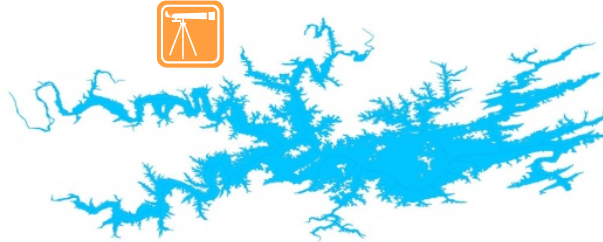


Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee



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

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: May 4, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m. by Rick Stokes, Chairman

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Rick Dwyer, Operations Project Manager, Lake Ouachita Project Office

Bill Jackson, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Amy Shultz, Park Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Phillip Carr	Al Gathright	Janice Vaughn
Robert Cavanaugh	Arnold Habig	Howard Wright
George Dooley	Jerry Shields	
Mike Drake	Rick Stokes	

Minutes: The minutes from the April 6 meeting were tabled until the June meeting.

Announcements: Rick S. introduced Tammi Spurlin as potential member of LOCFC to replace Mr. Larry Raney who had recently submitted his resignation due to meeting night conflicts with other commitments he had in the area.

Arnie H. made a motion to change the September 7, 2015 meeting date and reschedule the meeting for September 14, 2015. Arnie went on to explain that since the Labor Day Holiday falls on September 7, 2015, he suggested changing the meeting night for the month of September. A vote was taken among the members and the motion was unanimously approved.

Friends of Lake Ouachita (FOLO): Rick S. explained since the FOLO case has been turned over to Department of Justice (DOJ), he and Jerry S. have been in contact with the trial attorney, Ms. Alicia Hunt, regarding a resolution to the issue. Rick also informed Ms. Hunt that the problems FOLO has been having are not with the Corps officials at the local offices, but issues with those making decisions in Headquarters, Washington, D.C. Rick went on to say the FOLO Officers had presented seven potential resolution options to the Corps concerning the funds and expenditures as a result of the

Cooperative Management Agreement and he believes one of the options will be accepted by the Corps' management staff. Arnie H. asked Rick which option he believes the Corps will accept and Rick stated he believes they will accept the option where FOLO pays \$27,000.00, FOLO given credit for all materials purchased and then all materials will be transferred to Lake Ouachita Field Office.

Lake Ouachita Vista Trail (LOViT): Jerry S. related the Trail Dogs removed downed trees on Bear Mountain and have also utilized the new hedge/brush trimming equipment on Bear. Jerry further related advertising was sold for the LOViT maps, and all the marinas on Lake Ouachita have purchased advertising except Crystal Springs Resort and Marina. Legacy Printers will be printing the maps and they should be done Wednesday and ready to be distributed to the marinas and other sponsors. Jerry also shared; Ouachita Mountain Challengers donated \$500.00 to the Trail Dogs for the LOViT. Jerry requested assistance from the Corps of Engineers to reset the first boulder creek crossing at Crystal Springs with the Corps backhoe. Jerry also asked the Corps to look at the erosion problem and possibly add rip-rap on Gap Creek near the ADA/Watchable Wildlife Trail. Rick S. asked if the Dustin Thomason, Ouachita Area Biologist, could look at the fields near the ADA trail as a possible area to re-establish quail habitat. Rick also shared he saw an article on the "Economic Impact of Mountain Biking" and the Park Trail Advisory Committee is trying to get International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) to set up an office in Little Rock, Arkansas since 10% of the Epic Trails are in Arkansas. Jerry stated he was invited to provide a presentation at the IMBA Conference being held in Fayetteville, Arkansas later this year. Jerry went on to state that he had been contacted by individuals who are interested in connecting the LOViT Trail to Lake Ouachita State Park.

Congressional Information: Arnie H. shared the letter to Senator Boozman he had drafted requesting retention of Use Fees by non-profit organizations who have established partnerships with the Corps of Engineers, allowing them to be utilized in the operation and maintenance of the recreation areas. Arnie believes copies should be sent to Major General Michael C. Wehr, Commander, Mississippi Valley Division; Colonel John W. Cross, Commander, Vicksburg District; Senator Tom Cotton, and Representative Bruce Westerman. After further discussion, Jerry S. suggested sending the letter to all the Friends Groups who have been involved with the Corps and ask them to draft their own letter to send to their respective representatives. Motion was made to send out a letter to Major General Wehr, Colonel Cross, area representatives and other Friend Groups who were involved in Cooperative Joint Management Agreements. Vote was taken, and motion approved.

Avery Pond and Pier: Amy S. related the Corps had been working on installing the piers for the ADA fishing pier at Avery. Amy passed around pictures of the work in progress. Bill J. related the Lake Hamilton Fishing Team and some of the Lake Hamilton football players have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in construction of the pier decking with FOLO providing oversight.

Annual Cleanup: Amy S. shared LOCFC can pick a date in September timeframe near National Public Lands Day for a cleanup day. The Lake Hamilton Trash Bash is scheduled for October 3rd, so we need to pick a date other than October 3rd. Jerry S. believes a site-specific cleanup like VIP day held at Avery last year is more effective/beneficial than a large lake cleanup. Jerry moved to have an area-specific cleanup/work day, Phillip C. seconded and motion was unanimously approved. Bill J. and Amy S. will come up with a project list for areas to identify which area would benefit the most from a work day.

Update on Volunteer for Brady Booth: Bill J. related two new fee collectors were hired at Brady Mountain Campground for the 2015 Camping Season, William Shackelford and Mary Godwin have been long-time campers and had expressed an interest in working the fee booth and collect fees, so when the vacancy opened, they submitted their contract bid and were selected to fill the position. Bill J. also related the Corps had modified the contract of Tompkins Bend Campground in order for Patsy Sapp, Contract Fee Collector Tompkins Bend, by adding two additional working days. This will enable Ms. Sapp to cover the fee booth Thursday through Monday to register campers and collect camping fees. One of the Lake Ouachita Park Rangers will cover the remaining two days of the week to register campers and provide information.

Update on Visitation Issues: Bill J. shared he had been working on new traffic counter installation issues, and hopes to only have 4 to 5 traffic counters at Joplin Recreation Area and Mountain Harbor Resort. Bill J. provided a spreadsheet of 2006-2012 visitation numbers by area. The 2013 and 2014 estimates are based on past visitation estimates. Rick D. stated that with Park Ranger Derick Walker on the Recreation Leadership Advisory Team, hopefully he will find out some rules to help with counting visitation. Bill provided Rick S. with the visitation spreadsheets.

Way Forward Committee: Bill J. related to the committee that the members of the Way Forward Committee are trying to schedule a trip to visit area projects as the members personal schedules allow.

Status of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED): Phillip C. related that \$300.00 had been received in grants to purchase an AED and supplies. Phillip went on to say he, along with others, are seeking other grant opportunities.

Comments: Once the regular business had been completed, Rick S. requested Ms. Tammi Spurlin leave the meeting in order for the committee members to vote on accepting her application for membership. Upon Ms. Spurlin's departure, Robert C. moved to accept Ms. Spurlin as new member of LOCFC, he motion was seconded and the committee members voted unanimously to approve Ms. Spurlin's application to become a member of the LOCFC. Rick S. related he would Ms. Spurlin advise her that she had been selected to become a member of the committee.

Al G. related FOLO's Ouachita River Valley Association membership fees were due and inquired whether the committee wished to remain a member of the ORVA. Al went on to say that he would meet with members of the FOLO Board and determine whether to pay the \$50.00 membership fee.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.