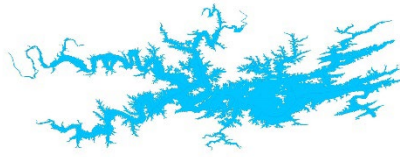


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: September 8, 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Jon Munz, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Matt Mitchell, Supervisory Facility Operations Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Amy Shultz, Natural Resources Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Tom Butler	Al Gathright	Shane Scott
Phillip Carr	Ron Mayfield	Jo West Taylor
Robert Cavanaugh	Bill Pell	Jerry Williams
George Dooley	Rob Sanders	

Call to Order: Meeting began at 6:00 PM.

Approval of August 2025 Minutes: Tom B. moved to approve the June minutes, Joe W. seconded, minutes approved as written.

Financial Report: Shane S. reported the only change in financials from last month was a 1K donation from NELVA for the mobility impaired deer hunt. Jon M. explained this grant was from the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Association and exclusively for the deer hunt.

ArDoT ADA Walkway Grant Status: Shane S. reported the walkway change order was approved. Pilings are on order with a 2-week delivery time. FOLO requested Corps send the closure notices out. Jon M. explained there were two options on where to close the trail at the upper end. One at Homestead or the second option where the Forest Service Road connects to give access to that loop. The Committee opted for the Forest Service Road closure and requested

a sign put at the homestead trailhead to notify trail users. Tom B. shared he had a final conversation with Elmer Hamel and explained they priced the Owens Corning materials too high, so John Plyler was chosen as the vendor. He believes they understand, although they are not happy with the decision.

2025 Lake Clean-Up Plan: Jo W. shared the kid's cleanup will be held on September 18th and the community cleanup on September 20th. Jo W. passed out a news release she put together for the cleanup and Amy S. shared a news release the Corps had sent to Public Affairs to go out to papers and Facebook. The group discussed the meeting locations with the kids meeting at Twin Creek and dispersing from there and then having lunch at Tompkins Day Use following the cleanup. The community cleanup will meet at Crystal Springs Boat Ramp to get supplies for the day. Amy S. shared the great job Rob S. had done on setting up Instagram and the cleanup post which allows participants to register digitally. Rob shared that there is a two-week waiting period for their Instagram and Facebook accounts to link, but they should link in the next week. Jo W. shared she would purchase the hot dogs and buns from Sams. Jon M. suggested asking Harps for a donation for food, as they have been good in the past at donating \$100 card toward food purchases for the hunts. Tom B. related he couldn't be at the cleanup with his boat. Suggestion was made to ask Bill B. if Mtn. Harbor had a boat they could use. Amy S. will send the cleanup news release the Corps sent out to all FOLO members. Jon M. stated Asher Kight was putting together a map of where the most trash is located, and the Corps will get the map to Rob S. for posting the link to Instagram/Facebook. Tom B. shared the Grab-a-bag sign at the Mountain Harbor Marina Dock is in bad shape and needs replaced, and he figures there are more like this.

NRT Grant for ADA Connector: Shane S. stated Jerry S. had told him they would have to wait until the next grant cycle to apply for funding. The money would be to fix tree root problems and raising the pavement level. Tom B. suggested going back to ARDoT for a supplemental grant for this section.

New Business: Ron M. shared they had installed the Brady Mountain Trailhead sign that was stolen a few years ago.

Shane S. shared there is a proposal to revoke the "roadless status" on the northside of Bear from the LOViT to the shoreline, and an area by the Lake Ouachita State Park. There is a comment period and a website to go to that talks about the comment period and procedures. Bill P. offered to send the website link to the group. He stated it came out through the Secretary of Agriculture for Forest Service. Currently these areas are protected from new roads and maintenance of old roads, protected from timber harvest, and crystal mining. They will not be if this status is revoked. Jon M related the Corps is trying to push back against new areas of crystal mining on the north side of Lake Ouachita due to run off into the lake. This is also in the comment period.

Corps 2025 Operational Issues: Matt M. shared they are waiting on a permit renewal for a wastewater treatment plant at Joplin. They are also working on getting a well for Little Fir. The Wastewater plant at Little Fir has problems and since there are so few sites in Little Fir, a well would be more cost-effective. Jon M. related the day-use hours have changed from 8:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. due to the off-season change and all rangers working day shift now. Rangers are working on Natural Resource Projects through the off-season such as food plots, prep for

mobility hunts, and plans are to do a little work on sites in Joplin. Joplin will be closed until May 1st, but all other areas will open March 1st. The areas open this off-season are Crystal Springs and Denby Point. Rob S. shared his appreciation for how hard the rangers work and the respectfulness of the rangers he has encountered. Jon M. shared the abandoned houseboat at Twin Creek case is waiting to go to court. No timeline yet on removal. Al G. shared there was a waterline leak at Silver Point. Matt M. stated it is scheduled to be repaired tomorrow. Phillip C. asked when the trees would be removed from the creek at the ADA trail. Matt M. shared they would do that in the fall while the trail was closed. Jon M. shared the dates for the Mobility Hunt were November 15th and 16th.

Adjournment: Phillip C. moved to adjourn; Tom B. seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 6:39 P.M.