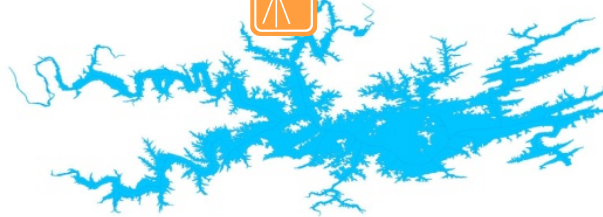


# Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee



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

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

**DATE:** September 12, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 p.m. by Dan Watson, Chairman

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

Stacy Sigman, Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Bill Jackson, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

**Members Present:**

Robert Cavanaugh	Rick Stokes	Howard Wright
George Dooley	Janice Vaughn	
Mike Drake	Dan Watson	

**Minutes:** Minutes for the August 1, 2016 were not available for review and were tabled until the October 3, 2016 meeting to discuss.

**Announcements:** George Dooley provided a celebration cake for Bill Jackson in recognition of his transfer from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the U.S. Forest Service on October 3, 2016. Committee members recognized Bill for his contributions and assistance he's provided to the LOCFC members for the past several years.

Dan W. informed the committee members that, in his absence, Arnie Habig, had requested the committee members discuss the continued membership of Phil Carr. Due to Mr. Carr's commitments to his family business and other civic activities, he has had to miss a number of the LOCFC meetings. Dan continued in stating that he and Mr. Carr had discussed his continued role as a member of the LOCFC and Phil stated he would do whatever he could to continue supporting the committee, if he needed to resign and allow another person to fill his position, he would continue to support the committee's activities in any way that he could.

Mike D. related that it had appeared that Mr. Carr had only attended two meetings since the committee members had this same discussion last year, concerning his attendance in 2015. Dan informed the

committee members that Mr. Carr missed the last six meetings in 2015 and had attended two or three in 2016. Dan also reminded the committee members that due to only seven members of the LOCFC were present for the current meeting, there were not enough members to have a quorum, as the CFC By-Laws require, so therefore, discussions could be held, but there could be no decisions made during the current meeting.

Janice V. inquired about the frequency of the LOCFC meetings, if the committee met on a bi-monthly basis, would that make it easier for those who have conflicts with the current schedule, to be able to attend more of the meetings. Dan W. related that changing the frequency of the CFC meeting schedule had been discussed previously, but it was decided to stay on the monthly meeting schedule, for fear of continuity of actions being taken and discussed by the committee members becoming somewhat too disconnect and the loss of forward progression lost.

Discussion among the committee members continued in stating that Mr. Carr is a viable asset to the LOCFC, his knowledge of the project and experience in what the needs of the lake's customers are clearly known, since he has spent his entire life on the lake and working with his family's business at Shangri-La Resort. Dan W. suggested continued discussion of Mr. Carr's membership be postponed until the next LOCFC meeting. Allow the LOCFC members to cast their vote by private ballot on whether Mr. Carr should be able to remain a member of the LOCFC or consider one of the new applicants who have recently submitted their resumes for the current vacancy.

**Consideration of Applicant(s) for Vacant Position – LOCFC:** Dan W. informed the committee members that he had received all the resumes submitted to the Corps for consideration of the vacant position being filled on the committee. Dan W. continued in relating that the vote for the new member would be postponed until the next meeting due to the fact there were not enough members to hold a quorum.

George D. recommended the committee members email their vote to Stacy S. by September 23, 2016, thus allowing the new member to be selected by the October 3, 2016 meeting and the new committee member announced at that time.

Rick S. made a motion that if Phil C. resigns, the candidate that comes in second on the email vote be notified that they have been selected to serve as a member of the LOCFC. George D. seconded the motion, Dan. W. reminded the committee members that due to a lack of a quorum, no votes could be cast on motions, only recommendations. George D. recommended that the second person on the email vote be notified they were selected to serve as a committee member. Dan W. recognized the recommendation made by George D.

Janice V. inquired about an alternate list of LOCFC members, those individuals who have expressed an interest in serving as a committee member, but had not been chosen to serve as an active member of the committee. Rick S. related that when the committee was first organized, a file of potential member resumes were maintained and as a vacancy became open, the file of resumes would be reviewed and a potential candidate chosen from the list. However, through the years, the file of resumes have been depleted and now a request for new potential members have been requested to submit resumes for this vacancy. Those not selected for vacancy, their resumes will be maintained and when another vacancy

becomes available, they will be contacted to see if they are still interested in serving as a member of the LOCFC.

**Friends of Lake Ouachita (FOLO) Update:** Robert C. related that Jerry S. and Stacy S. had met with representatives from Super Duty Docks, the company that constructed the two courtesy docks for FOLO, to discuss adding longer “spud” poles to avoid having to move the docks as much during the changes in the lake’s elevation during heavy rain events. The current set up is requiring a great deal of maintenance on the Corps’ part to maintain the docks during the recent rise and fall of the lake’s water elevation. Stacy S. related that when the lake elevation reaches near the winter pool, representatives from Super Duty Docks would install the longer “spud” poles on the docks and that the Corps would take care of the cost of the new poles.

Dan W. related that he is still working on getting the Friends of Lake Ouachita website going and that the company that he has been working with on the LOViT website would be hosting both sites and the cost would be about the same as it currently is for the one website. Dan went on to mention that he is still working on the “donation” site for individuals to make donations to the website for the LOViT and FOLO work activities.

