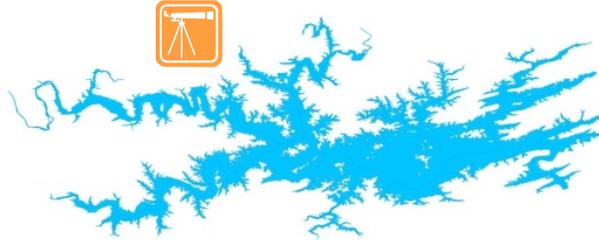


Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee



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

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: August 4, 2014

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Brenda Meeks, Operations Project Manager, Ouachita Project Management Office

Bill Jackson, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Amy Shultz, Park Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Tom Butler	Mike Drake	Rick Stokes	Jerry Williams
Robert Cavanaugh	Arnold Habig	Janice Vaughn	
George Dooley	Larry Raney	Dan Watson	

Opening Remarks: Rick S. related the Mississippi Valley River Commission (MRC) meeting was August 19, 2014 and Ouachita River Valley Association (ORVA) was August 26, 2014. Arnie H. asked if the committee would like to send anyone to the MRC or ORVA meetings. Arnie went on to say that he felt a member of the LOCFC should attend the ORVA meeting to represent the committee. After some discussion, Tom B. made a motion to send Arnie to the ORVA meeting and FOLO to fund the \$250.00 registration fee for the meeting. The committee members voted and the motion passed.

Minutes in Review: The minutes from the July 7, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

Friends of Lake Ouachita (FOLO): Rick S. stated he had contacted Mr. George Sullivan, Vicksburg District, Internal Review Office, who has been working on the audit for the funds collected by the Friends of Lake Ouachita (FOLO) during the timeframe the Cooperative Agreement (CA) was established with the Lake Ouachita Field Office to co-manage Crystal Springs and Tompkins Bend Recreation Areas. Rick went on to say that the final report had been sent on to Corps' Headquarters Office in Washington D.C. and it would early September before FOLO will know the final amount of the use fees collected that must be returned to the Treasury. Rick further related that Mr. Sullivan was aware that FOLO was utilizing some of the funds to continue paying current obligations concerning the established CA with the Corps and the Lake Ouachita Field Office.

LOViT: Robert C. stated Jerry S. had been in contact with the Governor's office regarding a ribbon cutting ceremony on the LOViT at Avery Recreation Area in October, but a date is yet to be determined. Robert continued in relating that the Corps has agreed to install an informational kiosk at the LOViT access point in the Avery Recreation Area. Robert also shared that he had been contacted by some individuals who related they could not locate the trail route from the Brady Mountain Road Trailhead. Robert continued in stating that some directional signs needed to be installed at this location to identify the trail's route from the trailhead. Robert also requested the trail crossings on roadways be marked with yellow stripes and a few large rocks added to the entrance at Avery. Robert went on to say that due to the recent storms in the area, a number of trees had fallen across the trail and he, along with several other volunteers had been out clearing the trees from the trail's pathway.

Robert provided an update on the number of benches that had been installed along the trail, all 38 benches installed have sponsors. There are still four benches in storage and if there are others who wish to sponsor a bench, more benches will be purchased. Those who wish to sponsor a bench are asked to donate \$500.00 for each bench. The donation is recognized with a really nice plaque that is installed on the bench. A memorial bench will be installed on Bear Mountain in remembrance of Ms. Laura Wooldridge, an avid mountain biker, who recently died from injuries sustained while mountain biking in a race near Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

Campgrounds: Bill shared due to unseasonable cool temperatures, the campgrounds have been staying full during the weekends. On July 23, 2014, a strong storm passed through the area with high winds causing damage at Little Fir Landing, Little Fir, Big Fir, Denby Point, Tompkins Bend, and Joplin Recreation Areas. On July 24, 2014, KTHV, Channel 11, a Little Rock news station, sent a crew to the Big Fir Recreation Area to talk with a couple who were camping in the area when the storm passed through the night before, blowing down trees across the roadway, blocking their path to exit the area. In the news report, the couple stated they were trapped in the area for two days, when actually, Lake Ouachita Field Office and RBS personnel were attempting to remove the trees from the roadway, but had to stop due to power lines being entangled within the debris. Due to the electrical power being out in the Little Fir Recreation Area, the drinking water storage tank was drained before the restrooms could be locked up. Once the power was restored by ENTERGY, the Arkansas Department of Health required a boil order be placed on all water to be consumed. Once the water tests returned within the acceptable range, the boil order was lifted and all services were restored in the area.

