

Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee



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

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: October 03, 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
Pamela Herrin, Land Use Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Mike Wade, Natural Resource Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Robert Cavanaugh	Rick Stokes	Howard Wright	Tom Butler
George Dooley	Janice Vaughn	Bill Barnes	Al Gathright
Mike Drake	Dan Watson	Phillip Carr	
Arnold Habig	Jerry Shields	Jerry Williams	

Minutes: Robert C. moved and Tom B. seconded a motion for approval of the minutes for the August 1, 2016, meeting, and Arnie H. moved and Robert C. seconded a motion for approval of the minutes for the September 12, 2016, meeting. Both were approved pending minor corrections.

Announcements: None

Stacy S. and Howard W. informed the committee they must meet briefly before announcing the new committee member that would replace Tammi Spurlin. At the time of the meeting, clarification on Howard W. top three selections was necessary. Dan W. announced at the end of the meeting that Bruce Engstrom was selected as a new committee member and would be present at the November meeting.

Dan W. opened discussion in reference to Phil Carr's absence from several meetings and a discussion of the by-laws ensued. Arnold H. mentioned that a position on the committee requires a commitment. Dan W. insists on sticking with the by-laws. Rick. S. asked if Phil Carr would like to speak to the group. Mr. Carr advised the committee that he is very interested in remaining on the committee and admitted that scheduling conflicts with another civic committee for which he is a member (Mount Ida School Board)

and ownership of a local resort had hindered his attendance. Phil Carr went on to state that his commitment to the school board and his community was very important to him because it served his community. He further stated that there were times of the year that made it more difficult and well as changes to the LOCFC meeting dates (Holidays).

Bill B. stated that having Phil C. on the board lends a perspective and direction to the COE and resort operations is part of that perspective. He reminded the committee that he and Phil C. are not retired and that their jobs didn't end at 5 p.m. Bill B. then made a motion to extend the absences to 4 consecutive to allow greater flexibility. Barnes then stated that he wanted Phil Carr to remain on the committee.

Jerry S. then stated "Who knows more and has a closer ear to the public outside the COE than Phil and Bill?" He agreed that meeting attendance was important and reminded the committee that he himself had missed meetings due to illness. "This isn't just about attendance", he went on to say, that many members serve on more than one committee and he would feel very badly if anyone was voted off a committee over missed meetings. He suggested meeting times change or by-laws change.

Arnold H. commented that if members are not attending meetings then the committee does not have their input on projects. He went on to state that special projects take time and that is why the committee needs members committed to attending meetings.

Dan W. stated that the committee needed to vote.

Bill B. made a motion to extend the deadline to 4 consecutive meetings before a member is considered for removal. Motion is seconded by Janice V..

Arnold H. recommends that the committee appoint a committee to review the bylaws.

Bill B. states that the motion has been made and seconded and that a committee for reviewing bylaws was not needed. Dan W. stated that Bill is correct and the motion is on the floor.

Rick S. Mentioned that 4 consecutive meetings is a long time and perhaps it should be 4 meetings per year and that maybe we need a waiver program to consider illness, extenuating circumstances, work conflicts.

Dan W. stated that the by-laws say vote.

Rick S. Commented that the committee never even considered a vote when Jerry was sick.

Jerry S. says we need more flexibility before we start getting rid of members and we need to find a way to make this work.

Rick S. goes on to state "we don't want to kick Phillip off but we need to have better commitment so we need to set a flexible standard in the by-laws."

Robert C stated, "We could actually just vote to keep Phillip on."

At this point discussions ensued regarding changing the by-laws, how many meetings a person can miss, members taking advantage of the possible new changes. Finally, Tom B. said lets vote and move on. After more brief back and forth discussions Barnes makes another motion to keep Phil C. on the committee, Janice V. seconded the motion, ballots were collected, and Phil remains on the Committee.

Friends of Lake Ouachita (FOLO) Update: Super Duty Docks, the company that constructed the two courtesy docks for FOLO, will be making improvements to the docks and the LOFO had been able to find funding to pay for the improvements. The improvement were completed in late September.

Arnie H. asked who constitutes the FOLO Board. It is Rick Stokes, Jerry Shields, Al Gathright, Robert Cavanaugh, and Tom Butler. The currently-serving chairman of LOCFC is also considered to be an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the FOLO Board.

