

**Citizens Focus Committee
Lake Ouachita**

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

DATE: 13 October 2003

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

CALL TO ORDER: 1905 hours, Ouachita Project Management Office, Arnold Habig, Chairperson

Attendees:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Richard Stokes, Lake Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Dave Wilkie, Park Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

David Doty
Rick Farmer
Arnold Habig
Steve Laney
Mike Misch
Jerry Shields
Jerry Williams
Howard Wright
Dan Mobley
Delia McBride
Patty Roddenberry

Members Absent:

Al Behm
Bill Barnes
Al Gathwright

Minutes Review:

The September 8, 2003 minutes were reviewed and approved

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Marine Sanitation:

Rick Stokes distributed a letter that had been sent to nine commercial concessionaires and Lake Ouachita State Park concerning the introduction of non-licensed marine sanitation pumping services providing services by removing human waste from private houseboats. The letter indicated the need for each concession to monitor the service and ensure the proper sublease be signed prior to the concession and COE entering into a Cooperative Agreement for use of sewage disposal systems. No anticipated response to the letter was expected.

Aquatic Weed Progress:

Ground Truth Satellite Imagery – Rick Stokes informed the Members ground truth activities have gone well with the assistance of volunteers. Volunteers performed data collection on approximately 170 of the 250 plots while Project personnel have accomplished 40 plots. Data collection is proceeding on the remaining 40 plots, which will be completed during the week of 12 Oct. .

Pakistani Flies – Rick Stokes informed the members approximately 1 million Pakistani Flies have been infested into Hydrilla beds around Lake Ouachita. Assistance is being requested to collect lab data through the STRIVE Program at Lake Hamilton and the Christopher Columbus Program (for high schools) in support of physically counting harvested Pak Flies to monitor infestation rates in the 5 locations. Rick Farmer and Jerry Williams asked if they could have the locations were the Pakistani Flies were being used. Rick Stokes said he would provide that information to the LOCFC.

Denby Visitors Information Center:

Jerry Shields informed the membership of the Denby Point Area Visitor Center Workshop on Monday, 29 September. Attendee's included Bryan Kellar and Anita Chouinard from the Dept. of Parks and Tourism; David Hall and Steve Morgan from the Dept. of Highway and Transportation; Stu Schmitt and Sunny Stanley from the Mt. Ida Chamber of Commerce; Jim Gifford from the Ouachita Mountain Hiker's Association, Tom Oshel from the Lake Ouachita State Park; Al Behm, Dave Doty, Bill Barnes, Patty Roddenberry, Jerry Shields and Arnie Habig from the Citizen Focus Committee and Rick Stocks for the COE. Jerry S. expressed concern with the apparent lack of support for a Visitor Center in the Denby Point area. However he was encouraged with the outstanding support for a Trail Head, Handicapped Accessible Fishing Pier, and a boat-launching ramp with parking being proposed for the area. Mr. Doty pointed out Mr. Jim Giffard with the Ouachita Mountain Hiking Association was certainly positive and supportive of the trail concept and indicated planning and physical support could be anticipated from his collective Associations in this portion of the project. Howard Wright recommended a contact be made to the Womble District of the USFS for possible inclusion of an area VIC in with their present facility in Mt. Ida. Some discussion of this concept ensued without final resolution. Jerry Shields proposed his subcommittee draft a three phase conceptual plan for the project, with Phase I being the trail system: Phase II the boat-launching facilities and ADA accessibility pier, and Phase III being the Visitor Information Center. The Members agreed to this plan. Additionally, a contact with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission local office is essential to pursue the boat-launching ramp with parking and roadway, and the ADA accessible pier.

Arnie Habig volunteered to draft a letter to each of the meeting attendees thanking them for their support and encouraging their future participation in this project. Mr. Doty recommended a map of the proposed trail system be sent to Mr. Giffard for his future use and reference.

It was also requested by the LOCFC that Rick Stokes ask the Vicksburg District COE to retain the current Denby Point Highway Bridge and approach ramps once surrendered by the State Department of Highway and Transportation for utilization as a pedestrian path for trail connections in the area.

Forest Service Land Exchange:

Dave Doty discussed a proposed Forest Service land exchange in Montgomery County near Camp Ozark that includes an unnamed tributary to the Ouachita River, which passes through the proposed transfer area to be received by 155 Camp Limited Partnership. He provided the Members with a DRAFT proposed letter to be sent to Mr. Alan G. Newman, Forest Supervisor, Ouachita National Forest by the LOCFC expressing concerns about the proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding: access to the property so that on site monitoring is possible; provisions for monitoring; relief if there is noncompliance with the MOU; and land and habitat restoration, if 155 Camp Limited Partnership or its successors lack the financial resources to complete such restoration.

The LOCFC requested Steve Laney to review the proposed transfer and MOU. After his review he will draft a letter relative to the insufficiency of the MOU in addressing monitoring, noncompliance, and restoration, if required. A motion was made to develop a letter for the LOCFC to Forest Supervisor Newman concerning the MOU. The letter drafted by Steve L. would be e-mailed to Arnie Habig for signature and mailing. Copies would be sent to LOCFC Members. The motion passed with one objection from Rick Farmer citing the lack of legal violation as stated in Law.

LOCFC Web Page:

The LOCFC discussed a web page project proposal prepared by Jeff Capplinger of Cap's Corner. The proposal had details of eight Web Page designs with an initial cost estimate of \$888.00 (Domain name - \$38.00; Website hosting set-up - \$20.00; quarterly fee - \$30.00; Site design - \$500.00; and script/program training - \$350.00). Rich Farmer asked who was going to pay for the Web Page? The response was the LOCFC membership could offer contributions to the cost. Following some discussion cost associated with the Cap's Corner proposal, Arnie Habig stated there was a web hosting capability by Yahoo for \$11.95/mth/web page: \$19.95/mth for Standard Site: and \$39.95/mth for Deluxe Package Site. Given situations with current issues and pending topics it was decided to table this proposal until the 12 January '04 meeting.

Issues, Topics and Prioritization:

A subcommittee was formed to develop five future projects from the "Issues, Topics, and Prioritize" list previously provided to the Members. Mike Misch accepted the Chair for this project with the following members: Jerry Williams, Rick Farmer, and Arnie Habig.

Pending List:

Arnie Habig asked Patty Roddenberry to Chair a subcommittee to review the Pending List and come to mutual resolution with the Rick Stokes on receipt of requested information and/or satisfaction of the pending issue. Patty asked Dave Doty and Howard Wright to assist her.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2040 hours.