

# Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee



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

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:** Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

**DATE:** February 6, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 p.m. by Dan Watson, 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	George Dooley	Janice Vaughn
Tom Butler	Al Gathright	Dan Watson
Phillip Carr	Jerry Shields	
Robert Cavanaugh	Rick Stokes	

**Announcements:**

Stacy S. introduced Supervisory Ranger, Derick W. to the committee.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 were approved as written.

**FOLO Update:** Al G. shared the dog sanitation “Petway” station was installed at the ADA trail, but he doesn’t know if it is getting a lot of use yet. Use will most likely pick up during recreation season.

**-Status of 6K discrepancy:** Al shared the discrepancy was a mistake in recording...the money was logged incorrectly.

-Jerry S. provided the FOLO Financial Update: \$13,124 in the Trail Account, (-\$89) in the Miscellaneous account, and \$64,177 in the Recreation Area Improvements account for a total of \$77,212  
Jerry further related they had several expenditures since the last provided update including checks purchase, bench plaque purchases, website renewal for FOLO and the LOViT Trail, and accountant expense.

-Jerry inquired about the possibility of purchasing a courtesy dock for the Denby boat ramp. Stacy S. stated he would ask Pam Herrin to talk to the marina owners and see if they would like a courtesy dock at the ramp, and also see if they would be willing to help with the maintenance of moving the dock as the water level fluctuates. Rick S. asked about the possibility of attaching the courtesy dock to the existing marina dock. George D. inquired where they had obtained bids for purchase of the dock. Jerry related Super Duty and Diggs, with Super Duty being the best source. The cost for purchase of the dock is \$21,000-\$22,000.

**LOViT Update:** George D. stated he met with Steve Arrison and Steve will be providing a printout of where the projected trail will be located. George will have another meeting with him in a few weeks. Jerry S. stated there had been discussion about extending the LOViT to the State Park, and most of this would be on Forest Service land.

-Al G. shared the annual Trail dog meeting with the Forest Service will be held February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 A.M., and he will try to find out information on the Gap Creek Project. Jerry stated the purpose of the meeting is to make sure the Forest Service is still committed to the trail. Jerry shared they are trying to obtain a grant from the Walton Family Foundation for additional directional signage for the trail. The signs will be brown 12X12 metal arrow signs. Jerry also mentioned they would like to mark the trail with either reflective blazes or reflective strips attached to trees, and he is looking into a Walton Family Foundation grant to purchase the reflective strips. They are also looking at purchasing and installing three interpretive signs to be placed at Hickory Nut Mountain and Homestead Trail. Al related a crew from IMBA will be coming to work on corridor clearing on the trail, but he hasn't received a schedule of when they will arrive. He also related the Trail Dogs have a list of projects they are working on, and as weather allows, they go out and work on the trail. One of the projects is to add wire to a few bridges because they are currently too slick. Tom B. asked Jerry to send him the specs on the signs.

**Corps of Engineers Report:** Stacy shared that he had put in a new work barge request in September 2015 for the 2016 budget. The Corps received the boat a week ago. Stacy passed around pictures of the new boat and shared it can haul 15-20 anchors and buoys at a time. It has a Garmin unit on it for Brush pile and buoy marking/location, and can run 50 mph. The last work barge was purchased in 1996. Stacy also shared the NRM personnel have been continually working on installing island markers. Tom B. asked if FOLO members could volunteer to help put out brush piles. Stacy stated they are more than welcome to assist.

-Stacy shared every site in Denby and all but area 4 in Tompkins Bend has had dirt work around the sites and picnic tables to level them and reduce tripping hazards.

-Stacy further shared the old treatment plant at Crystal Springs has been demolished and plans are to relocate the three tent sites that are outside the campground into the campground. One of these sites may be constructed where the treatment plant was removed.

-1300 yards of fill material have been installed in Area 1 at Brady where 16 sites are being re-worked. For this reason, Brady area 1 will not open March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Stacy passed around photos of the work being done at Denby, Tompkins, and Brady.

-The Corps has installed sewer to the volunteer site at Brady and at Tompkins Bend.

Jerry S. asked why there weren't any volunteers at Denby. Stacy replied that since Denby was closed, it was a management decision not to have volunteers in any of the closed areas.

-Stacy relayed a new wastewater treatment plant for Brady Mountain will be delivered in February, but it will not be installed until next year.

-Dead trees are continually being cut in the areas, RBS has ground 40 stumps in Little Fir today, with more to do. Plans are to purchase approximately 40 (5'-8') trees to replace the ones that were dead and cut down. Trees to be purchased are: Saw tooth Oak, Nuttall, Shumard oak, and Willow Oaks.

