

Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee



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

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: April 2, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m. by Jerry Shields, Chairman

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Stacy Sigman, Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Derick Walker, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Bill Barnes	Al Gathright	Jo West Taylor
Robert Cavanaugh	Jerry Shields	Dan Watson
George Dooley	John Simpson	Jerry Williams
Bruce Engstrom	Rick Stokes	

Review of Minutes: The March 5, 2018 minutes were approved as written.

Arnie Habig Service Award: Stacy shared the Corps sent a letter to the Corps Foundation requesting a volunteer coin for public service and has also submitted a request for the Commander's Award for Public Service. He is pretty sure Arnie will receive these awards in addition to a letter of appreciation. Jerry S. asked if the committee would like to do anything for Arnie. After some discussion, it was decided that Jerry would contact All Star Awards and find out if they can do a water-jet cut of the Lake to present to Arnie.

Grab-A-Bag: Jerry shared Tom's question asking if all the areas now had the canisters installed and if there has been any issues with getting them refilled, as he has found several empty. Derick shared the Corps has been receiving texts from visitors when they find one empty, and the Corps has replaced those bags. Derick further shared when last checked, Echo Canyon, North Shores, Lake Ouachita Shores, and

Hwy. 27 fishing village had not installed the canisters. Bill B. stated he had contacted Tad at Echo Canyon, and he has not seen the canister, but is looking for it to install.

Derick shared Joe Bailey delivered the canisters to the Marinas and installed them at Corps ramps. He will ask Joe where they were delivered at the Marinas.

Ebone Point Cleanup: Bruce E. shared his group started meeting at Ebone Point 34 years ago, and one of the members of this group would like to hire a Boy Scout troop to clean Ebone before their group arrives in May. Stacy stated he would ask the rangers to take a look at Ebone to see how much maintenance is needed and if it is going to be unsafe for the boy scouts, the Corps will have to do the maintenance.

Bruce stated Mr. Cantrell was going to contact Amy S. to coordinate a scout group to do this work. Amy will let Mr. Cantrell know that we will get back with him after the Corps has looked at Ebone.

USACE Operational Review:

Stacy shared the good news –the Joplin bridge passed all federal and state weight regulations, so there are no weight restrictions on the bridge. Also, Ouachita will be getting 15K back from Engineering. The cost was not as much as was anticipated. Stacy further shared he had spoken with the forester this morning and they will schedule a timber sale in Joplin this winter to get ready for renovations to begin winter 2019/2020.

Wildflower project for ADA trail loop: Jerry asked about getting wildflowers planted at the ADA trail. Stacy shared Joe B. would try to disc the area for planting soon.

After discussion on types of wildflowers that should be planted, Rick S. suggested cannabis, thereby enhancing recreation opportunities for persons of all ages and abilities.

George D. related Game and Fish has wild flower seed bags.

Refurbishing of tent sites in recreation areas: Jerry asked about refurbishing some additional tent sites into electric sites. Stacy asked him to identify a few sites, and the Corps would try to update them.

Jerry suggested the tent sites in area 1 at Denby.

Jerry also suggested creating an ADA campsite near the fishing pier at Twin Creek. Stacy stated he will check into it, but the Corps has to be careful about digging any in the Twin Creek area.

Status of Grants: Jerry shared they have spent \$3100 of the \$6540 grant received from the Game and Fish Commission on lumber and fasteners and will begin working next Wednesday. Al stated they have been unable to work in March due to the flooding. They have nine volunteers on Wednesday and 13 on Thursday who have agreed to help. Stacy stated the work they have done so far is unbelievable and thanked them for their volunteer service. Jerry estimated they had about three work days remaining before the boardwalk was completed.

Jerry further shared they had received \$1,000 grant for a bike repair station. They would like to place one of these stations near the Tompkins Bend Day Use area and one near the church arbor at Crystal Springs. Each station costs approx... \$1800-\$1900. Jerry shared a picture of what the stations look like.

Hickory Nut Mountain Vista Paving Project: Bruce E. asked some questions about the project and was concerned it would endanger the motorized trail.

Jerry shared some history on the project: about three years ago, they had met with the Montgomery County judge and the Highway Department about paving US 50 going to the vista. They met with Mr. Flowers, the highway commissioner in Little Rock and the Hwy. Department conducted an engineering study and came back with an estimate of \$800K to complete the project, and the road would have to be transferred to the county and maintained by the county. Bill B. shared a state law has been passed that allows riding ATV's 3-4 miles on government property to get to and from their destination. Bruce requested that if the road were to be turned over to the county, he would like it transferred with a letter stating it would be kept as a motorized trail. Jerry stated they needed to form a sub-committee to talk with the Forest Service and Montgomery County judge and find out if this is feasible. Jerry shared if the vista road was in better shape, it would attract more visitation and this would cut down on the vandalism...if more of the general public visits, the vandals will be afraid of being seen. Bruce, Jerry, Rick, and Bill volunteered to serve on the sub-committee. Bruce shared that if they received the grant, 20% must be paid up front, but donation of the Forest Service Road to the county would count as the 20%. Jerry shared at one time the parking lot at the vista was paved and had a bathroom.

Trails Report: Al G. shared the Trail Dogs were doing re-con on the trail and had cut 8 trees off the trail. They also were evaluating erosion issues, and identifying areas needing attention. Al shared Mike Curran and John Nickels had straightened one of the large rocks in the second boulder crossing at Crystal Springs with crow bars.

They are also doing a lot of trimming on the LOViT. Al shared the Forest Service provided a Katanaboy fold –up saw for cutting and trimming.

Trailhead sign replacement: Jerry asked the Forest Service to look into replacing all the trailhead signs or giving them the files to have them replaced. Stacy stated he believes the Corps has the files. Jerry shared Legacy Printers has UV resistant signs.

FOLO Financial Update:

Jerry stated there has not been any transactions in March.

Trail Account: \$14,512 (not sure about some of these figures)

Recreation Account: \$63,400

Grab-a-Bag account: \$500

Total: \$ 78,412

New Business: Jerry asked the members to think of people who would be contributing members of the LOCFC. Stacy will advertise in the newspapers for new members.

Jerry shared there will not be a meeting held in July due to the holiday. He further shared, Robert C. will conduct the May meeting, as Jerry will not be at the meeting in May.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 7:05 P.M.