

# Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee



**1424 Blakely Dam Road  
Royal, Arkansas 71964**

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:** Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

**DATE:** October 2, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 p.m. by Jerry Shields, Chairman

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:**

Stacy Sigman, Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office  
Derick Walker, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office  
Jason Mothershed, Facility Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office  
Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

**Members Present:**

Bill Barnes	Al Gathright	Jo West Taylor
Phillip Carr	Arnold Habig	Dan Watson
Robert Cavanaugh	Jerry Shields	Jerry Williams
George Dooley	Rick Stokes	Howard Wright

Jerry S. requested a moment of silence for the Las Vegas shooting victims.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the September 11, 2017 meeting were approved as written

**Grab A Bag Operational Process Review:** Bill B. shared he had spoken with the director of Keep Arkansas Beautiful and the director stressed they would need assistance on replenishing bag supplies. Bill stated they could probably apply for a grant or accept donations of bags. Phillip C. stated Sam's Club has a program where you can fill out a donation sheet and they will possibly donate the trash bags. He will look into this and apply for the donation.

Jerry asked if there had been any more problems with the signs peeling off. Stacy S. shared the signs had been bolted to the posts, so they would not peel off.

**FOLO Financial Update and review of August Operations:**

Jerry stated there is not a new financial update this month.

Jerry continued the Walton Foundation Grant is being utilized on the trail, and they have received a Health Department grant to spend on the trail, but they are waiting to hear how much Yellow Wood is going to replace of the damaged wood before they know how much they need from the grant.

Arnie shared he has received the \$1,000 check donation from the Benton Gun Club to be used for the November and January disability and wounded warrior hunts, and he is trying to get a donation from the Hot Springs Gun Club. He stated he would like to prepare an appreciation letter to be sent to the Benton Gun Club for their donation. He will send a draft of the letter to Jerry for signature.

**LOViT Trail:** Jason M. shared the Corps will pick up the lumber from Yellow Wood either this week or next. Jerry asked if it would be stored out of the weather. Jason stated it would be stored in the Corps yard until needed. Stacy stated the Corps would try to replace any wood that was not reimbursed by Yellow Wood. He stated once the Yellow Wood was onsite, he would meet with the Trail Dogs and form a plan. Jerry stated they were going to ask the Montgomery County Judge to help with the disposal of the old (damaged) lumber. Robert C. shared they have been putting more arrow signs on the trail, and they completed a training with the Forest Service to be re-certified in chainsaw operation.

**Joplin recreation Area:** Jerry W. stated the engineer he had contacted has not responded to his requests. Jerry S. stated they could write him a letter from FOLO so he could take any volunteer work off his taxes.

Stacy shared he is working with Jack Hinton on getting a load test scheduled-it will probably be conducted in January 2018.

**USACE Operational Review:** Stacy shared he has spoken with AT&T about coming out and looking at the tree clearing near power lines at Denby Bay Bridge to see whose lines were along the easement.

Jerry stated he had received some email requests from people asking about the invasive species of birds on Bird Island. Stacy explained this time of year, a lot of migratory waxwings and blackbirds coming in, and the people are most likely just seeing migratory birds that aren't usually on the island.

-Board Member Replacement: Jerry S. related Janice V. has asked to resign from the LOCFC due to her son's death. Jerry suggested forming a committee to choose three top candidates from the resumes previously submitted. Arnie H., Jo West T., and Robert C.

volunteered to serve on this committee. They will review the resumes, choose their top three choices and present them to the LOCFC for a vote at the November meeting.

**Announcements:** Jerry stated he would be sending out the congressional letters to the Arkansas Senators and Representatives with copies to the Corps and the letters will serve as a baseline for what LOCFC is requesting. He believes contacting the representatives periodically with specific requests from the letter will also be beneficial. Rick S. stated each representative has an allotment to spend in their district, and might be able to help with a few requests.

-Al G. asked about the status of purchasing additional courtesy docks. Jerry S. asked Bill B. to let them know what size dock would be needed at Mountain Harbor ramp.

Jerry S. discussed the changes he has been seeing in recreation: A lot of areas now have two or three kinds of campgrounds: contractor campgrounds, modern campgrounds, and semi-modern campgrounds (no hookups). Jerry also discussed some newer comfort stations he has seen during his travels. Stacy related the comfort station that will be put in Little Fir, will be the newer type with separate shower rooms. Jerry also discussed some new reservation services that charge \$8-\$9 to make a reservation and show pictures of each site. Derick W. explained that the Corps will also be going with a new reservation company after next year, and that it will have pictures of each campsite. Jerry asked what the difference was in Campground fee collectors and volunteers. Stacy stated the fee collectors are on contract to collect fees and get paid, whereas, the volunteers only work for their camping site. Amy S. stated when the fee collector's contract ended, some decided to stay on and collect fees as volunteers until November 1<sup>st</sup> when Joplin and Tompkins will close for the season, then all the volunteers will be maintenance volunteers and fees will be collected by Park Rangers or through self-pay vaults. Stacy related there was \$50,000 more in recreation fees collected last year than in previous years....more people camping. He also related that the work on the Tompkins Bend parking lot is continuing.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned @ 6:50 P.M.