-Stacy shared Eric Jenkins at Lake Greeson is working on specs to purchase a full size dump truck to be utilized between the three lakes, which will help with moving large amounts of sand and fill material. This would be leased through GSA, as every vehicle but a tilt bed must be a GSA leased vehicle.

-Dan asked Stacy if he had heard anything regarding the mid Arkansas Water Alliance. Stacy stated he did not have any new information, but stated if the water was allocated, it would be out of the power pool and would have NO IMPACT on recreation. He reiterated it had not been signed off on (final approval) yet. Tom asked where the money paid by MAWA would go. Rick S. stated it would go to Southwest Power Pool. Rick explained to the committee the water allocation storage.

-Stacy shared Joe Bailey, Natural Resource Specialist, has a friend he has been working with on the squirrel hunts that has volunteered to construct a large fire ring/pit for the Tompkins Bend pavilion area.

-Stacy shared he had put together a book with information on where to apply for grants. Stacy will scan the book and send it out to the committee members.

-Janice asked if any additional benches had been ordered. Stacy replied, no, but will try to get more as additional money becomes available. Stacy shared they have replaced 30 plus grills and 20 plus tables not including the area 1 renovations at Brady Mountain.

**Adopt a Shoreline Program:** Phillip C. discussed the importance of placing educational banners and trash bag receptacles on docks, marinas, and boat ramps to promote litter pick up by recreation users. He suggested putting up the banners and public announcements around Memorial Day and running the campaign through the summer. He believes the large shoreline cleanup day should be used to pick up the large litter items. Stacy stated he liked the idea of placing banners at these locations.

After some discussion on Adopt a Shoreline Program, it was decided the Corps would continue with this program, but it will not be a partnership project with the LOCFC. Tom B. suggested placing trash can liner dispensers at all boat ramps. Stacy stated there was possibly grant money available for these items through Keep Arkansas Beautiful Foundation. Bill B. believes most of the trash left on the islands is left by day users and not campers.

### **Way Forward Committee:**

-There was some discussion as to whether the LOCFC has outlived the Corps purpose for the committee. George D. stated they should look at what they have accomplished over the last few years and see if they are effective. Stacy stated that he believes they are caught between being a cooperative association, a Focus Committee, and a Friends Group, and there are three pieces to the puzzle. They can't just be stuck on one of the pieces. He shared that Millwood Lake has a focus committee that helps with the youth and ADA hunts, and contributes by helping with small, but meaningful projects. Stacy also stated they may not have enough projects going to have monthly meetings. Stacy passed around a list of items he put together that LOCFC can assist the Corps in accomplishing, Jerry S. listed programs LOCFC had been involved in and stated their purpose was to give citizens input for the management of the lake. He stated it took 10 years to build the LOViT, but it was well worth it.

-Stacy shared that Rick D. stated Visitor Comment Cards would be distributed this summer. Something LOCFC members can assist with is passing out and collecting these cards from the visitors.

**-Creation of Campground Map with Advertising:** Stacy suggested the committee draft a letter that he can send to Office of Council requesting creation of these maps.

-Stacy asked the committee to review the list of projects they may be able to assist with, and they can discuss them at next month's meeting.

-EKIP: Amy S. Shared that Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) program was a partnership with the National Park Foundation that awarded Lake Ouachita COE a grant for 9K last year to fund transportation and food for two large school field trips. The EKIP program is a program aimed at getting 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their families outside to explore the national parks. EKIP passes are given to fourth graders which gives them and their family's free entrance fees to national parks and free day use and boat launch for a year. We have \$1500 left over from the grant last year to go towards an EKIP field trip this year. We need help with purchasing supplies such as water/snacks, and also need volunteers to assist with facilitating the programs-provide safety for the kids. This is something LOCFC members can assist with.

-Joplin Bridge: the problem was discussed about needing a new bridge into the Joplin campground that can hold large equipment. Right now, the Corps cannot do any major maintenance in the campground because of the weight limit of the bridge-no heavy equipment can be brought into Joplin. LOCFC might be able to search for funding for a new bridge.

-Another possible project is the Wounded Warrior Hunt- LOCFC could procure some give-aways for the hunters, and might volunteer to assist with the hunt.

-Stacy also shared LOCFC members could help educate the public on energy conservation (going green) by installing stickers on all electrical boxes in the campgrounds.

**Donation Boxes:** Rick S. shared that a total of \$6 had been collected in the donation boxes since their installation.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.