

Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road

Royal, Arkansas 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: APRIL 01, 2019

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Eric Jenkins, Project Manager, Lake Ouachita Project Office

Stacy Sigman, Lake Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Tom Butler	Al Gathright	Jo West Taylor	
Phillip Carr	Ron Mayfield	Dan Watson	
Robert Cavanaugh	Jerry Shields	Jerry Williams	
George Dooley	John Simpson		

Review of Minutes: Tom B. moved to approve minutes from the March 4 meeting. Phillip C. seconded, Minutes approved. Ron M. stated he really enjoyed the special guest speaker from AGFC at the last meeting.

Opening Remarks: Stacy S. introduced Eric Jenkins to the committee and Eric shared his history in working for the Corps. He extended his appreciation for the assistance FOLO has given the Corps through their volunteer service, procuring grant funding, and for their continued assistance in improving recreation opportunities on Ouachita. Jerry thanked Eric and Stacy for engaging FOLO and opening up the Corps management to public input and involvement. Jerry further shared FOLO was proud of the LOViT, the Lake Cleanups, and Grab-a-Bag programs and is always looking for ways to contribute.

Grab-A-Bag Update: Tom B. stated they were short 3 grab-a-bag stations and he will construct six more. Tom B. asked if the Corps had ordered additional trash bags. Stacy shared they were ordered, but he would check to see if they had come in. Jerry stated they had ten additional signs ordered.

2019 Lake Cleanup: Jo W. shared the cleanup was set for Saturday, April 20th. After some discussion, it was decided the cleanup efforts would be concentrated from Denby to Shangri La. The volunteers will meet at Tompkins Bend Day Use at 8:00 A.M. and will work until 11:30. The volunteers who would like, can meet at Shangri La at 11:30 for lunch. Jerry S. asked Stacy S. if there were any objections to utilizing ATV's from homestead trail to some of the coves during the cleanup. Stacy stated that would be fine. Jo W. shared extra boats and canoes were needed. The Corps will bring the work barge. Stacy stated the garbage collected should be brought to the boat ramps and the Corps will collect from the ramps. Jo W. will be drafting a press release and will send to Corps and committee members for approval. Amy S. will post the release once it is finalized. The Corps will furnish the bags, gloves, and pick up grabbers for the volunteers. Phillip volunteered to bring water for the volunteers. Stacy suggested the volunteers working the event get GPS location points by phone on the locations of large Styrofoam pieces and give them to the Corps for removal. Jo stated they would also plan to have a fall cleanup.

Hickory Nut Mountain Coalition Plan Status: Jerry shared they had a two hour meeting with the Forest Service and the Forest Service does not want the road paved or campground updates due to ongoing maintenance requirements and budgetary/personnel constraints. They agreed to grade the road 3-4 times a year instead of two times a year. Jerry stated they have a couple of options: the first-to engage congressionals which might cause hard feelings with the Forest Service. The better option they have taken is talking to the Montgomery County Judge who is setting up a meeting with the Forest Service supervisor, Norm Wagoner, to discuss maintenance if the road was paved and renovations made. The Highway Department shared double chip and seal would last 20-25 years without much maintenance. Jerry shared there are several available funding sources for this project: Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) is a 50/50 grant program to fund recreation access improvements. There is also a fund within the Forest Service for one time capital projects. Jerry contacted the director for this fund in Washington and learned they haven't allocated funds for this yet. Jerry further shared Bruce Westerman, Arkansas representative, is really in favor of this project. Jerry believes they should continue to work to move forward with the project.

LOViT Trail: Al G. shared they had the 100 mile race on the rail, and the Trail dogs cleared a lot of trees before the race. The LOViT is in pretty good shape. Ron M. shared IMBA had told

him there currently weren't any trees down on the trail. Al related there are two culverts that are constantly blocked on Irons Creek portion of LOViT, and four Traildogs were able to physically move rocks out of the way on Irons Creek so prevent the blocked culverts. They also trimmed a little on that section of trail.

USACE Operational Review: Stacy thanked Jerry for helping the Corps during the O&M prospect course by meeting and talking with the students during a site visit to the ADA trail about the positive partnerships as a mechanism for getting projects accomplished.

-Brady Mountain Campsite Renovation: Stacy shared area 4 was completed, the Corps is finishing 2-3 sites in area two. These should be completed in a week. He expects a lot of usage at these newly renovated sites. He stated a lot of trees had to be removed to do the renovations, and the NRM rangers are replacing these trees with newly planted oak trees in the area.

-Stacy shared the Comfort Station for the Tompkins Bend day use area is ordered and will arrive in August. Stacy further shared the ADA trail field cannot be burned until it is dry....there has been too much rain to burn.

-Stacy shared the large tree project flyer Karl Studenroth created and told a little about the project. Jerry had identified several trees near the LOViT that were large trees. Eric asked Jerry to send GPS coordinates to Derick and the Corps would check them out. Jerry thinks a large white pine located on the first section of trail could be a champion tree. FUN FACT: Jerry shared the only Champion Tree in Montgomery County is the Devils Walking Stick.

-Stacy shared the boundary line survey was completed. Stacy further shared the Corps will be disking Avery field and planting sunflower seeds to cut down on mowing maintenance requirement.

-Stacy shared the NRM rangers will be burning Montgomery County islands Wednesday. NRM rangers will also begin addling geese eggs, and using flash bang sticks to deter geese from swim beach areas.

-Stacy also shared all park attendant contracts have been awarded.

-Stacy shared the next project was for RBS to begin replacing the roofs on pavilions and fish cleaning stations with tin roofs. Money will also be put toward improving Buckville pit/vault toilet.

-Stacy shared the NRM rangers repaired the swim beach buoy line at Brady Mountain and will be repairing the buoy line at Denby Point this week.

-100% inventory on the trail mile markers on the LOViT is completed. All are in place.

-All island markers have been replaced on Ouachita.

Jerry S. inquired about the floating toilet. Stacy shared one will be installed on the east and one on the west end of Ouachita this week. There has been success with using these on Greers Ferry, and Ouachita is going to test one and see how well it works. Stacy will send the design by email to FOLO members. They will be placed in an optimal location for visibility and to serve the most

island campers. Stacy and Eric had visited Greers Ferry and met with their management before approving these.

Closing Comments: Dan W. asked FOLO members to let him know by email if they didn't receive an invitation to join drop box.

Adjournment: Dan moved to adjourn and George D. seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 6:50 P.M.