

**Citizen Focus Committee
Lake Ouachita**

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

DATE: 9 June 2003

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee (CFC) Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: 1859 hours, Ouachita Project Management Office, by Arnold Habig, President

Attendees:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Richard Stokes, Park Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Rick Dwyer, Park Ranger, Ouachita Project Management Office
Stacy Sigman, Park Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Bill Barnes
Al Behm
David Doty
Rick Farmer
Al Gathright
Arnold Habig
Steve Laney
Mike Misch
Delia McBride
Jerry Shields
Jerry Williams
Howard Wright

Members Absent:

Sue Richardson
Patty Roddenberry

Administrative Matters:

Arnold Habig called the meeting to order at 1859.

Minutes Reviewed:

The minutes for the 12 May meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Denby Visitors Center: Jerry Shields discussed his meeting with the Mayor of Mount Ida and an Engineer from the State Highway Department concerning locating a boat ramp, nature trail and a Nature Center at Denby Creek, Highway 270. Jerry informed the committee the bridge was getting old and expansion joints were being replaced every six

months. He believes the construction of the new highway would be late 2004 or early 2005. After his meeting with the Mayor and the Engineer all agreed that locating a boat ramp, nature trail and a Nature Center at Denby Creek was a good idea. Jerry stated the nature trail would go from highway 270 to Denby Recreation Area and at a later date to Joplin Recreation Area. A highway grant was mentioned to fund the project but the downside was the 80/20% cost share with 1% going back to the Highway Department for administration fees.

Rick Farmer inquired if the ramp would be free to the public and stated that a petition was going around Mount Ida to abolish the Day Use Fee for persons of Montgomery County. Arnold Habig asked Rick Stokes if Arkansas Game and Fish Commission have any free boat ramps located on the west end of Lake Ouachita. Rick Stokes replied, "No".

Rick Stokes stated that Arkansas Game and Fish had money they were willing to spend on boat ramps and Nature Centers. He stated the Corps of Engineers could enter a cost-sharing program where cost was split 50/50, if finances were available and Congressional authorization was enacted.

Al Behm inquired about a manned Nature Center and Rick Stokes stated it would be very unlikely, due to funding of manpower. This would take Congressional funding to provide persons in a Nature Center.

Al Behm and Jerry Shields will Co-Chair the committee to develop a draft of the Nature Center, fishing pier and walking trails. Jerry Williams will provide maps, GPS and logistical assistance.

Hydrillia and 3DI Photos: Rick Stokes led most of the discussion by explaining the usefulness of Multi-color photography in weed control. One major point was the Corps needed to set a base line in 2003 using this type of photography so that progress or the lack of can be documented. Other important factors were: Area of infestation, where specific species exist, Bio-mass, what and where to address the problem. Rick explained the cost would be \$207,000.00 for Lake Ouachita, which was out of the Corps price range but he would look at other companies and options.

Bill Barnes during a previous meeting with Arkansas Game and Fish thought that Mike Gibson said it could be done for \$30,000.00. He stated they may have miss quoted the \$30,000 price. Rick Stokes said he would call Arkansas Game and Fish to see if they had a source available.

Dan Mobley asked if Chemical had been put out and Rick Stokes said, "No". Dan Mobley also stated that Arkansas Game and Fish was blocking the Corps from killing grass because of the failure to introduce grass carp.

NEW BUSINESS

CFC Chair and Vice Chair Nominations:

Arnold Habig was unanimously nominated Chairman.

Mike Misch was unanimously nominated Vice-Chairman.

Public Relations:

Arnold Habig wanted to discuss ideas for disseminating information to the public and stated the MVK website was not very good/ or user friendly.

Steve Laney followed by saying the Citizens Focus Committee needs to start a magazine that informs the public about sanitation issues, marina information, hydrillia and Corps maintenance issues. He stated this would help, since the Corps and the IRS have the same public relations problems.

Arnold Habig stated he wanted the Citizens Focus committee link to be on the front of MVK web page so could be easily located. The location of the CFC link is too difficult to find.

Bill Barnes explained that his administrative assistant Patty Brown found a place on the Internet that a person could create a web site for \$20.00. He said the Citizen Focus Committee should create a web site and he would have Patty Brown help any one interested in the project. He also volunteered the first \$20.00 towards the project but explained he did not know how nor did he have time to assist with the creation.

Article 1.05 Removal Issue:

Arnold Habig explained he had sent Sue Richardson a letter after she missed her second meeting and that under the by-laws she should be considered for removal from the LOCFC since this meeting would be her third consecutive missed meeting.

Dan Mobley moved to suspend Sue Richardson after her third absents. David Doty revised the motion to remove rather than suspend. A vote was taken to remove Sue Richards. The vote was unanimous for removal. Arnold Habig stated he would advise Sue Richardson by letter of her removal.

Rick Stokes will select a new member to take her place.

Adjournment:

Arnold Habig adjourned the meeting at 2100 hours.