

**Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee**



**1201 Blakely Dam Road  
Royal, AR 71964**

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

**DATE:** August 8, 2012

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1840 hours by Arnie Habig

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

Rick Dwyer, Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office  
Bill Jackson, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office  
Amy Shultz, Park Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

**Members Present:**

Tom Butler	George Dooley	Buck Rogers	Jerry Williams
Robert Cavanaugh	Arnold Habig	Walt Sitter	
David Doty	Larry Raney	Rick Stokes	

**Minutes in Review:** The minutes from the July 11, 2012 meeting were tabled until the September meeting.

**FOLO Update:** Dave D. related FOLO held a meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup>, and the FOLO members unanimously voted to accept the Corps offer to enter into a Cooperative Agreement in the Co-management of Tompkins Bend Recreation area. The proposed agreement has been sent to the District Office in Vicksburg for review and approval. Rick D. related that the Office of Counsel Vicksburg District Office, agreed there would not be an issue in allowing Tompkins Bend to be added to the existing agreement for the co-management of Crystal Springs Recreation Area. Rick S. inquired about where the lease limits would be established and requested the lease limits join the Shangri-La lease limits to the East and down the edge of the maintenance access road to the lakeshore on the West. Rick D. stated he would send a map of the leased area tomorrow to the committee members.

Dave D. inquired when FOLO would be able to establish fee collection contracts with the campground fee collectors. Rick D. stated the agreement would most likely be finalized by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Arnie H. asked if in 2013, when the reservation system reverts back to 60% reservable/40% non-reservable, will FOLO be able to choose which sites are reservable. Rick S. stated that if the campgrounds have been identified by NRRS, he believes they would have to honor the 60/40 reservable ratio. Bill J stated the reserve sites must be identified in the next 30 to 60 days and sent to NRRS. Dave D. asked the Corps to contact Greg Webb inform him that

FOLO will be leasing Tompkins Bend and will be using the same reservation percentages as were used this year in Crystal Springs.

Arnie H. inquired if all the FOLO board members had the same opinion on optimal percentages of reservable sites. Dave D. stated he did not know, however, the FOLO members all believed that making more sites reservable was not feasible. Dave D. related that Rick S. has been made an ex-officio member of FOLO, and will be taking over some of the management duties in Tompkins Bend. Dave D. further related that FOLO will have a meeting when Al G. returns back from vacation to coordinate the Tompkins Bend duties. FOLO believes they can operate the two recreation areas without hiring a full time staff person. Dave D. stated the Corps will present proposals on campground improvements to FOLO by the end of the month. FOLO will make recommendations on projects and the Corps and FOLO will decide which projects will be funded. Dave D. further related that on September 8, 2012, the reservations will end at Crystal and the volunteer hosts will be collecting fees for FOLO and volunteering for the Corps of Engineers. There will be two volunteer fee collectors in Crystal and two volunteer fee collectors in Tompkins Bend. Arnie H. asked if Bill J. and Rick D. could send the priority list for improvements to the LOCFC members prior to the next meeting. Rick D. stated the sand for the beaches is being delivered to Ouachita in two weeks and will be stored in the Crystal Springs overflow and the cement yard until next year. Rick D. also stated five spools of underground wire were approved for order last week.

**LOViT:** Dave D. related the contract entered into for the trail work requires the work to be completed by December 1, 2012. Dave D. further explained that they should know by December 1, 2012 whether the grant has been awarded for construction of section 8 of the trail. Dave D. continued, a request for an updated map of the trail was made, but rather than spend money now for an incomplete map, they decided to wait and purchase completed maps in the spring. Arnie H. inquired if the entire trail could be made available through interactive video on the webpage. Robert C. stated that although there are electronic maps on the website, there is not any video. Buck R. stated he had talked with two mountain bikers who had trouble seeing the next leg of the trail when they stopped at Crystal Springs road. He stated there needs to be more trail signage at Crystal. Walt S. related that a trail he had visited in Santa Fe has a 4x4 sign at each intersection directing people to the next leg. Robert C. stated the trail signs will be up by this fall at the intersection of Crystal Springs. Tom B. stated the trail sign that directs visitors to the parking area was missing on Mountain Harbor Road, and the trail sign on the highway at Crystal Springs road is also down. Dave D. inquired if a four car parking lot at trail intersection on Crystal Springs road would be constructed by the Corps. Rick D. stated the Corps had plenty of gravel pave for the parking area.

#### **Sub-Committee Reports:**

**Aquatic Vegetation:** Arnie H. stated Tom B. was able to acquire construction materials for the exclusion cages at a reduced price. Tom B. stated they had received enough material to build 200 cages for \$2,000. Bill J. stated 50 to 60 cages had been constructed yesterday. Buck R. asked if the aquatic weed that was already planted had survived. Bill J. stated that in the test beds planted on DeGray Lake, the vegetation was doing very well. Dave D. stated the grant

funding for the material was approved, but they had not received it yet. Tom B. stated he ended up purchasing products made in China at a reduced cost.

**Fisheries:** Bill J. stated the ribbon cutting on the fishing pier at Twin Creek will be held in October, but a specific date has not been set. Stuart Woolridge and Mike Walker would like to have the signs installed prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony.

**Campground:**

Arnie H. stated after meeting with Bill J. and David W., he learned it was almost impossible for Lake Ouachita to use the NRRS pre-registration service because discount pass information and license plate numbers must be verified and entered at the fee booth upon check in. Arnie H. requested the campground host policy be e-mailed to all members of the committee for review.

**Closing Comments:** Arnie H. stated Howard W. has been absent with physical problems and several back surgeries. He hopes to be able to attend the next meeting. Bill J. related he spent the day with Heather Burke, Partnership Program Manager, HQUSACE and she was very impressed with everything we have accomplished through partnerships. Bill J. further related Heather Burke was also very interested in getting Bass Pro interested and involved in the exclusion cage project. Bill J. also stated he had recently visited Table Rock Lake and taken photos of some of their facilities around the new Visitor Center for ideas that could possibly be used in some of the recreation areas on Lake Ouachita. Bill J. stated he would e-mail these photos to the committee members. Arnie H. related Rick S. would not be able to attend the ORVA convention in Monroe, Louisiana and asked if any member was interested in attending, to contact him.

**Open Discussion:** Rick S. inquired if any discussions had taken place on whether the funds collected in Crystal could only be used in Crystal, or if they could be used at Tompkins Bend also. Rick S. further inquired if the money could be pulled from one leased area and used in another leased area if a major project needed funding. Tom B. requested the maps and description of the Tompkins Bend leased area for the insurance company.

**Friends of Lake Ouachita, Inc., Statement of Financial Position, July ne 30, 2012**

<b>Assets:</b>	
Cash-Trail Account:	\$10,437.00
Cash-Miscellaneous:	\$232.00
Cash-Crystal Springs Rec. Area	\$89,303.00
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$ 99,972.00</b>

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.