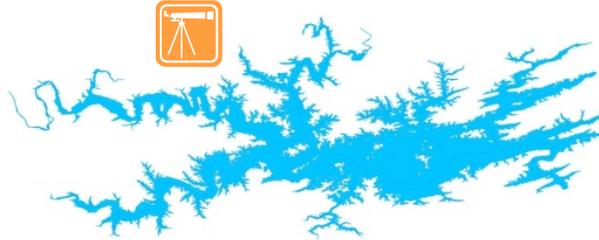


Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee



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

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: September 8, 2014

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Brenda Meeks, Operations Project Manager, Ouachita Project Management Office
Stacy Sigman, Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Bill Jackson, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Amy Shultz, Park Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Bill Barnes	Mike Drake	Rick Stokes
Robert Cavanaugh	Al Gathright	Dan Watson
George Dooley	Arnold Habig	Howard Wright

Opening Remarks: Bill J. informed the committee members that it has been decided the committee members will be reimbursed once a year for their mileage to attend the LOCFC meetings. Bill J. went on to say that all members are highly encouraged to enroll for direct deposit for their reimbursement which will expedite their payments being deposited into their bank accounts.

Minutes in Review: The minutes from the August 4, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

Friends of Lake Ouachita (FOLO):

Rick S. related he sent an email to Mr. George Sullivan, Vicksburg District, Internal Review Office, regarding status of the audit. Mr. Sullivan replied by stating he still has not received any results or updates from Headquarters concerning the fees collected by FOLO. Mr. Sullivan went on to say that he is hopeful that a decision will be made by the end of September or first of October. Bill B. asked if all the money was still in the FOLO accounts. Rick stated most of it was in the account, except for \$150.00 fee paid monthly to *Shelton, Harvey & Garner*, Certified Public Accountants, who maintains FOLO's accounts and the \$800.00 that was used to pay taxes owed by FOLO. Arnie H. asked if there was a possibility that FOLO could request the accountant agency to reduce their fees, in light of the reduced transactions taking place with the dormant account. Rick said he was hesitant to ask them to lower the

fee, because they were providing a valuable service, but as soon as the audit was complete and if the funds are required to be returned to the treasury, there would be no need to maintain the services of the accountant's services.

Lake Ouachita Visita Trail (LOViT):

Robert C. shared that he along, with Al G., Dan W., and Bill B., had cut two trees along the trail at the Avery Recreation Area. Al G. shared a local Eagle Scout has proposed constructing a foot/bike bridge along the second leg of the trail as his Eagle Scout project, with a completion date in October. Al further shared the target date for the ribbon cutting ceremony and trail dedication will be October 29, 2014. Al continued in saying that Jerry S. has not received a confirmation response from Governor Beebe's office on whether he will be attending the ceremony or not. Robert stated the signs the Corps installed at Avery trailhead looked good, and asked if the large rocks would be put in place at entrance. Stacy S. stated the Corps will be placing large rocks at several trailheads including Avery. Bill J. stated Daryl and Donna Hill, of the Diamond Lakes Master Naturalists (DLAMN), came by the office concerning use of the Lake Ouachita Field Office' Conference Room and related the DLAMN had agreed to adopt the section of the LOViT trail from Brady Mountain Road to Avery to maintain the trail and keep it clean. Bill J. went on to related that Mrs. Hill stated she had discussed adopting another section of the trail with one of the hiking groups from the Hot Springs Village area and this group may adopt the section from Brady Mountain Road to Crystal Springs, one of the most rugged portions of the LOViT. Bill J. stated the Corps would sign the DLAMN up under the Corps' Volunteer Program since the first section of trail is primarily on Corps lands and we would track their volunteer hours. Bill B. asked if there would be any conflict between the Trail Dogs and volunteer groups adopting the trail. Bill J. explained the volunteers are just helping the Trail Dogs maintain the trail, in which Robert stated the Trail Dogs welcome all the volunteer groups that can be recruited to help maintain the trail. Robert stated he had placed a new memorial plaque on one of the benches on top of Bear Mountain in honor of Ms. Laura Wooldridge, an avid mountain biker, who recently died from injuries sustained during a mountain bike race near Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Robert said they would be installing another plaque on the trail between Shangri La and Mountain Harbor tomorrow.