**LOViT Update:** Robert C. provided a report on the work recently completed on the LOViT Trail along Bear Mountain, the hardest hit section of the trail by recent storms passing through the area. Robert related that the trail has been completely cleared of all downed trees across the trail and all sections of the trail are now open. Robert went on to say a special thanks to Dan W. for volunteering his pontoon boat to transport the trail volunteers to/from the worksite and reduce the amount of travel time required to the area along the trail that had been damaged.

Robert continued in related that approximately 30 trees had been blown down by the recent storm event along the ten mile section of trail between Crystal Springs Road and Brady Mountain Road, along the top of Bear Mountain. The US Forest Service stated they would get a crew to work on the trail, but it would have to wait until later in the season, due to the current commitments of the Forest Service employees during the recreation season and safety concerns of the employees. Robert continued in stating that the last new bench and plaque had been installed in recognition of Shauna Lucas at the intersection of the trail and Forest Service Road 47A.

Stacy S. asked Robert C. if the Corps purchased the material, could the Trail Dogs make some repairs to the elevated walkway at Denby Bay. Stacy continued in relating that a number of the walkway boards have deteriorated and are in need of replacement. Robert stated that the Trail Dogs could make the repairs once the material had been purchased.

Robert C. continued in stating that the recent proposed Gap Creek Watershed Area work being proposed by the U.S. Forest Service had made the front page of the Montgomery County News and there are still concerns about the work activities that are around the LOViT trail path. The major concern being that once the trees have been removed to thin the area, this will open the canopy, thus allowing weeds, briars and other undergrowth to take over the trail’s pathway. Robert continued in stating that he had visited with Sholanda Guy, U.S. Forest Service, District Ranger, Womble/Caddo Ranger Districts, and she had

assured him that any damage to the trail's surface will be repaired before leaving the area where the proposed thinning cuts are being made.

**Corps of Engineers Report:** Bill J. shared with the committee members that while many of the campgrounds were full over the Labor Day Holiday Weekend, there were still a number of campsites available, unlike the other two major recreation season Holidays. No accidents or mishaps occurred over the Holiday Weekend.

Bill J. continued in relating that the reservations would end on September 8, 2016 and all campsites would be on a first-come, first-serve basis until May 2017, when the reservations would begin again. Bill further related that a change had been made in the camping extension policy, that this Fall, camping extensions would start being issued on September 9, 2016 and end April 30, 2017. The Fall/Winter Recreation Area Seasonal Closure list would include keeping Twin Creek, Tompkins Bend, Crystal Springs and Stephens Park Campground open through the Fall/Winter Camping Season for 2016/2017. Volunteer Fee Collectors and Uniformed Park Rangers would be collecting use fees in the campgrounds and honor boxes had been added in each campground for the convenience of the campers to pay their camping fees.

Stacy S. informed the committee members that Brady Mountain Campground would be closed on October 1, 2016, to allow the O&M and Contract Staff to be working on the Brady Mountain raw water intake structure for the water treatment plant in the campground and start renovating a number of the campsites in Area 1 of the campground. Plans are to have all the work completed by May 2017, as the reservation season begins.

**New Bench Locations in the Campgrounds:** Janice V. related that she still has a number of the flags that can be used to mark the various locations around the lake, as she did before, where new benches are to be placed. Bill J. related that he would get back to the Tompkins Bend Day Use Area and mark where the additional benches are to be placed, when RBS is available to install the benches on-hand.

**Resumption of the Way Forward Brainstorming Committee:** Dan suggested postponing any discussion about the Way Forward Committee until the next meeting when more members are present during the meeting.

#### **Project Progress Reports:**

- A. Demolish of Out-of-Date Facilities at Crystal Springs:** Stacy S. informed the committee members that the destruction and removal of the old wastewater treatment plant is still on the work schedule for this Fall.
- B. Create an Area Campground Map:** Dan suggested that this be tabled until the next meeting as well when Arnie H. was present to discuss further.
- C. Additional Ventilation in Comfort Stations:** Stacy S. informed the committee members that Jason Mothershed has his O&M crew working on the installation of the additional ventilation fans as time allows, in between responding to other electrical issues

as they arise in the campgrounds and around the project. Dan W. related that he had heard positive feedback through campers where the ventilation fans had been installed in providing more air passing through the restrooms and showers of those buildings.

- D. Campsite Revitalization, including Identifying Pull-Through Sites – Corps:** Dan asked Bill J. if he had been able to correct the issue with the spreadsheet listing all the campsite evaluations compiled from the material provided by the review team headed by Janice V.? Bill related that he had not been able to work on the spreadsheet, but that he would follow up on seeing what could be done with the spreadsheet.
- E. Donation Boxes at Fee Booths and Other Places –** Rick S. provided an update on the recent receipts from the donation boxes located at Brady Mountain and Crystal Springs Campgrounds, recently installed by FOLO. Rick went on to state that a total of \$5.68 had been received through the donation boxes since they had been installed.
- F. Fundraising Events On/Around Lake Ouachita:** Dan W. suggested this report be postponed until the next meeting, allowing Tom Butler to provide an update on the program.

**Closing Remarks:** Dan W. restated the committee's appreciation to Bill Jackson for his assistance with the LOCFC through the years, taking the time to take some of the committee members on the field trip to other lakes around the area and sharing his experiences in other Districts in working various volunteer projects.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.