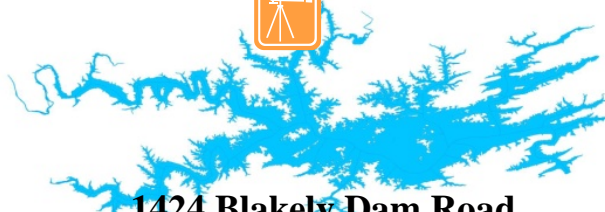


Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee



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

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: July 1, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m. by Arnie Habig

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Stacy Sigman, Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Bill Jackson, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Amy Shultz, Park Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Bill Barnes	George Dooley	Larry Raney	Rick Stokes	Howard Wright
Phillip Carr	Al Gathright	Jerry Shields	Dan Watson	
Robert Cavanaugh	Arnold Habig	Walt Sitter	Jerry Williams	

Minutes in Review: After discussion, the minutes for May were approved with recommended changes being made to the FOLO section of the June 3rd minutes.

Opening Remarks: Committee members present voted and elected the current officers, Arnie H., Chairman and Al G., Vice-Chairman for another year. Both nominees accepted the positions as elected.

FOLO: Bill B. commented that FOLO model is a really good avenue to allow for fees collected in the recreation areas to be utilized in those same recreation areas. Rick S. shared that during the initial development of the cooperative management agreements, it was interpreted that funds collected in one recreation area must be used in that same recreation area, however, now it has been interpreted that funds may be used in other FOLO leased recreation areas included in the cooperative management agreement. Rick S. further stated that he is in the process of writing a draft business plan that will state if the priority projects are completed in Crystal (for example), remaining funds can be transferred and utilized in Tompkins Bend.

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Larry R. asked if there was flexibility in where funds could be spent in case of disasters. Rick S. stated that as long as the funds are used in a FOLO managed recreation area, the FOLO board manages where funds are spent. George D. inquired if equipment could be purchased with FOLO funds. Rick S. stated if the equipment is only used in the FOLO recreation areas on FOLO projects, equipment can be purchased.

Al G. related the FOLO board had voted and approved a proposal to enter into a cooperative management agreement in management of additional campgrounds. Board members will meet with Brenda Meeks and Stacy Sigman to finalize the agreements. In the proposal, FOLO will request to add Denby Point and Twin Creek Recreation Areas in November 1, 2013, Joplin Recreation Area November 1, 2014 then Brady Mountain and Stephens Park Recreation Areas November 1, 2015. Arnie H. provided campground maps of these proposed areas being considered to be added to the FOLO cooperative management program. Arnie H. asked if FOLO had been notified of an incident that occurred at Crystal Springs that involved fighting over campsites. Bill J. related the camping policy and stated all fee collectors are aware of this policy, Bill J. further shared there were many disagreements over campsites during the busy holiday weekend, and all the campsite registration tags with camping dates had been pulled off the campsite posts because visitors were cruising through the campgrounds and harassing the campers that were indicated to be leaving on a certain date. Rick S. stated that as long as the fee collector knows the problems, they can inform Dave D. or Al G.

Bill J. provided an inventory list of all the facilities in those recreation areas FOLO is being proposed to add to their cooperative management agreement. Arnie H. requested Bill J. send a copy by email to all members.

Sub-Committee Reports

Lake Ouachita Vista Trail: Jerry S. shared the trail dogs have been busy clearing trees and debris left along the trail from the recent storms. They still have a couple of areas with weed problems caused by lack of canopy. Jerry S. shared they are working on the requirements for obtaining the grant funds, and they should have approval for the grant next week.

Aquatic Vegetation: Bill J. related there were no updates from previous month's meeting.

Fisheries: Bill J. related there were no updates from the previous month's meeting.

Al G. shared he had received an e-mail from Stuart Woolridge, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, who related he would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the constructed fishing pier at the Twin Creek Recreation Area.

Campgrounds: Arnie H. asked why all tent sites are not converted to RV sites. Rick S. stated that many tent sites were constructed because there was not room for RV sites. Bill J. stated the ultimate goal is to have every tent site on the south-side of the lake to have electrical pedestals.

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Comments: Jerry S. shared during his recent trip to various National Parks; he did not see any sequestration effects in any of the parks he visited. Arnie H. had inquired how the proposed furlough would affect the Ranger staff, Bill J. related that the employees at Lake Ouachita were funded through the Corps' Civil Works program and would not be affected by the proposed furlough. Bill further related that 4 temporary Rangers began work on Sunday, June 30th. However, under the furlough restrictions, staff working overtime would be closely scrutinized and additional justification requirements would be required before approval would be granted.

Bill B. asked if any overflow areas would be open during the holiday weekend. Bill J. stated the overflow area at Crystal Springs would be the only area open through the holiday weekend. The area in the Twin Creek Recreation Area previously used was still affected by the recent high water conditions and would damage the area if opened for overflow camping. Bill J. further shared that the Crystal Springs Group Area campsites have remained fully occupied since the campground had re-opened after the recent high water conditions in the area. Arnie H. asked when Colonel Cross would be at Ouachita. Bill J. stated he would be in Arkansas July 8-10th.

FOLO Financial Reports as of June 30, 2013

Assets		
Month	May 31, 2013	June 30, 2013
Cash-Trail Account	\$6296.00	\$6,135.00
Cash – Miscellaneous	\$718.00	\$943.00
Cash-Crystal Springs	\$112,893.00	\$119,710
Cash-Tompkins Bend	\$31,602.00	\$34,294
Total Assets:	\$151,509.00	\$161,082

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.