

Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road

Royal, Arkansas 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: March 04, 2019

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Derick Walker, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Dustin Thomason, Wildlife Biologist, Ouachita Project Management Office

Members Present:

Alan Atkins	Ron Mayfield	Jo West Taylor	
Tom Butler	Jerry Shields	Dan Watson	
Robert Cavanaugh	John Simpson		
George Dooley	Rick Stokes		

Guests Present: James Barnett: AGFC-Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator

Review of Minutes: Robert C. moved to approve minutes from the February 4th meeting as written. Jo West T. seconded, Minutes approved.

Jerry S. introduced James Barnett of the AGFC who is the coordinator of Aquatic Nuisance Species for Arkansas.

James Barnett-AGFC Presentation:

Mr. Barnett wanted to address the questions sent to him by Al G. and open up the floor for discussion after for any concerns the committee had for him.

Discussion:

Mr. Barnett stated 2 million dollars annually set aside nationally; 47 thousand dollars annually set aside for Arkansas. He stated there were 32 species in the AGFC ANS plan.

Tom B. asked his take on the yellow bass population on Lake Ouachita. He stated he has been fishing here for 29 years and only started catching them the last 2 years. James B. said he was not concerned as they do not compete with other game fish. He said they are native to AR, but not sure if they were or not to the Ouachita Drainage Basin.

George D. asked what laws are currently on the books to prevent the spread of ANS species. James B. said there are a few. The transporting of zebra mussels from lake to lake is illegal. If your boat is removed from a known source with zebra mussels you must wait 5 days before launching the vessel into the new body of water. He has been working with several transport companies on this issue. Another law is that bait must be caught in the lake used and cannot haul to another lake for use. Bait stores may only sell approved fish bait and are inspected by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. Jim B. also stated AGFC wants to make a law that would require all boaters to remove their drain plug while in transport on the road. They believe this would alleviate the bilge water from keeping zebra mussels alive and transported to another body of water.

1. Is there a National ANS Network?

The Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force was established by Congress with the passage of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA) in 1990 and reauthorized with the passage of the National Invasive Species Act (NISA) in 1996 (collectively, the Act). Composed of 13 Federal and 15 ex-officio members, it is the only Federally-mandated intergovernmental organization solely dedicated to preventing and controlling ANS.

www.anstaskforce.gov

2. When did Arkansas ANS taskforce begin?

Work began in 2007.

The Arkansas Plan was completed in 2013.

Signed by the Governor May 14, 2013.

First full-time ANS Coordinator September 3, 2015.

First task force meeting November 30, 2016

3. What Organizations, schools and governmental agencies make up the Arkansas task force?

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
National Park Service, Arkansas Post National Memorial
Arkansas Department of Transportation
USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
US Army Corps of Engineers, Ouachita Project
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Catfish Farmers of Arkansas
Arkansas Natural Resource Commission
USDA Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest
Arkansas Waterways Commission
Norfolk Lake Chamber of Commerce
Arkansas State Plant Board
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Arkansas Agriculture Department
Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee
Arkansas Department of Health
Arkansas Green Industry Association
Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism
Arkansas Wildlife Federation
Arkansas Department of Water Quality
US Fish and Wildlife Service
The Nature Conservancy
Arkansas Farm Bureau
Arkansas Bait and Ornamental Fish Growers Association
Audubon Arkansas
USDA Forest Service, Ozark-St. Francis National Forest
Arkansas Tech University
University of Central Arkansas
University of Arkansas
Central Arkansas Water

4. Are you recruiting other organizations or schools for the taskforce?

Pet Trade, Trout Unlimited, Commercial River Traffic, Natural Resource Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas State University

5. Top Arkansas ANS concerns?

Zebra Mussels, Silver Carp, Giant Salvinia, Northern Snakehead, Water Hyacinth, Black Carp, Hydrilla

6. ANS concerns for Lake Ouachita?

Zebra Mussels, Silver Carp

7. ANS Database

USGS has an AIS database: <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/>

2019 Lake Ouachita Cleanup: Tom B. said he would like for the group to conduct an event. Jo West T. volunteered to head this up. The group wants to focus on a smaller area and primarily in the coves where the most trash is. Wants to distribute a flyer, but not make t-shirts and cook hot dogs. Derick W. volunteered the USACE work barge to assist in gathering large trash items that they were unable to pick up on their regular volunteer boats.

Committee Parliamentarian Position: Jerry S. stated Dan W. was selected for this position. Tom B. made motion to accept and Jo West T. seconded the motion.

Grab-A-Bag: Tom B. asked USACE if we needed more trash bags for the summer. Derick W. told him I would check and email him our stock numbers. Tom B. also requested a list of any additional sites we did not add and be willing to add now. Derick W. said he would email original list to see.

Hickory Nut Mountain Coalition Plan: Jerry S. stated the Montgomery County Judge was continue to push on this project heavily. The judge had met with a congressional aid from Bozeman and Westerman's office to show plans. They informed them of the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), which only state agencies could apply for. Jerry S. spoke with a representative in Washington DC and received a local contact with the Arkansas Highway Transportation Department. Jerry S. also informed the group on another grant program called TAP from the AHTD. It is a National Trails Grant, but can be a little harder to track and do the paperwork. He stated they may be able to use this grant for parking on top of the vista.

LOViT Trail: Robert C. shared the success of the recent 100 mile and 100 K run on the LOViT. The Traildogs had cut trees blocking the trail on Bear Mtn. The group donated \$2,000 to FOLO for their efforts. A Blue and You Grant had been applied for another bike repair station to be placed at the Crystal Springs Pavilion and Trailhead. Robert C. also noted the Traildogs had built (6) new benched on the elevated walkway trail at Tompkins Bend ADA area.

USACE Operational Review: Derick W. gave an update on the Brady Mountain Recreation Area renovations. He stated 80% complete with only (3) campsites remaining. The NRM crew had planted (36) trees throughout the area to reforest what timber had to be removed to enlarge camping pads. No change in the Tompkins Bend Day Use Area restroom. We have it quoted in our system and plan to purchase when funds become available. Jerry S. asked if we could burn the Tompkins Bend ADA area and Derick W. responded that is was still very wet inside the loop and we would try to get to it this burn season, but it will be very hard with upcoming forecast and the greening up of the spring vegetation. Derick W. stated we still have plans to over-seed the area again with another round of wildflower mix within the next month.

Closing Comments: Jerry S. challenged the group to find projects each member would like to work on and has a desire to do.

Adjournment: Jo West moved to adjourn, Robert C. seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 7:25 P.M.