

Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road

Royal, Arkansas 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: May 6, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:01 p.m. by Jerry Shields

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Derick Walker, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

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

Guests Present: Deanne Younger: USFS Caddo-Womble Office

Ben Rowland: USFS Caddo-Womble Office

Review of Minutes: Robert C. moved to approve minutes from the April 1st meeting as written. Rick S. seconded, Minutes approved.

Jerry S. introduced guests from the USFS Caddo-Womble Office.

Nominations for Chairman & Vice Chairman: Jerry S. discussed FOLO By-Laws changes to be wrote in. In May of each year motions for Chairman and Vice Chairman will be made. In June of each year elections will be made. Jo West T. made motion for this By-Law change and Phillip C. seconded it. Another By-Law change was proposed for timeframes for Chairman and Vice Chairman term limits. Rick S. proposed 2 year stints with up to (3) terms for Chairman and 2 year stints with up to (2) terms for Vice Chairman. These would be bi-annual appointments. George D. voiced need for continuity; Robert C. likes the idea to work Vice Chairman into Chairman; John S. thinks that will scare people to not do Vice Chairman position. This By-Law change was motioned by Rick S. and seconded by Jo West T. with no opposition. Dan W. will incorporate the FOLO name change into By-Laws as well.

Grant Strategy: Jerry S. stated FOLO had been successful on grants for various projects in the past to improve features around Lake Ouachita. He stated he had been contacted by Entergy about applying for a grant. Wants ideas from the group next meeting. Rick S. asked USACE what we need. Derick W. said he would provide a list to the group next meeting. Examples from Jerry S. were bike racks, bike repair stations, and water bottle filling stations. Group discussion on the need or not need for WIFI in the campgrounds. Derick W. stated USACE was not interested in this project as everyone has a smartphone with a hotspot now and the need that was needed 10 years is not present anymore.

Grab-A-Bag: Jerry S. asked USACE if we received the shipment for the bags. Derick W. responded with they were delivered today. They were shipped to RBS Field Office for storage.

Lake Cleanup RESCHEDULE: Event that was scheduled for April 20th will be rescheduled later in summer when the water levels are lower as access to debris would be challenging at the current lake level. Areas to focus on will be Denby, Tompkins and Hwy 27 Fishing Village coves/shorelines.

Hickory Nut Mountain Coalition Plan: Jerry S. informed the group that the USFS Caddo-Womble Office was not comfortable with the project with their current operating budget. He stated community was in favor of the plan and he has requested meeting with the main USFS Supervisor in the federal building downtown Hot Springs, AR. He stated he has not received that meeting date or time yet. He wants to see if any of the plans within their requests could be approved. He stated also he was reviewing the USFS Strategic Plan.

LOViT Trail: Robert C. shared the regular tree maintenance they conduct on the trail and status. He stated he wants to organize tree trimming hikes in the near future to brush back lower lying limbs that may affect use of the trail. He gave an update on the status of the future Crystal Strip Mine by the Ouachita National Recreational trail. He stated there are (3) options on the table. The area is 21 acres near Hwy 27; south of the trail. The buffer zone from the trail was 150 feet; now it is 300 feet. Also, discussed was the time of the year to strip mine; not in the summer. The other options were to mine 5 acres at a time and the other was no mine at all.

USACE Operational Review: Derick W. gave an update on the timber harvesting in the USACE Fox yard area that will be developed into Quail Management and other bird species. He also informed the group we are moving forward with \$450,000 of paving in Stephens Park Recreation Area and Brady Mountain Recreation Area. USACE completed the Boundary Survey Marking on the east end of the lake to re-establish monuments and a clear painted yellow boundary line. He also stated that Crystal Springs Recreation Area would close on October 1 for needed repairs on the wastewater tank and it would last between 30-45 days. He also stated the new Tompkins Bend Day Use restroom will be arriving in August of this year. He also stated that USACE was working to remove the Spillway Recreation Area treatment plant offline and tie into existing systems to utilize those sources, thus reducing our maintenance load.

Closing Comments: None.

Adjournment: Jerry S. moved to adjourn, Phil C. seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 7:24 P.M.