

Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee



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

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: June 04, 2018

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Derick Walker, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Bill Barnes	Al Gathright	Jo West Taylor
Robert Cavanaugh	Jerry Shields	Dan Watson
George Dooley	Rick Stokes	Jerry Williams

Review of Minutes: Robert C. moved to approve the minutes from the May 5th meeting as written, and Jo T. seconded, minutes approved.

Board Member Replacement: Jerry shared there were two openings on the LOCFC board and three applicants contacted Stacy S. He passed around some copies of the 2 resumes submitted, (the third interested party did not send in a resume) and encouraged the committee to look at them and decide if they were a good fit for the committee before voting.

Al shared Ron Mayfield was one of the candidates, and he had worked with the Traildogs on the LOViT, and was a very good volunteer who was involved in the community. Dan W. moved to accept Ron Mayfield as a new member, Al G. seconded and motion was unanimously approved.

Al shared Alan Atkins had also done some work on the Denby Bay boardwalk, and Jo West shared he was a retired liquor distributor. After some discussion, Rick S. suggested going ahead and voting on the remaining applicants now. Robert C. moved to accept Alan Atkins as a new member and Jo T. seconded. Vote was taken and unanimously approved. Stacy S. will contact the new members.

Grab A Bag Update: Bill B. shared the canisters had been installed at the 4 resorts who did not previously have them installed. Bill B. requested 5-10 additional cases of bags for Mountain Harbor. Grab a Bag will be taken off the agenda for now.

FOLO Update: Al shared FOLO voted to expend \$800 for a bike repair station to be placed at the Tompkins Bend pavilion day use. They received \$1000 grant from the Montgomery County Health Department, and the bike repair stations cost \$1800, so FOLO made up the difference. They have also discussed placing another bike repair station at Crystal Springs near the church arbor. Al further shared they had collected \$3,000 in advertisements on the LOViT trail maps and had printed 5,000 copies of the maps.

LOViT Trail: Al shared an IMBA crew had done some work on the trail near Brushy Creek and taken out 17 trees along the trail, but a storm has moved through since they have worked on the trail, so more work probably needs to be done. IMBA will be returning to do corridor work on Bear Mountain. Al shared they had inspected an area on Irons Creek between Joplin and Hickory Nut Mountain for erosion issues. Tom Ledbetter, US Forest Service, has a mini excavator and is planning to go out tomorrow to clean the ditches in this area. Robert C. shared there will be four American Youth Work Crews facilitated by the USFS coming to work on Ouachita, Womble, and LOViT trails. Each crew is assigned for a 10 day period on the trails where there is the greatest need. They will begin arriving in late August and the last crew will work in late October.

Twin Creek Fishing Pier: Jerry shared there are about 8 bad boards on the Twin Creek fishing pier, and FOLO has until the end of the month to expend the AGFC grant funds that were for the Denby boardwalk. He will be contacting AGFC to see if it is ok to use grant funds for Twin Creek fishing pier repair. If AGFC funds will purchase the material, the Trail Dogs will repair the pier.

Hickory Nut Mountain Road Sub-Committee: Jerry shared Bruce E. is on the fence about paving the roadway to Hickory Nut vista because he is an ATV rider and is afraid it will be made off-limits to ATV's if paved. Jerry asked the question if it was more important to tourist to have it paved. Bill B. said he believed the greatest potential for Hickory Nut to be a tourist attraction was if the road was better, and he doesn't see much conflict with ATV's. If he had to choose between the two, he would vote to pave the road. Jerry believes the committee needs to start by asking the County Judge if they are willing to maintain the road if paved and he also suggested checking to see who can approve ATV use on the Hickory Nut Mountain road if paved-County or Federal. Rick S. believes if you use an ATV grant to pave the trail, you cannot prohibit ATV's on that trail. After more discussion, Jerry is going to try to arrange a meeting with the Montgomery County Judge, the Forest Service, and the committee members to discuss this potential project.

USACE Operational Review: Jerry stated he would like to work with the Corps on ways to expand camping at the campgrounds we have. He suggested adding 20% more sites in the Class A campgrounds and possibly making single sites, double and group sites. Derick shared the problem with double sites, is they pull too much on the electrical usages. Jerry stated the alternative could be sites without electricity. Rick S. stated the problem with more sites, is there

isn't much land available in many of the recreation areas. Bill B. suggested putting a "wilderness" non-electric group site at Joplin. Derick stated now that they have access to Joplin, they can look at putting in a primitive group site area. Derick shared the Corps still has approx. (12-13) 30 amp posts they still need to install at some of the existing tent sites. Bill shared the latest #'s on RV sales increased 17.2 % in 2017.

Derick shared Joe Bailey and Dustin Thomason were going out on the lake the next two days to take samples of the vegetation to see the percentage of Hydrilla and would have the results for the next meeting.

Derick also shared the Corps is working on the Geese problem on swim beaches. He shared contractors have been raking the beaches and the Corps has received some solar panel Owls to hopefully scare the geese at night. The Corps will also be using bird bangers and sirens to create a loud sound to scare geese. The Corps will be putting flyers out in the recreation areas to educate the public prior to using the noise making devices.

Arnie Habig Luncheon: Al shared the luncheon honoring Arnie has been set for Wednesday, June 27th, 12:30 P.M. at Smokin in Style restaurant. Jerry stated he had contacted Howard Wright and also encouraged him to attend. Jerry stated he could mount a quartz crystal cluster on wood as a gift for Howard's service. Jerry suggested either having the Commander's award for Arnie matted and framed at Hobby Lobby or giving him a gift certificate to have it framed.

New Business/Announcements: Al shared the Lake Ouachita Fisheries Management Plan is being revised. It has been in effect since 2007. It is a scientifically based plan on what and how many fish to stock. The first public meeting on the revision was held June 7th, and the next meeting is scheduled for June 26th, 6:00 PM at Convention Center. Al invited Dustin Thomason and Clay Vanhorn to attend the meeting with AGFC and Black Bass Coalition. Jerry will send out an email with exact time and place of the meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned @ 7:15 P.M. There will be no July meeting.