On August 1-3, 2014, a number issues arose in a couple of the campgrounds, the backwash filter at Tompkins Bend wastewater treatment plant malfunctioned causing the holding tank to fill, almost to full capacity. Due to the malfunction, the comfort stations in Tompkins Bend were closed until repairs could be made to the plant. One of the lift station's pumps malfunctioned at Brady Mountain Campground, the Lake Ouachita Field Office O&M staff responded and made the necessary repairs to the pump. During the early morning hours of August 2, 2014, a fuse on the electric line providing service to the Brady Mountain Campground blew, disrupting electrical service to the campground. Due to fact that the service was interrupted in the early hours, Lake Ouachita Field Office O&M staff was dispatched to Brady at daylight Saturday morning to make the necessary repairs. On Saturday afternoon, August 2, 2014, a sewage line at Joplin near the swimming area became stopped up and began overflowing through the manhole. The comfort station was closed and port-a-johns placed in the area.

Arnie expressed his concern that the parking rules for the campground were no longer listed on the back of the campground maps. Bill J. replied that the parking restrictions had been removed from the campground maps due to the fact that the enforcement of the “two tire” rule was not enforced by the Rangers patrolling. Bill J. went on to explain that due to the fact that parking is an issue in the campgrounds, Rangers are asked to use good discretion in the enforcement of parking, especially when the campground is full. Arnie also expressed his concern with drivers driving the wrong way at Brady Mountain Campground, even with the one-way sign in place, visitors are still ignoring the sign and something needs to be done to remedy this issue. Bill J. stated we do address the visitors who violate the one-way, but it is at the ranger’s discretion whether to give a warning or issue a citation.

Way Forward Brainstorming Committee: Dan W. shared that Arnie H. and George D. had been working on getting WIFI information for the campgrounds. Arnie shared they were gathering information from Bill B. who uses “Aristotle” for their service provider at Mountain Harbor Resort and Phillip C. who has not been able to get in contact with his provider. Arnie stated he had been talking with “Wireless Etc.” and feels the committee needs to meet with representatives from “Wireless Etc.” to learn about the wireless options for the recreation areas. Arnie further shared they would like to get cost estimate from several companies and then start brainstorming how to get funds to provide the WIFI service. George D. stated “Aristotle” will kick you offline if there are too many users. Bill J. stated that creating a hot spot near the fee booth might be the easiest route. The park attendants in Tompkins Bend already are using “SuddenLink” for their WIFI service and all we would have to do is contact sudden link and set up a hot spot. Bill J. stated that the Corps has received requests to install two new cell phone towers around Lake Ouachita, one at Brady Mountain and the other at Mountain Harbor Resort area. Arnie requested to hold a meeting with the WIFI provider in the conference room at the Lake Ouachita Field Office and Bill J. to attend the meeting. Bill stated that wouldn’t be a problem, just let him know the date for the meeting.

George D. would like to promote Middle Arkansas Water Association’s (MAWA) request for 20 million gallons of water to be withdrawn from Lake Ouachita. He inquired when the study on the dam was scheduled to be completed. Brenda M. stated she believed it would be completed in October, but that the Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC) rating on the dam is not likely to change and raising the flood pool probably will not happen.

FOLO Financial Report:

Month	May 31, 2014	June 30, 2014	July 31, 2014
Cash-Trail Account	(\$40,598.00)	\$2,204.00	\$2,304.00
Cash – Miscellaneous	\$461.00	\$461.00	\$461.00
Cash-Crystal Springs	\$156,464.00	\$156,389.00	\$156,314
Cash-Tompkins Bend	\$56,900.00	\$56,825.00	\$56,750
Total Assets:	\$173,227.00	\$215,879.00	\$215,829.00

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.