

## Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee



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

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

**DATE:** April 3, 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  
Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

**Members Present:**

Tom Butler	Al Gathright	Dan Watson
George Dooley	Jerry Shields	
Bruce Engstrom	Rick Stokes	

**Announcements:** Al shared that the Corps installed metal gate and metal gate posts at Twin Creek day use to protect it from being vandalized again.

Stacy shared the Corps nominated Bill Barnes for the national Volunteer of the Year award and he was chosen as the recipient which is quite an honor. This award was for his volunteer work on the LOCFC, his work with the Wounded Warrior hunts, partnering with AGFC, and his volunteer work with the Mountain Harbor volunteer fire department. The Corps plans to present him with this award at the ORVA meeting in the fall.

**Review of Minutes:** The minutes from the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written.  
—Rick S. moved to approve minutes, Al G. seconded.

**Discuss Replacement to fill LOCFC vacancy:** Dan W. shared he received a note from Stacy S. that the runner up from the last election was Joe West Taylor. Jerry S. stated he had Phillip C. and Robert C. voting by proxy. After short discussion, Jerry moved to accept Stacy's recommendation to ask Joe West Taylor to join the committee. Bruce

Seconded. Vote was taken, and Joe West Taylor was unanimously approved as a new member. Stacy will contact Ms. Taylor.

### **Corps of Engineers Report-USACE**

Stacy shared the Corps has replaced the Brady Mountain pump out dock with a new dock and is working on replacing the electrical and sewer lines to the dock. The Corps is also working on finishing the work in area one at Brady. Stacy further shared the rangers have been replacing missing or damaged buoys. As money becomes available, the Corps will begin replacing the night lights at the ramps in recreation areas with new LED lights. The LED lights last longer and shine brighter than the existing lights. The Corps will begin upgrading the signs to meet the reflective requirements. Stacy stated if the new metal gate and posts at Twin Creek work well, the Corps may install a gate like this into area 3 in Crystal, so it can be closed during high water periods. The Corps is still operating under a continuing resolution, so funding may be short. The Corps has completed a lot of projects recently, and Ouachita has now been told to cut back on spending.

Dan asked if Stacy had talked to Rick about mentioning the LOCFC partnership during the ORVA meetings in the fall. Stacy will ask Rick about this.

EKIP: Amy S. shared the EKIP field trip for Mt. Ida School at Tompkins Bend will be May 11<sup>th</sup> from 0900-1200. LOCFC volunteers are needed to facilitate event. This will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Wounded Warrior/ADA hunts: Jerry S. doesn't believe it will be a problem to use FOLO to manage grants and donations for these events. He suggested checking with Dicks Sporting goods for grants/donations.

### **Trash Bag Dispensers for shoreline/island visitors**

Tom B. brought a prototype of the sign and trash bag dispensers that could be placed at boat ramps and marinas. Stacy recommended placing these at the five major boat ramps on the south side of Ouachita. Stacy also recommended only having these up during the busy season. Everyone liked Tom's sign and dispenser design.

After some discussion, it was decided to make 20 signs/dispensers for the ramps and the marina's identified. There will not be a number placed on the dispensers to call when empty, as RBS will check these daily on the boat ramps and replace the bags when needed. There will not be locks on the dispensers unless theft of the trash bags becomes a problem. FOLO will fund the signs, dispensers, and bags. The Corps will store the bags and will re-stock at the boat ramps. The marinas who agree to have the dispensers placed at their docks, will be responsible for re-stocking their bags. Tom requested the Corps install the signs/dispensers. Tom stated there is an option of mounting the dispensers in a 5 gallon galvanized tub with Quikrete so the dispensers could be movable. Stacy and the committee liked this idea, and Tom will send out a picture of one of these once made.

Tom handed out the cost estimate for 20 dispensers. Cost for 20 is \$1,281.55 plus cost of bags.

Tom asked if Game and Fish would allow dispensers at their boat ramps (Twin Creek and Brady). Rick S. will ask them.

Proposed locations for the dispensers are as follows: Mountain Harbor Ramp, Mountain Harbor Resort Ramp, Mountain Harbor marina dock, Tompkins Bend Ramp, Shangri la Marina Dock, Twin Creeks ramp, Denby Point ramp, Brady Mountain Corps ramp, Brady Mountain AGFC ramp, Crystal Springs ramp, Crystal Springs resort marina, Ouachita Shores marina, Echo Canyon ramp, Echo Canyon gas dock, Northshore resort gas dock, Little Fir ramp, Hwy 27 ramp, Hwy 27 gas dock.

George D. asked about grant money from Keep Arkansas Beautiful Foundation. After discussion, he will contact Keep Arkansas Beautiful and National Public Lands Day and request funding and/or supplies for this project.

**Way Forward Committee:** Dan shared there was no report from way forward committee this month.

### **LOCFC Project Progress Reports:**

**Donation boxes:** No report

**Campground Maps:** Dan passed out the letter Arnie had drafted to Colonel Derosier requesting to distribute new campground maps which include local information and local business locations. Dan had made a few additions to the letter. Stacy stated this was a really well-written letter, but they needed to include in the letter that their plan is to sell advertising to fund the printing. Jerry stated that printing maps was very cheap, and they should add, "FOLO.Inc will handle the funds from the sale of advertisements, and any excess funds not utilized in printing of the maps will go toward recreation area improvements on Ouachita." Tom suggested making the letter more concise. Dan will be contacting Arnie to revise the letter

**FOLO Update-FOLO Board:** Jerry shared he met with Bill B. about the possibility of placing a new courtesy dock at Mountain Harbor. The new docks are 40'X8' with a walkway. Cost of one dock is 20-25K. Bill informed him that Mountain Harbor could move the dock as necessary, and would donate the old existing swim dock to a smaller area (possibly Twin Creek) that doesn't already have a dock. FOLO has not met and voted on purchase of additional courtesy docks. Rick S. shared he sent a letter to Brett Hobbs, AGFC, asking if they would be able to maintain a courtesy dock if it was placed

at an AGFC ramp. Although Mr. Hobbs doesn't want the maintenance of a floating dock, he would entertain a partnership if a stable, permanent dock was installed. He requested a letter from FOLO if they wish to partner on a fixed dock. After some discussion, the committee decided not to put a dock at the Game and Fish ramps at this time. Al G. talked with Tad Cooper at Echo Canyon about the possibility of a courtesy dock. If his marina is selected, he would gladly accept the responsibility of moving the dock when necessary.

**Grants:** Rick S has worked on a business plan for a standing grants committee. Tom B. stated they can take Rick's business plan outline and use it for grant solicitations.

**LOViT:** Jerry S. related the IMBA crew had been on the trail and cut 6-8 trees off the trail, but the Trail Dogs never knew when they were here. There has been several events on the trail since the last meeting. Hike for a Cure was held over the weekend, and Al G. stated he walked during the event and trimmed along the trail. Dan stated the Ouachita Challenge Bike Race also went very well. Jerry shared they are still pursuing a Walton Family grant for reflective signs to be placed along the trail since several events on the trail are at night. They must be 8X8' signs. Jerry will be requesting the best signs they can get on the grant application. Jerry also priced interpretive signs that were 18'X24'. These signs cost \$800-\$850 each.

Jerry shared there were no FOLO transactions since the March meeting.

**Adjournment:** Jerry moved to adjourn and Bruce Seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 7:15 P.M.