Campgrounds:

Stacy S. shared the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) meeting scheduled for September 16-18, 2014, would only be comprised of a small representation of the Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) and the goal of this group would be to develop a memorandum to establish the guidelines in interpreting what WRDA has authorized the Corps to do under the new authorization. Bill J. stated that in a conversation with Ms. Heather Burke, Program Manager, Corps of Engineers, Partnership Programs, she does not expect to receive anything until next spring on interpretation of what the WRDA bill actually allows the Corps to do under the new authorizations. Bill J. went on to explain that under the Corps' new accounting process for tracking the hours volunteers work on Corps projects, Headquarters will be looking into the cost/benefit ratio of having volunteers perform various tasks on the projects. Bill J. continued in stating that the projects have always benefited from having volunteers working at the projects and now, Headquarters is interested in capturing the amount of benefits gained at these projects. Bill B. asked if there was any danger of the budget being cut because of the cost benefit of volunteers. Bill J. stated he did not foresee this happening, that those projects that are able to use their funding wisely, would benefit from the numbers captured by the cost/benefit ratio savings for work

being performed by volunteers. Rick S. brought up the fact of the high cost/benefit ratio of having the Cooperative Agreement (CA) with FOLO. Stacy, who is the Mississippi River Valley Division Representative on the PAC, asked Rick to email him any suggestions or concerns he wished to be presented to the PAC for consideration in developing the Corps' new partnership programs.

Way Forward Brainstorming Committee:

Dan W. shared that the Way Forward Committee was having trouble setting up a meeting with a representative who can provide WIFI service and access in the campgrounds.

Dan continued in relating he had been in contact with several construction companies who can construct courtesy docks. Larry Diggs Construction of Hot Springs; Buzzy Williamson, Marine Development; Maricorp; West Marine; Home Depot; Rolling Barge; and Lakeland. The cost to construct the various types of courtesy docks range in price of \$11,000-\$30,000 for each dock.

Dan shared he was informed Galvanized steel and encapsulated Styrofoam was the best material. Dan also shared an interesting dock idea from a company called Rolling Barge of using 4 feet by 4 feet sections of decking floated by recycled plastic drums. Bill B. stated the drums are durable and attractive if used correctly. Stacy S. requested pictures of this design. Arnie H. asked who furnished the courtesy dock at Brady. Stacy shared the Corps furnished this dock, but it takes a lot of manpower since the lake fluctuates and the dock continually has to be moved. George D. shared he believed Lakeland was a company worth checking into for construction.

Arnie asked about cell towers that had been reported would be installed around the lake. Bill J. related the Corps had received and approved two cell towers to be constructed around the lake on Corps property, one would be within the Mountain Harbor Resort's commercial lease area and the other would be near Brady Mountain Resort. Bill B. stated having a tower at Mountain Harbor will enhance all cell phones in the area and improve safety.

Ouachita River Valley Association (ORVA):

Arnie H. shared that Mr. David Watkins, Hot Springs City Manager, had proposed to hold the next ORVA meeting in Hot Springs. Arnie further shared that Mr. Bill Hobgood will be going to Washington D.C. to lobby for funds for the locks, dams and recreation within the Ouachita River Valley Basin. Arnie went on to say that Colonel John Cross, District Engineer, Vicksburg District and Ms. Pat Hemphill, Deputy for Programs and Project Management, Vicksburg District, shared during the ORVA meeting that there has been a 31% decrease in the Vicksburg District's budget over the past several years and believes this trend will continue. Colonel Cross was not optimistic about being able to retain the use fees collected by FOLO at the project. Arnie continued, Major General Michael Wehr, former District Engineer, Vicksburg District, had been named the new Division Commander for the Mississippi Valley Division. Arnie went on to state that MG Wehr would try to visit Lake Ouachita soon. Arnie stated it was an interesting meeting and he hopes it is held in Hot Springs next year. Arnie also said Bill Hobgood requested an article from LOCFC for the fall newsletter and the article is due September 30, 2014. Rick S. stated he would draft an article and send it to committee members for input within the next two weeks. Bill B. suggested mentioning the Forrest L. Wood (FLW) Bass Tournament that is scheduled to be held on Lake Ouachita in 2015. Arnie suggested adding something about FOLO's enhancements of the campgrounds and how this has enhanced visitation.

Comments:

Rick S. made a motion to consider changing the schedule of the LOCFC meetings from monthly meetings to meeting bi-monthly or quarterly. After some discussion amongst the committee members, Rick stated he would send the proposal to all the committee members, allowing for further review of the motion and consideration, to obtain feedback and asked the committee members to email Stacy S. their vote on the proposed motion. If a majority of the committee members voted for the proposal, the proposal would be placed before the committee members at the next meeting to be voted upon and implement the change in the meetings to bi-monthly or quarterly. Rick continued in stating that if the proposal did receive a majority vote, the LOCFC Bylaws would need to be modified and updated. Robert C. suggested having two ballots: One to decide if the members want to meet less frequently, and one to decide whether they would like to meet bi-monthly or quarterly. Rick said there would definitely be meetings held in October and November.

FOLO Financial Report:

Month	June 30, 2014	July 31, 2014	August 31, 2014
Cash-Trail Account	\$2,204.00	\$2,304.00	\$2,804.00
Cash – Miscellaneous	\$461.00	\$461.00	\$461.00
Cash-Crystal Springs	\$156,389.00	\$156,314	\$156,239.00
Cash-Tompkins Bend	\$56,825.00	\$56,750	\$56,675.00
Total Assets:	\$215,879.00	\$215,829.00	\$216,179.00

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