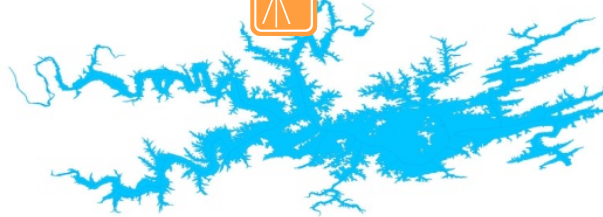


Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee



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

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: November 7, 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
Derek Lynch, Natural Resource Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Robert Cavanaugh	Howard Wright	Jerry Williams	
George Dooley	Bruce Engstrom	Al Gathright	
Mike Drake	Dan Watson	Phillip Carr	
Arnold Habig	Jerry Shields		

Members Absent: Bill Barnes, Janice Vaughn and Rick Stokes

Announcements:

- No Meeting for month of December
- It was agreed upon to move the January, 2017, meeting to January 16th in order to avoid the holiday and member conflicts on January 9th.
- Welcome new member, Bruce Engstrom

Minutes: Minutes for October 03, 2016, meeting minutes were approved pending minor corrections.

FOLO Update:

(Shields) Dog sanitation station has been installed at the ADA Watchable Wildlife Trail. Stacy S. agreed to monitor the use of the “Petway” station for a year. There was discussion regarding deploying them in the campgrounds, particularly in areas where groups congregate. They are

needed “technically everywhere”. It’s also noted that individuals can technically be ticketed for not cleaning up after their pets.

- (Sigman) Improvements to the courtesy docks – work is complete and we’ll see those benefits during high water. Should reduce overtime or callouts during weekend flood events. The improvements should accommodate a 8’ to 10’ rise without needing immediate attention.
- (Shields)FOLO Financial Update: \$14,135 in Trail Account, \$261.00 in Miscellaneous Account and \$64,177 in Recreation Area Improvements Account for a total of \$78,573.00. Arnie noted a \$6,000.00 discrepancy in the totals, which the Board will check on with FOLO’s bookkeeper.

LOViT Update – Traildogs

- (Dooley) Trail Extension to Hot Springs – Still in the planning phase, no maps available at this time. IMBA is part of the initiative and has indicated the trail will likely go through the Cedar Glades and Wildcat Road area. City of Hot Springs, Garland Co, City Parks and Recreation is part of the effort. Steve Arrison is the contact person.
- Re-route of Section 2: No update
- (Shields) Gap Creek Project: No update
- (Carr) Upcoming Event on LOViT: Marathon is set for December 3rd. So far approx. 140 people are registered to participate. Corps advised Phillip they would place 2 extra porta-johns in the area for the event.
- Maintenance – Jerry Shields, Al Gathright, and Robert Cavanaugh replaced several rotting boards on the elevated portion of the ADA Watchable Wildlife Trail.

Corps Report: (Sigman)

- **Brady:** Area 1 campsite renovations are underway. A new Deadman anchor was installed at the water intake. Lift Station upgrade is expected over the winter as well as additional parking, if time allows.
- **Crystal:** Culvert located on the main entrance road has been replaced and the roadway resurfaced
- **Joplin:** (Sigman) PR&C (Purchase Request and Commitment) is in place for the purchase of secondary electrical wiring. Due to electrical issues at Twin Creek and Little Fir, it’s not likely water hookups will be installed this winter in Joplin Recreation Area.
- **Denby:** (Shields) **Tent sites 45 and 46** do not accommodate larger tents. Shield asked if the Corps could review those sites for possible repair. Sigman stated he would look into it.
- COE has approval and is scheduling repair/replacement of rip-rap at the tailrace below the power tunnel. Damage was due to heavy use of the flood tunnel during multiple flood events.
- COE is currently working under a Continuing Resolution Authority (CRA). This means that the COE is funded monthly and funds will be limited moving forward.

Campsite Revitalization Project Sigman advised the committee the spreadsheet will not be available for CFC or any member of the public. The spreadsheet is the same as an open work order. Furthermore the Corps doesn't want any perception that Corps of Engineers workload is being directed by LOCFC.

