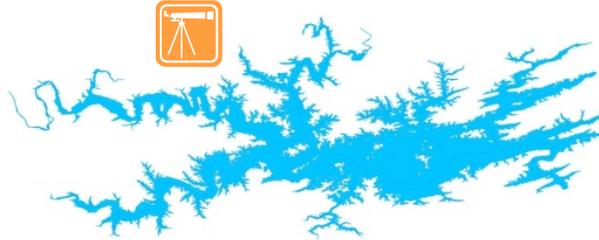


Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee



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

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: February 2, 2015

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Stacy Sigman, Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Bill Jackson, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Jason Mothershed, Facility Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Amy Shultz, Park Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

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

Announcements: Bill J. related the reason the meeting room was moved upstairs was to eliminate the bad acoustics (echo) in the large conference room, but it will be up to the committee which room they prefer.

Minutes: The minutes for the January 5, 2015 meeting were tabled until the March meeting.

Friends of Lake Ouachita (FOLO): Rick S. stated two meetings had been held in regards to the FOLO audit, the Corps has informed FOLO if they wish to donate the equipment, the Corps will accept the items, but the donation will not relieve FOLO of paying the \$152,000.00 owed to the Treasury as was found from the audit results. Rick continued in saying that after a discussion with Colonel John W. Cross, Commander, Vicksburg District and Mr. Johnny Kiser, Chief, Project Resources Management Branch, FOLO has prepared another letter addressing the results of the audit's findings and that the Corps could offset the money supposedly owed to the Treasury, with the \$189,000 worth of items FOLO purchased for the recreation areas during the established agreement. Rick further shared that the decision letter presented to the FOLO Board Members by Colonel Cross was from the Corps' Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C. and the letter FOLO sends back in reply must be sent forward

to the Headquarters Office in Washington for consideration and a decision. Arnie H. asked what would happen if FOLO could not pay the amount asked for by the Corps. Rick stated that Colonel Cross informed them the only alternative his office had would be to report the discrepancy to the Department of Justice. Rick shared that it is of his opinion that the likelihood of the Department of Justice pursuing a case against FOLO for failure to return the use fee funds are slim and remote. Arnie H. inquired if the Corps had approved FOLO spending the money in FOLO's bank account. Rick stated the Corps approved part, but not all the expenditures.

Robert C. inquired where the courtesy docks, pavilions, and playground equipment that had been purchased where being stored. Al G. stated he didn't know, he related Tom B. offered space at his equipment yard in Hot Springs to store the items if needed. Bill B. inquired if the delivery had been made to the lake. Al G. stated the carrier delivered the playground equipment to Tompkins Bend Recreation Area before permission had been granted to do so. Al continued in saying that the vendor had been asked to hold the playground equipment until a final decision and approval had been obtained from the Corps. Rick explained FOLO had submitted four transfer documents to the Corps to transfer the items, but each was denied by the Corps, with the Corps stating only donations can be accepted, not transfer of goods, materials and equipment. Rick asked Stacy S. if he could explain what the difference between a donation and a transfer actually meant, of which Stacy replied that it would be better if the definition could be provided by the Corps' attorney's versus his definition of the two items.

Rick said FOLO is currently waiting for a decision to be provided by the Corps' Headquarters Office on whether to accept the items listed in the transfer letter. Rick further stated he had informed Johnny Kiser that FOLO could go to Crystal Springs Recreation Area and remove all the playground equipment FOLO purchased, remove the ventilation fans from the comfort stations and remove the electrical wiring and materials from the ground that FOLO purchased if the Corps could not accept the FOLO donations. Rick continued in stating there is a feeling that FOLO has been abused and further violates an established contract between the Corps and FOLO, when FOLO has materials and supplies it is trying to donate, but yet, the Corps refuses to accept them. Rick informed the committee members that no further purchases had been made by FOLO. Arnie made a motion for FOLO to send a copy of the letter of reply to Major General Michael G. Wehr, Commander, Mississippi Valley Division, at the same time sending a copy of the letter to Colonel Cross. The motion was seconded and a vote was taken with the committee members unanimously approving to send a copy of the letter to General Wehr, but the primary letter of reply would be sent to Colonel Cross.

Subcommittee Progress Reports:

LOViT Update:

Robert C. passed around a new tear-off map of the LOViT, and shared his appreciation of Park Ranger Mike Wade his assistance in developing the map for the public to use. Robert continued in saying that Dan W. had been the one to work with Legacy Printers to have the maps produced and at cost of \$.17 each per 1,000 maps ordered.

Stacy S. inquired if the proposed spur to connect the LOViT with the Spillway Recreation Area had been marked. Jerry S. stated they would re-flag the section that had been proposed. Phil C. related he had been in contact with a company that could print the LOViT Trail Map on a handkerchief for trail

users to purchase. Rick inquired about the possibility of selling the glossy folding maps of the LOViT. Jerry stated the folding maps usually cost approximately \$2.00 each to produce, and they tear after little use. Robert also shared that visitor's can also go to the LOViT website and print off maps of the trail. Jerry asked Phillip and Bill B. if they would be willing to sell the maps at their concessions. Both stated they would be glad to sell them. Jerry related the Trail Dogs were planning to install four additional memorial benches along the trip, with one of them in memorial for Mr. Jeff Smith, Reporter with The Sentinel Record newspaper and a strong supporter of the LOViT and the Trail Dogs' efforts on the trail. Mr. Smith died as a result of a vehicle accident in 2014. Jerry continued in saying that they had planned to have a memorial service for Mr. Smith after the bench has been installed near Brady Mountain Road. Stacy asked Jerry if he could pass along the GPS coordinates of the newly installed benches so they could be added to the overall LOViT reference map.

