

Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road

Royal, Arkansas 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: January 7, 2019

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Stacy Sigman, Lake Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Alan Atkins	Al Gathright	Jo West Taylor
Tom Butler	Ron Mayfield	Dan Watson
Phillip Carr	Jerry Shields	
George Dooley	John Simpson	

Review of Minutes: Tom B. moved to approve the amended minutes from the November 5th meeting. Phillip C. seconded, minutes approved with changes made.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Taskforce: Al G. shared the Arkansas Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force began around 2007, and at that time, Arnie H. and Al were part of the task force because of the problem with Hydrilla in Ouachita. Al attended a task force meeting on December 5th and was impressed by the number of organizations represented at the meeting. The Arkansas Game and Fish is the lead agency in the taskforce, but many other state and federal agencies including the Forest Service and Corps are represented on the taskforce. The top three issues addressed during the meeting were silver (jumping) carp, zebra mussels, and northern snakehead fish. Jimmy Barrett of AGFC will be posting the minutes from this meeting on their webpage, and is the coordinator of the taskforce. The AGFC is developing an ANS reporting database and asking the public if they see a suspicious species, to take a picture and send it to Jimmy Barrett with the date, species, water body, county, collector, GPS, and comments and he will verify and post it. Al shared UAPB is working with the Game and Fish on several projects and provided a report about the spread of the silver carp. They are mostly in the White River Area but have been found at the foot of Remmel Dam. Dr. Steve Lochmann at UAPB is developing a Rapid Response Recovery spreadsheet with names and directory info. for all national, state, and local agencies who will be notified in the event of an urgent ANS issue. Al further shared a plan was signed in 2013 by Governor Beebe tasking the AGFC with control of bait fish transfer and the AGFC now has a new regulation on the transport of bait fish from one body of water to another. Al shared Water Hyacinth is also a nuisance invasive discussed during the meeting and Biological and chemical control methods are being looked at to control this invasive which is present on the Arkansas River especially around Arkansas Post. The Northern Snakehead is mostly in eastern Arkansas, but spreading. Jamie Anderson was present from Anderson Farms and discussed the problems with unregulated pet trade. He has state regulations on what fish he can sell when people could go on Amazon and purchase any fish they like without regulations. He would like a level playing field. Al will forward the minutes of the meeting to all committee members. Jerry S. asked how the committee could be involved. Al stated just by being aware of the issues. Al will also send the members Jimmy Barrett's contact information.

Hickory Nut Mountain Vista Eagle Release: Jerry shared an eagle that had been hit by a car and rehabilitated by Wildlife rehabilitator, Tommy Young, from Mena, AR was released at Hickory Nut Mountain Vista and Jerry attended the release. He stated the eagle was 50 years old, and many people came to see the release which was amazing. Jerry also shared they had a meeting scheduled with the Forest Service this week in regards to the paving of Hickory Nut mountain roadway, but meeting was cancelled due to furlough. George Dooley inquired about the possibility of the committee funding and putting up an artificial nesting platform for eagles. Stacy shared that eagles have abundant natural habitat for nests around Ouachita, and that there were most likely permits you would have to obtain from AGFC before doing this. Jerry wrote a nice article on the LOViT website on the eagle release and mentioned the potential vista road improvements to gain support. If the Forest Service is not against the idea, they may ask people to sign/fill out a survey in support of the paving project going forward.

FOLO:

- A donation of \$2000 was made to the Trail account by Rachel and Dustin Speers who host the 100 mile/100K endurance race coming up February 22nd/23rd.
- \$350 expenditure for income tax return

LOViT Trail: Stacy S. shared the boards for the ADA walkway are in the Tompkins Bend storage building they plan on a workday February 16-17. Tom B. shared there are two coolers filled with deer remains at the Joplin trailhead. Stacy stated he would check on these.

USACE Operational Update: Stacy S. shared Derick and two other rangers are deployed to Georgia on hurricane clean up mission. Stacy further shared Brian Westfall retired December 31st, and his replacement is Renea Guin who was the Outreach Ranger at DeGray. Jody Dvorak will be retiring January 31, 2019. The Visitor Assistance Ranger position has been filled by Derek Lynch. Jason Mothershed is still deployed to Afghanistan and will be there through June or July. Additionally, Jason Hurt replaced Dusty Wilson who retired as Power House Project Manager. Stacy shared the following projects the Corps has completed/is currently working on:

- Solicited work through RBS to repair the flat roofs on the Brady Mountain water plant and the Little Fir waste water plant. The new water plant at Brady will be installed at the end of this recreation season.
- A new water tank has been ordered for Little Fir with the possibility of purchasing one for Brady at the end of the FY.
- Scope of work for the Crystal waste water treatment plant is being prepared and the Corps will be closing Crystal around September 25th /October 1st timeframe and Crystal will remain closed for a month in order to have a section of the holding tank wall sand-blasted and tank recoated. We will let the public know in early February via social media, campground postings, and on the Recreation One Stop website.
- Brady Mountain campsite rehabilitation continues, rain has been an issue in December and early January.
- Rangers have installed island markers 1-32 and the remaining 33-50 have been ordered.
- Rangers have placed several brush piles and PVC fish shelters this winter in Ouachita. We will be placing more between Joplin, Crystal Springs Chute, and 25 Bay.
- Rangers have been replacing signs on the north side of the lake out of the existing sign inventory.
- Lake Ouachita has been working with Garland County to have Blakely Dam Road from the school to the Spillway Recreation Area side brush hogged, and also the USACE section of Owl Creek Road.
- Rangers under-brushed the river bank around Stephens Park. This improved safety (made it where Power House personnel can see further downstream) and improved aesthetics.
- Derick has ordered 50K lake brochures.

- Eagle Survey is scheduled for January 9-10
- Wounded Warrior Squirrel Hunt is scheduled for January 25th-27th.
- A water bottle filling station has been ordered for the Avery Trailhead, near the small pavilion. Stacy shared due to cost, he does not foresee many being randomly placed around the project.
- The Corps met with the Forest Service in mid-December to discuss a possible glades restoration project below point 22. This meeting was for early discussions about funding, grants, way-forward, etc...second meeting was cancelled due to furlough.
- Corps has ordered and will be replacing the bathroom partitions in the Little Fir and Twin Creek comfort stations.
- Boundary Survey work should start this month from the State Park to Brady Mountain recreation area.
- Tompkins Bend Day Use area-a two-hole, unisex bathroom is being priced for the day use area/playground. We hope to receive a quote within a few weeks. Once received, we will proceed with purchase unless unforeseen circumstances arise. The delivery date will be set for 12 August 2019.
- Engineering and Contracting continue working on the IDIQ paving contract.

Jerry shared there were piles of trees/limbs inside the ADA loop of the trail. He asked if it was Ok to burn them. Stacy stated it was fine to burn the piles. Jerry further inquired if they could burn that section of ADA trail at least every 3 years. Stacy stated the Corps could burn that section. Jerry's request has been sent to the Forester.

Closing Comments: John S. stated the Hot Springs Community Foundation offers 55-65K/year in grant funding for worthy projects for non-profit organizations. The grants range in funding from \$500-\$25,000. You can go to the website and look at the requirements. Jerry will check on these.

Dan W. asked about consolidating information on the Corps and FOLO/LOViT webpages since the LOCFC name changed to FOLO and FOLO Inc.

Amy S. requested wording sent to her on what they would like on the Corps webpage and also needed an updated members picture for the webpage.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned @ 6:45 P.M.