

**Friends of Lake Ouachita**



**1424 Blakely Dam Road**

**Royal, Arkansas 71968**

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:** Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

**DATE:** August 5, 2019

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

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:**

Derick Walker, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

**Members Present:**

Alan Atkins	Al Gathright	Dan Watson
Bill Barnes	Jerry Shields	Jerry Williams
Tom Butler	John Simpson	
George Dooley	Jo West Taylor	

**Review of Minutes: Tom B. moved to approve minutes from the June 3rd meeting, Jo W. seconded, Minutes approved as written.**

**Announcements:** Jerry S. congratulated Derick W. on receiving the 2019 Natural Resource Management Employee of the Year for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers award presented at the Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Jerry S. introduced guest speaker, Shane Scott a member of Arkansas Master Naturalist Program.

**Arkansas Master Naturalist, Shane Scott:** Mr. Scott shared a short PowerPoint with FOLO highlighting the Master Naturalist Program: a group of volunteer educators striving to protect the natural beauty of Arkansas. There are currently 50 members in this district, and to become a member the volunteer must complete 40 hours of training. To become a Certified Arkansas Master Naturalist, the volunteer must complete 40 hours of volunteer work in addition to 8 hours of advanced annual training. The Arkansas Master Naturalist have adopted a 7 mile stretch of the eastern end of the LOViT. The Master Naturalist provide education in schools, at Mid America Science Museum, they volunteer on the stream team, at the butterfly garden, and Terre Noire Natural Area. Bill B. asked if they had partnered with the State Parks. Mr. Scott stated they had partnered with the state parks, and Lake Ouachita State Park lets them use their classrooms. John S. shared the classes are open in January for new members if anyone is interested. Jerry shared Shane was also a Trail dog, and the AR. Master Naturalists would be a great partner to work with. He mentioned partnering on the fall cleanup.

**2019 Lake Cleanup:** After some discussion, it was decided the cleanup will be held October 5<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of October 12<sup>th</sup>. Derick stated the Corps could have Lake Ouachita and DeGray Lake's boats available if needed. He asked if they found large items that they get pictures and GPS locations and the Corps could go pick up the large items later. Jo W. shared the cleanup will be from Joplin to Hwy. 27. Jo W. asked what to do if they find a permanent camp. Derick stated to get pictures and GPS location. Jerry requested Jo W. get specifics on the cleanup and get flyers/posters out and notices to newspapers.

**Sedimentation in Lake Ouachita:** Jerry stated he had seen a lot of bank erosion and sedimentation on west end of Ouachita and along the river and asked if the Corps was doing anything about it. Derick said he would ask. Jerry stated it was bad in the Twin Creek area and the channel where you turn to go to Shangri La.

**Grab-A-Bag:** Derick W. shared the floating restrooms are owned by the Health Department, and the Corps will not be supplying the bags for these canisters if FOLO decides to put Grab-a-Bags at the restrooms. Bill B. stated he would be happy to install them on the restrooms and restock as needed. Tom B. shared that the Corps restocks the canisters at the boat ramps, and the marinas re-stock the ones on the docks. He further shared Shangri-La marina needs some more bags.

**Hickory Nut Mountain:** Jerry S. shared the follow up meeting with Norm Wagoner will be August 14<sup>th</sup>, and he will be able to provide a report at next month's FOLO meeting.

## **LOViT:**

**Bike Repair Stations:** Jerry shared they received another grant through the Montgomery County Health Advisory Board for three bicycle racks and a repair station. The repair station will be placed at Crystal Springs trailhead. Bike racks will be placed in locations where large events start.

Al shared the Trail Dogs had installed directional signage at the second boulder crossing at Crystal Springs. Jerry stated he would like the Corps to look at two large tree species in Denby – a large black walnut in Area 4, and a large Ash tree at the day-use area loop.

**USACE Operational Review:** Derick W. shared Little Fir recreation area is now a class “A” campground with the installation of the 4 pack shower restroom. Derick further shared the logger would start in Joplin October 1<sup>st</sup>, and will be logging the first half of Joplin to the dump station. The Corps will be rehabbing one section at a time. Derick and Mike Wade will be going to Joplin to begin planning the layout. Derick went on to say, the Rangers will be constructing tent pads, and the Corps purchased a dump trailer to help with this. Derick further shared the Brady Mountain and Stephens Park paving contract is out for bid. Derick stated the Little Fir water tank is finished and back online. The Corps will be installing a septic line behind the day use at Spillway and doing away with the Sewer Treatment Plant. Derick further shared the bathroom will be installed at Tompkins Bend day use August 12<sup>th</sup>. The Corps is working to install new LED lights at boat ramps. Derick stated the open/closure schedule will be sent out within the next two weeks. Denby will be open throughout the winter and Crystal will be closed for 30-45 days beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> for treatment plant repairs. Derick also shared Crystal Springs had some major power outages last week and it is the only campground that the primary line has not been upgraded. The Corps is ordering a better “Thumper” to quickly locate the line breaks. George D. suggested planning ahead and upgrading to twin 50 amp service on campsites since RV’s are now being built to require that. Derick showed a photo of the new benches Josh Tyler had installed near the dam and shared Josh had been trimming trails and installing benches. Jerry suggested leasing out land for additional campgrounds.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.