LOViT Update: USFS is taking public comments on the Gap Creek project under advisement. Discussion by Jerry W. about measures to force the USFS to re-think, modify or stop the project. Discussion about the size of the harvest buffer and Cavanaugh noted that the USFS has removed the previously-agreed-to 100' buffer from the Ouachita National Recreation Trail. Jerry S. agreed to continue working on the Gap Creek project issues and requests for a buffer zone.

- Section 2 Reroute – No resolution
- Brady Spur/Addition – No update
- Elevated Walkway – Carr suggested considering measures that would protect the boardwalk from lake level changes. Stacy S. will meet with Phillip C. to review the concerns.

Corps of Engineers Report:

- Stacy S. informed the committee that Bill Jackson's vacant position had been advertised with a decision expected in a minimum of 2 months.
- Stacy S. announced the October closure of Brady due to campsite upgrades (Area 1), water intake stabilization, lift station upgrades, and additional parking being added.
- Work on secondary electric circuits in the Joplin Campground is planned.
- **New Bench Locations in the Campgrounds:** Janice V. informed the committee that more benches were needed at the new Tompkins Day Use. Further, benches are needed at Joplin beach (2) and Denby beach (2). Stacy S. stated that these benches will be ordered.

Resumption of the Way Forward Brainstorming Committee:

- Not much to update.
- Janice V. and her team completed the campground evaluations quite some time back. Bill J. had reported that the raw data provided by the team had been assimilated into a spreadsheet that was to be shared with the Committee. However, there were a number of problems with the spreadsheet in that it was not readable/usable by several members who tried to review it. Bill J. was to have gotten help to work on the formatting and such and was to have released an updated version of the document, but that has not happened. The LOCFC wants this document to be available to us to help us track the work identified by the team and to understand and suggest priorities.

- Janice V. was pushing for above ground campsite water connections in Tompkins. Stacy S. informed everyone that the priority was Brady and that our resources would be there most of the winter. But there was a possibly the RBS plumber “might” put water-hookups in Joplin. This is predicated on appropriated funding, manpower and other backlog maintenance issues. Janice V. indicated it’s important to have above ground hookups if possible.
- Stacy S. brought up the importance of LOCFC and others helping with getting grants to help pay for improvements that may not be possible with budgeted funds from USACE.
 - LOCFC asked for further definition of what is specifically needed and identification of what grant sources may be available.
 - Stacy S. said he would create a list of needs and grant sources.

Project Progress Reports:

- **Create an Area Campground Map:** Arnold H. discussed the possibility that the LOCFC make a map with informational advertisements on it that would be beneficial to campers at Lake Ouachita. He was informed by Rick S. and Stacy S. that the Corps could not endorse any advertisements. If the committee wants a map they will have to develop it themselves without the Corps logo and distribute through concessionaires and local business, not in the campgrounds.
- **Additional Ventilation in Comfort Stations:** No update
- **Campsite Revitalization, including Identifying Pull-Through Sites – Corps:** Stacy S. advised Dan W. that Bill J. had the spreadsheet and that he would look for it in the items he saved to the common drive (server).
- **Donation Boxes at Fee Booths and Other Places – Rick S.** advised the group that collected no money was collected this month.
- **Fundraising Events On/Around Lake Ouachita:**
 - Tom B. was trying to attend meetings with the Lake Hamilton Trash Bash Committee that is sponsored by Entergy and others. Tom has been unable to attend Trash Bash meetings due to work and work-related travel, and no other LOCFC have volunteered to try to attend in his stead. George D. acknowledged that the scale of Ouachita would make the event impractical.

Consideration for Associate (non-voting) membership on the LOCFC: Jerry S. suggested that the LOCFC and USACE consider expanding participation on the LOCFC by creating associate (non-voting) membership position(s) on the Committee. To be discussed further.

Adopt-A-Shoreline – The suggestion was made to remove the paragraph in the program material that says the Corps will post a sign with the name of person(s) who adopted the area. There was broad agreement with the suggestion. The item will be discussed during the November meeting.

Closing Remarks: None.

Adjournment: Jerry S. moved to adjourn the meeting; Al G. seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.