

Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee



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

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: July 11 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
Amy Shultz, Park Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Bill Barnes	Al Gathright	Janice Vaughn	Howard Wright
George Dooley	Jerry Shields	Dan Watson	
Mike Drake	Rick Stokes	Jerry Williams	

Minutes: The minutes from the June 6, 2016 meeting were approved with changes made.

Chair and Vice Chair Nominations/election: Dan W. was nominated for Chairman and Al G. was nominated for Vice Chairman. No other nominations were brought to the floor. Jerry S. moved to accept the nominated members for the positions. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Consideration of Applicant, Larry Drake, for open position on LOCFC: Stacy S. suggested advertising the open position on the LOCFC to concur with the bylaws. Rick S. stated it was required by Office of Council to advertise all vacancies. Mike D. asked where the advertisements are announced. Rick stated in the Democrat Gazette, Sentinel Record, and Montgomery County News is usually where the vacancies are advertised. They must be advertised in a new outlet that has at least 50,000 circulation. Jerry S. stated it would be good to have an active pool of applicants to choose from as vacancies become available. Dan W. stated he would like to invite Larry Drake to attend a meeting since all meetings are open to the public.

Ouachita River Valley Association: Jerry S. moved to continue membership to ORVA, and use miscellaneous funds to cover the membership dues. Vote was taken and approved to continue membership for the committee to ORVA. Al G. stated he has the invoice and will pay the dues.

FOLO Update: Dan W. has not figured out how to put a “Donate” button on FOLO’s Facebook page, nor has he begun to work on a FOLO website, but he will try to work on it this month.

Al shared Ben Sanders sent an e-mail to Amy S. requesting Arkansas Striped Bass Association to partner with FOLO on the purchase of a courtesy dock for Brady Mountain Boat Ramp. Jerry S. stated a courtesy dock at Denby or Mountain Harbor would be much easier to maintain. Dan W. suggested adding courtesy dock purchase to the agenda as a project for this committee and informing the Arkansas Striped Bass Association if they would like to raise funds toward the purchase of the dock for Brady, it might speed up the process. Stacy shared the problem with the courtesy docks in place at Crystal and Tompkins is they need to have longer walkways to cut down on the manpower for moving the docks every time there is a high water event, and also possibly getting longer gin poles. Jerry S. stated the committee should spend some money to improve the existing docks before installing any additional docks. Bill B. suggested asking the dock manufacturer to recommend improvements in design. Jerry and Stacy will contact the dock manufacturer.

Jerry shared FOLO has been selling commercial ads to go on the LOViT trail maps.

Lake Ouachita Vista Trail (LOViT): Al G. shared the Texas Conservation Corps team has worked on the trail two times (10 days each time). They worked with the IMBA trail crew widening corridors from the spillway trail area to Crystal Springs. The Trail dogs will meet July 21st with Bruce Alt and Steve Schneider, IMBA, who were asking about the secret to success of the LOViT partnership. They asked how to form a coalition and replicate the Trail Dogs’ success throughout the nation.

Jerry shared he had met with Stacy S. regarding the trail crossing at Avery. Stacy shared the Corps borrowed a track hoe from Greeson and cleared/opened up the entire area. The Corps plans to paint over the existing crosswalk and paint an angular walkway with a guard rail on the north side of road. Al G. related the Forrest Service was planning a timber sale from Gap Creek to Joplin Road that will affect the first and second leg of the trail. The trail from Denby Bay to Homestead may have to be closed during the Timber removal. Jerry stated this is the third time they have cut canopy off the trail, and it may be time to sit down with Forrest Service personnel and discuss the damage done to the trail each time they cut timber. Jerry mentioned the proposed re-route on the trail section between Tompkins Bend and Joplin. Stacy stated a significant portion of this was on the Forest Service. Bill B. mentioned an e-mail he received about putting together a mountain bike ride event on the trail. Stacy stated he hadn’t heard anything about it. Jerry shared he received an e-mail from the Park Service requesting a blueprint of the trailhead signs. Jerry informed them the best thing to do was come out, measure the signs, and take pictures. George D. received a message from Steve Arrison that they are working with IMBA on constructing 10 new miles of trail. Jerry stated they would like to construct the trail to the State Park, but he doesn’t see how because there is too much private property.

New Bench Locations in Campgrounds: Stacy shared two benches had been installed at the Tompkins Bend day-use area, and the Corps has 6 benches in stock. The rest will be placed as time allows.

Corps of Engineers Report-USACE: Stacy shared the accident at Crystal Springs over the weekend will probably be classified as a drowning even though it was most likely health related. Stacy also shared the Operations and Management Contract had been extended for two months.

Way Forward Committee: No report

Project Progress Reports:

Demolishes Out of Date Facilities at Crystal Springs: Corps has plans to demolish these facilities in the fall of 2016.

Create an area campground map: Arnie H. was not present, however, Stacy S. passed out copies of the current campground maps.

Ventilation in comfort stations: Stacy related the installation of the first super fan in Denby Point was completed, and the Corps will begin work on installing a second one in Denby. Five super fans were ordered.

Campsite Revitalization Spreadsheet: Amy S. shared a note from Bill J. stating he would ask Vicki if she can determine if there is a problem with the spreadsheet, or if it is in the programming itself.

Donation Boxes: George D. installed these at Crystal and Brady fee booths today, and gave Rick S. and Dan W. a key to check these boxes periodically.

Fundraising events: Committee members were unable to attend the trash bash meeting.

Campground Survey: Stacy explained the difference in the visitor survey and suggestion/comment cards: The suggestion cards are unsolicited, whereas, the surveys are solicited, gain better results, but are under stricter mandates from the Corps. Stacy went on to say, the Corps has enough projects to accomplish this year without taking on any other "suggested" projects, and it might be feasible to wait until some of the projects are completed before conducting a survey. The corps will be working on updating electrical service in Joplin and working on a new wastewater treatment plant in Brady. The Corps will also convert some tent sites in Brady to pull through sites and relocate the water intake. Jerry S. moved to hold off on putting out any surveys until some of these projects were completed. Bill B. seconded motion, and it was unanimously approved.

General Discussion: Robert C. inquired how to sign up to receive the Caddo-Womble Ranger letters. He will check on this process.

Recreation Strategic Plan: There is no update to the recreation strategic plan by the Corps.

Crowdfunding: Dan will check on the use of "crowdfunding" websites by FOLO.

Boat Donations: CFC has decided not to sponsor a boat as a habitat boat, but if someone wants to donate a boat, then they could donate it to the Joplin VFD, and if donated to JVFD, it would be sold to support JVFD operations. LOCFC would turn down such a donation.

Jerry W. asked if the residents of the mobile home park have moved back to Brady. Stacy stated they are back in the park, and plans are for the Brady owners to install a wastewater treatment plant for the mobile home park residents.

Jerry S. shared his last chemo treatment is tomorrow, and his scans are cancer free!

Adjournment: Mike D. Moved and Bill B. seconded to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

DRAFT