Way-Forward Committee Projects:

Dan W. related that the Way-Forward Committee members had met with Bill J. and Stacy S. before tonight's meeting and Bill J. had encouraged the committee members to only focus on the things that were possible and within the committee's capability to accomplish. As an example, attempting to obtain approval to raise lake's water elevation level would not an item easily approved and would required a great deal more work that could be accomplished at the local level. Dan stated he would revise the initial project list and then send the updated list out to the LOCFC members for their review and possibly select items they would want to pursue. Bill B. inquired if the committee had identified 2 or 3 priority projects that could be easily attained in a short amount of time. Dan stated the committee members had selected a few top projects, such as attaining more automated external defibrillators (AED's) that could be stationed in each of the fee booths in the campgrounds, establishment of a project wide recycling program, install additional ventilation fans for the comfort stations and development of using non-potable water for flushing toilets in the recreation areas.

Bill B. stated he thought AED's could be purchased for approximately \$800.00 each. Bill B. further shared the Arkansas Department of Health may have grants to allow organizations to purchase AED's to be used out in the field. Bill J. expressed the Corps' appreciation in the fact that the committee member's willingness to seek out opportunities to make improvements for the visitors that can be approved at the local level. Bill J. further stated that sending a member to a grant writing workshop to learn about writing grants could be beneficial for the committee as well. Robert C. stated he would be attending the Department of Transportation's Grant Writing training coming up soon, but this training dealt more with applying for grants related to trail construction and maintenance. Jerry S. stated most grants require a 501 (3) c tax exempt number in order to apply for the grant. Jerry further related the committee may want to contact insurance companies such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield who may have a way of purchasing AED's at a reduced rate. Phil C. volunteered to investigate some ways to possibly obtain AED's for the lake's staff to use. Bill B. recommended obtaining 11 or 12 AED's for the lake, this would allow an AED in each fee booth, RBS Contractor's Office, each patrolling Park Ranger and one for the boat patrol while out on the water. Bill B. went on to say that it had been his experience that the AED batteries require to be replaced about every 3 years and cost approximately \$200.00 each. The routine replacement required is the pads used with the AED's; they must be replaced more often to ensure they will stick to the individual requiring the shock from the AED.

Rick asked what all is involved with a proposed recycling program. Bill J. related that the project had tried to get a regular recycling program going again now that there are more convenient locations to take the items to be recycled, but the program is still struggling some, but in purchasing or acquiring various types of bins used to capture the recycle items, may help move the program forward.

Comments:

Arnie H. recommended disbanding the LOCFC and revert all former LOCFC members as FOLO members instead. No further action was taken on Arnie's recommendation. George D. asked if any other organizations that had set up a Cooperative Joint Management Agreement with the Corps had given their funds back to the U.S. Treasury. Bill J. related that FOLO was the only organization that he was aware of that had retained the use fee funds, that all other organizations had returned what funds they had collected and the CJM between Our Lands and Waters and Southwest Division (SWD) was still under review. The issue being that during the SWD CJM, Our Lands and Waters had purchased equipment, boats and as indicated in their agreement, educational placards for buses and area signs.

Bill J. expressed appreciation to Bill B. and Mountain Harbor Resort for their assistance in helping the Corps make the Joplin Wastewater Treatment Plant's electrical access panels much more accessible by constructing an elevated walkway to the panels, allowing the operators to access the panels during high water periods and keep the plant operational.

Bill J. also related Mr. Tom Jones, Marine Sanitation Program, Arkansas Department of Health, had contacted him about Shangri-La Resort being approved to receive a new pumper boat for 2015 and an agreement had been reached that they would also take responsibility of the operation and maintenance of the new marine pump out station located in the Tompkins Bend Recreation Area. Bill J. continued in saying that Mr. Jones was looking for grant funding to provide assistance with the maintenance of the marine pump-out at Crystal Springs and Brady Mountain as well.

Jerry S. related that he has been really impressed with the volunteer program at Lake Ouachita and having volunteer campground hosts in each of the recreation areas, even during the winter months, has been beneficial. Jerry went on to say that with the volunteer campground hosts, the campgrounds remain clean, maintained, and vandalism in those areas has been reduced. Jerry just wanted to express his appreciation for their outstanding work.

FOLO Financial Report:

Month	November 30, 2014	December 31, 2014	January 31, 2015
Cash-Trail Account	\$4,098.00	No Report Available	No Report Available
Cash – Miscellaneous	\$461.00		
Cash-Crystal Springs	\$155,889.00		
Cash-Tompkins Bend	(\$20,443.00)		
Total Assets:	\$140,005.00		

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.