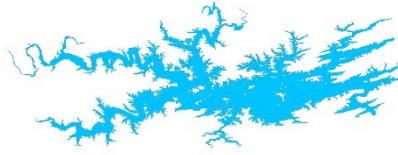


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: April 4, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: 6:03 PM by Jerry Shields

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

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

U.S. Forest Service

Amanda Gee

Members Present:

Robert Cavanaugh	John Simpson	
George Dooley	Dan Watson	
Ron Mayfield	Jerry Williams	
Bill Pell		
Jerry Shields		

Review of Minutes: Minutes were not provided, review at a later time.

Guest Speaker: Mary Brown-USFS NEPA Planner at the Caddo/Womble Ranger District. Ms. Brown gave a presentation on Glade Restoration. She showed on PPT the effects, procedures and methods they use. She showed before and after effects over multiple year cycles. She highlighted the recent Little Fir Glade Restoration project and the successes.

Announcements:

Tree Restoration Program:

Bill Pell expressed the need for direction and what efforts the group could work on, since the areas identified were culturally significant and could not plant there now. Derick W. informed them they could assess our campground recreation areas on their timeframe and make suggestions to us for the species they thought would survive the best per area. I suggested Brady Mountain and Joplin. Jerry S. gave update of the planting of flowering trees (Redbuds) at the Tompkins Bend ADA. The tree restoration sub-committee recommended we remove the Sawtooth Oak that was planted where the large Red Oak in the Big Tree program fell down since it is a non-native.

ADA Boardwalk:

George D. brought in samples of a UV resistant reinforced polymer lumber for the group to look at he acquired from a contractor. It comes in whatever color and is \$5.25 a linear foot. The material can be purchased in 2x4 or 2x8 boards. Discussion on this material was deemed expensive, but long lasting. Jerry S. mentioned the idea for a dirt levee trail and remove all lumber currently in place. Discussion on what USACE would require for adding fill material into this area and what regulatory permits would need to be in place. Derick W. informed group he would pass along to Stacy and USACE could research this if it was the direction they wanted to pursue. Discussion on any other ideas to keep the current structure intact and that several boards and stringers need replaced now or could deem unsafe and need to be closed to public.

2022 Lake Cleanup:

Suggestion was made to send letters out to schools and universities that have students needing volunteer hours. Group said they would pass along to absent member Jo West T. to draft letter.

Trail Enhancements:

Jerry S. provided a handout on the different dioramas that are being planned for the groups review. SEE HANDOUT

Trail Events:

Robert C. mentioned the Womble Challenge went well with approximately 370 riders over 2 days. The Trail Dogs provided aid stations for the event.

Anniversary Cookout:

Jerry S. reminded the group that May 9th the annual cookout was scheduled for 6 PM @ the Tompkins Bend Day Use pavilion to be held in conjunction with the monthly meeting.

E-Bikes:

Jerry S. informed the group that discussion on this subject would be tabled until next meeting so that Stacy S. and Eric J. could attend to provide input from USACE's stance. Discussion needed for Pros/Cons and for members to give their testimonies in their personal E-Bikes.

USACE Update:

Derick W. informed progress on the glade restoration near Cedar Fourche Recreation Area and the cut cedar trees will be utilized as fish structure brush piles. Dustin T. (USACE-Wildlife Biologist) and AGFC coordinating efforts. Derick W. also informed group of recent navigational and Geo-Float buoys installs before busy REC season starts. Derick W. updated group on LED conversion within the campground restrooms were almost complete, then USACE O&M would begin on conversion of the security light poles.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.