- Items on the list have been entered in FEMS for Corps tracking and accomplishment. Sigman will update CFC annually on progress. He mentioned possible March or April 2017. Currently the COE is working on safety related issues. Sigman also mention that the likelihood of replacing serving tables next to grills is low. The cost for each serving table is extremely cost prohibitive (\$300.00). Engstrom asked if they could at least be updated on particular projects. Sigman said maybe.
- **Bill Jackson Replacement:** The Supervisory Park Ranger position has been announced and closed. Human Resources is working through the process at this time. Sigman advised the group that nothing further could be discussed on filling the position.
- **Campground Benches:** Benches were placed at Denby Point and Joplin Recreation Areas. COE placed all benches that were in stock, but due to limited funding, must wait to order more.
- **Grant Source Info:** Sigman has visited several websites and is working to develop a list of opportunities. He will share that information via email once he has more information. Items discussed were Energy Consumption (LED safety lighting), constructing a possible pavilion/classroom at the old OMPO site, Arbor Day Grants (plant larger trees) and fish cleaning stations.

Ouachita River Valley Association (ORVA) Report: (Habig) informed the group that he'd received their formal newsletter referencing that approximately \$850,000 was budgeted for Lake Ouachita in FY-16. Habig also mentioned that \$1,563,000 is in the budget for Ouachita for FY-17. Sigman informed the CFC that the Ouachita Project Office generally operates off an annual budget of 18-21 million dollars but the powerhouses are included in that bulk of money too. Habig indicated the bottom line is ORVA is thinking about campgrounds and that the ORVA general meeting will be in Hot Springs in 2017 and will focus on campgrounds.

Adopt a Shoreline Program:

- Jerry S. moved and Bruce E. seconded, a motion to remove the section of the handbook that reads, "Recognition of the volunteer commitment and the results of the adopter's effort will be acknowledged via the erection of a sign..." The decision was made due to long term cost, potential issues related to exclusive ownership, and potential loss due to flood and vandalism. The motion passed.
- The Corps will continue to administer the program and look for ways to partner with the LOCFC on this project.
- There was discussion on how concessionaires could work with the Corps and LOCFC on litter control on the project. One idea is to develop signage to make visitors aware and become further involved by handing out garbage bags at the marinas and asking customers to bring the full bag back to the marina and they will take care of the litter.

- Recommended coming up with a marketing name to address shoreline cleanup awareness. “Pick it up, pack it up, please don’t trash it up....” Sigman stated this is a slogan that Park Ranger Brian Westfall has used in the past.
- Questions arose regarding the possibility of grant moneys that might be available with the clean water act / marine sanitation act that might help with shoreline clean up. Phil C. said he would follow up with Tom Jones. It was mentioned that Keep DeGray Lake Beautiful (KDLB) a very active friends group has received grants from Walmart to conduct their annual shoreline event.

Resumption of the Way Forward Brainstorming Committee to investigate new project ideas (Habig, Dooley, Cavanaugh, Vaughn and Drake)

- Group met on October 13th and developed 5 tasks to accomplish:
 1. Meet with Col. Derosier in January and meet with Rick Dwyer
 2. WFBC wants the Corps to provide CFC with a list of 10 projects that LOCFC can assist the Corps to enhance recreation.
 3. Campground map idea with advertisements is important and will work with map developers to create a map/brochure/cost and sponsors, and ask HQ USACE to allow the map to be distributed in the fee booths.
 4. WFBC feels the “Clean Up Day” is important and we should work toward building it up to what it was several years ago when there were T-shirts, picnic, and prizes involved. Committee members should be participating and this should be discussed in the January meeting.
 5. WFBC wants to know what other Focus Committees/Groups are doing at other projects and could be point-of-contact be provided at the next meeting.

LOCFC Project Progress Reports:

- **Demolish out-of-date facilities at Crystal Springs** – status quo
- **Campground Map** – covered in WFBC
- **Comfort Station Ventilation** – completed
- **Campground Revitalization** – Tracking by CFC will not be possible – Sigman will update CFC annually with April or May 2017 being mentioned as a possibility.
- **Donation Boxes:** - no update.
- **Fundraisers’** : no update
- **Trash Pick Up:** discussed under adopt a shoreline

Questions regarding Federal Lakes Demonstration? Sigman will check into this.

Closing Remarks: None.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.