

Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee



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

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee Minutes

DATE: August 6, 2018

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Stacy Sigman, Lake Resource Manager

Derick Walker, Supervisory Ranger, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Allen Atkins	George Dooley	John Simpson
Bill Barnes	Bruce Engstrom	Jo West Taylor
Tom Butler	Al Gathright	Dan Watson
Phillip Carr	Jerry Shields	Jerry Williams

Review of Minutes: Dan W. moved to approve the minutes from June 4th meeting, Jo T. seconded, minutes approved.

Grab-A-Bag: Phillip C. requested bags at the Shangri-La dock. They are out. Derick will check on the number of bags remaining in storage and let LOCFC know if they need to purchase any more. Jerry S. explained the Grab-a-bag program to new member, Allen Atkins. Purpose is to encourage island users to pick up their trash.

FOLO Update: Jerry provided the financial statement for FOLO:

Trail Account:	\$ 14,759
Miscellaneous	\$ (-247)
Reserve-Recreation Improvements:	\$ 63,400
Grab-a-bag project	\$ 500
Total Assets:	\$ 78,412

Blue and you Grant: Phillip C. stated the bike station will be shipped out August 10th and will come to Shangri-La. Jerry S. stated he would write the check to reimburse for the station. Total cost: \$1800. They received the Blue and you grant for \$1000 toward purchase. Jerry shared a picture of the bike repair station with the three logos. The station will be installed at Tompkins Bend Day-use trail head.

Water Bottle Refill Stations: Jerry shared a picture of the proposed water bottle refill station that can be attached to the ADA trail head kiosk restroom (exterior wall). Stacy stated the Corps will purchase a frost-proof refill station and install it at this location. Jerry shared the goal of the refill station is to reduce the plastic bottle usage on the trail.

Jerry shared a note from a trail user who enjoyed their visit to the LOViT and gave a \$50 donation.

LOViT: Al shared he along with Jerry S. and Gail S. had done some trimming maintenance along the watchable wildlife trail. He had also met with Stacy and looked at the exercise area which needs some weeds killed and additional gravel added, and some timbers installed.

Replacement of walk boards on Gap Creek Bridge: Stacy shared they have enough boards for replacement to get through the rest of the summer.

Al shared the Trail Dogs were invited to a Trail Alliance meeting August 13th at the Superior Bathhouse. Jerry shared Al had received an award from Arkansas Trail Alliance for Advocate of the year. Al shared previous award winners from Arkansas Trail Alliance were Jerry S. and Robert C. along with Ron Mayfield. Stacy shared Bill B. had recently received a national award for Volunteer of the Year, and he believes additional members of the LOCFC will receive awards in the future.

Jerry asked if the lumber could be moved from the Corps storage yard to the Tompkins Bend storage area. Al shared he and Shane Scott had done some recon work to identify/remove downed trees on the second leg of the trail. He further shared they have not heard from IMBA trail crew. Al stated they had received a call from Tom Ledbetter, Forest Service asking if they needed any tools purchased with year-end funds. They requested some Katana Boy saws. Al shared approximately 50 trail markers had been installed on the LOViT.

Twin Creek Fishing Pier: Jerry shared they contacted AGFC and asked if they would like the Trail Dogs to use the remaining funds from the grant to repair the Twin Creek fishing pier, and the Trail Dogs would be happy to install the decking where boards were damaged. AGFC declined the offer and have already repaired the boards.

Hickory Nut Mountain Road Sub-Committee: Jerry suggested setting up a September meeting with the Montgomery County Judge, the Forest Service, and sub-committee to see if the Forest Service is still willing to transfer the Hickory Nut Mountain road to the County, and if the county is still willing to take it. Bruce E. stated he brought the paving project before the grant committee of the HWY and Transportation Department, and they were favorable towards the idea. Bruce suggested making an alternate off-road trail loop around the paved part, or making it a combined use roadway. Jerry stated he believes they can come up with a solution to please all users. He asked the sub-committee comprised of Bruce E., Jerry S., Robert C., and Rick S. to meet prior to the meeting with the county and form a plan. Jerry will send out an email to the LOCFC to inform them when the sub-committee will meet and will also send the plan from the sub-committee that will be presented to the Forest Service and County Judge. Bruce shared the grant committee with the Highway Department is not comprised of Highway Dept. employees, but they make recommendations that go to the commission. Bruce will send Jerry the grant committee membership list.

USACE Operational Review: Stacy further shared, during the off-season, Area 2 and area 4 campsites in Brady Mountain will be upgraded with new amenities, level gravel extended pads – like Area #1. Stacy relayed Jason Mothershed will be deploying to Iraq for 9 months, and the Corps will open a temporary assignment position to fill his job while he is away. Stacy stated the water treatment plant for Brady has been ordered. After updating Brady, the Corps will focus on Joplin. This off-season there will be a timber sale in Joplin to prepare for the upgrades. Tom B. asked about the *Hydrilla* on Ouachita. Stacy shared the biologist went out and surveyed 40-50 locations and put them in GIS database. They will do the survey of these areas twice a year to see if the *Hydrilla* is expanding. Currently the *Hydrilla* is 15-20 feet below the surface. Jerry asked if there was a long-term plan to start replacing bathrooms. Stacy stated they would be working on major infrastructure first, there was a possibility the Corps could replace certain restrooms like the one at Denby area 1 with a comfort station, but there was not a long-term plan to replace all restrooms. Stacy shared the Little Fir comfort station has been ordered and hopefully arriving in August. Cost for this restroom was approximately 150k. Al G. shared the Lake Ouachita Fisheries Management Plan should be on the Game and Fish website in August. Bill B. stated the plan was developed in 2007, and the Game and Fish said they would not be making many changes to the original plan because it was working well. Bruce E. inquired about the geese on Ouachita. Stacy shared he contacted Wildlife Services, but they were not any help. The Corps purchased a flare gun and bang sticks to harass the geese so they would move off the swim beaches. The Corps may place signs out next year warning visitors not to feed the geese, and potentially write warnings and citations to those caught feeding the geese. The Corps will again be adding goose eggs in the spring.

New Business/Announcements: New member, Allen Atkins, was welcomed and asked to tell the group a little about himself. He grew up in Hot Springs and graduated in 1969. He went to U of A in Fayetteville and became a stone mason. He then worked in outdoor sales and retired after 28 years. He is a member of the Diamond Lakes Naturalist and grew up recreating on Ouachita. Jerry will send Allen a summary of the accomplishments of the LOCFC through email.

George D. thanked Stacy and Jerry for visiting Arnie and presenting his awards. Stacy shared the award was from the Corps Foundation and was a coin for volunteer excellence and Arnie requested it remain in the trophy case in the Corps office because he believed all the volunteers from LOCFC deserved this award.

George shared the North Woods Mountain Bike trail opening is November 17th with a ribbon cutting ceremony to be held this Friday at Lakeside Water Treatment Plant. Bill Solder is the POC. This trail will eventually hook to the LOViT and the Hot Springs to Little Rock trail system.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.