within the Turin SLA.

****The Executive Committee contributed the additional \$7,000 to fully fund both projects.****



LHA Stewardship Committee: 2014 End of Year Report

Stewardship Field Days

The Stewardship Committee held 3 well publicized field days this spring and summer to increase opportunities for the public to learn more about our mission and activities and to socialize with LHA members. Field days were held on different days of the week and at different times to reach the broadest audience possible. In total, 24 people attended.

The first field day, in May, was held at the Leon Bracker farm near Pisgah. Mr. Bracker had received funds from the America's Great Outdoors Loess Hills Initiative for invasive cedar tree removal.

The second field day was held in late June at the Gary Liebsch property near Glenwood. Mr. Liebsch has a conservation easement on over 1,000 acres and is actively restoring oak savanna, prairie, and woodlands on his property.

The third and final field day was held at the Bob and Janet Madsen property near Hornick. Bob and Janet have used several cost share programs and private dollars to remove cedar trees and have a thriving prairie currently managed with grazing and fire. The group spent a few hours inventorying and learning about native prairie plants.

Private Lands Positions

The Loess Hills Alliance continues to provide support for 3 private lands positions, in partnership with the Iowa DNR, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, National and local Pheasants Forever and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. These positions are providing outreach and technical assistance to private landowners on conservation planning and implementation.

Here are some of the accomplishments from the past year:

Randy Phelan - Plymouth/Woodbury (resigned May 2014; position is yet to be refilled)

Landowners personally contacted (Total- Site Visits and Contract work) = 89 -- Loess Hills Landowners = 30
Loess Hills Conservation Reserve Program (10 yr contracts) plans developed = 8 plans for 76.2 acres
Burn Plans = 16 plans written treating 432 acres in Loess Hills

Erin Kucera - West Pottawattamie/Harrison/Monona (started May 2014)

Landowners personally contacted = 48
Total Acres of Habitat Planned = 843 acres
Loess Hills Habitat Planned = 290 acres (Included in total acres planned)
Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (whole farm) = 1
Mailings = 80 Letters on General CRP/CRP Meetings, MCM
Press releases/news stories = 17
Participated in a Rx Burn in the Loess Hills
Presentations, etc = CRP informational meeting, 3 Iowa Habitat Access Program presentations, Harrison County Youth Hunt 925 participants), created web site for Loess Hills Pheasants Forever chapter

Laura Helmich - Fremont/Mills (resigned September 2014; position is yet to be refilled)

Landowner Contacts = 24 site visits
Mailings = 289 letters on EQIP, 156 letters on CRP
Participated in a Rx Burn in the Loess Hills
Presentations/Coordinate = Iowa Conservation Partnership Day; Women, Land, and Legacy meeting; Earth Day; Fifth Grade Field Day; Loess Hills Prairie Seminar; TNC Staff Enrichment Field Day; Trees Forever Stewards of a Beautiful Land meeting

Respectfully submitted by
Amy Crouch- LHA Stewardship Committee Chair

Loess Hills Alliance Economic Development Committee FY 2014 Annual Report

MISSION

The Economic Development Committee worked this year to meet the goals set forth in our mission. It is our endeavor to enhance the economy of the Loess Hills region by:

- *Providing assistance and being a resource for small businesses and community attractions as decided by committee members.
- *Increasing visitor traffic at recreation facilities, events and area attractions.
- *Offering education and technical assistance to business and government agencies.

The committee consists of representatives from economic development, conservation, recreation, convention and visitors bureaus, elected officials on local and federal levels, and small businesses and tourist attractions. The committee meets quarterly at a central location.

ADVERTISING

The committee places a high priority on advertising the Loess Hills and promoting businesses and attractions. Advertising was placed in numerous publications that allow information about the Loess Hills to reach into others states as well as here in Iowa. Once again an ad was placed in the Western Iowa Tourism Region Cooperative Advertising Insert. This is distributed to 515,000 homes as a newspaper insert in MN, SD, NE, KS, MO and Iowa. There was also online advertising that accompanied the ad insert and allowed for people to go to a link and see the ad as well.

LOESS HILLS NATIONAL HISTORIC AREA

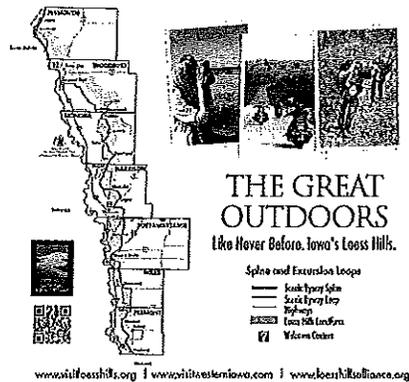
Map of the area and list of events. The events list includes:

- May 10-11: 2014 National Historic Area Open House
- May 17: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- May 20: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- May 23: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- May 26: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- May 29: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- June 1: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- June 4: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- June 7: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- June 10: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- June 13: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- June 16: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- June 19: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- June 22: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- June 25: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- June 28: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- July 1: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
- July 4: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House
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- January 1: 2014 Loess Hills National Historic Area Open House

THE GREAT OUTDOORS
Like Never Before. Iowa's Loess Hills

STAY

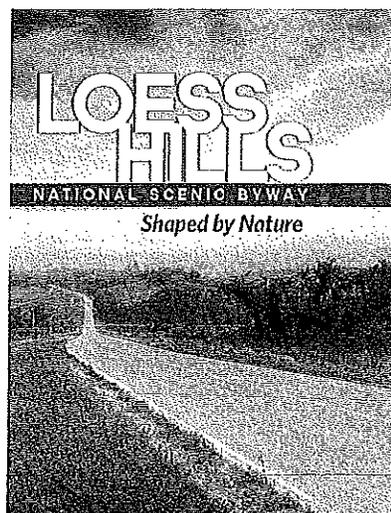
The ad below is placed in the Omaha World Herald (June, July & August inserts). It goes to 350,000 households in Iowa and Nebraska.



An ad was also placed in the Iowa National Guard Post magazine. This magazine reaches 17,000 enlisted men, women and officers. We also continue to have a presence on mycountyparks.com through the Loess Hills counties that have participated with that website. Other ad placement was in:
Sioux City Visitors Guide
Our Iowa

GUIDEBOOK PRINTING

The committee worked with a number of partners and was able to have 70,000 copies of the new Loess Hills Scenic Byway Guidebook printed. They were distributed to welcome centers throughout the state and to area attractions and visitors centers as well.



FULFILLMENT

The Western Iowa Tourism Region receives and fulfills requests for information about the Loess Hills and the Alliance. For the Fiscal Year running July 2013-June 2014 fulfillment pieces mailed on behalf of the Alliance was over 1,500.

TEAR OFF MAPS

Tear off maps continue to be placed at welcome centers, hotels, etc. so that recreational maps of the area can be picked up and utilized by travelers. The tear offs are broken into Northern and Southern sections and have recreational information on the back separated by county.

BROCHURES

The brochures that feature birding, motorcycling and RVing continue to go over very well. They continue to be placed in welcome centers and area attractions and businesses. The brochures are available on the Loess Hills Alliance website.

