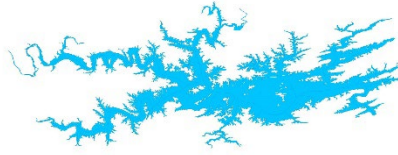


# Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road  
Royal, AR 71968

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

**DATE:** April 7, 2025

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

Matt Mitchell, Supervisory Facility Operations Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office  
Jesse Hollifield, Natural Resources Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

**Members Present:**

Tom Butler	Jerry Shields	Jerry Williams	
Robert Cavanaugh	Bill Pell		
George Dooley	Jo Davis		

**Call to Order:** Meeting started at 6:07 PM.

**Approval of March 2025 Minutes:** Jerry Shields made a motion to approve the March 2025 Minutes. Robert Cavanaugh Seconded the Motion. Minutes approved @ 6:10 PM.

**Financial Explanations:** Jerry S. explained that there were no checks cashed for FOLO in the month of March as well as no checks written. Jerry explained to the group about purchasing multiple \$10,000 CD loans.

**LOViT Trail Recap:** Jerry Shields asked Matt Mitchell and Jesse Hollifield if USACE had been contacted about any upcoming trail running events have been scheduled for the LOViT Trail. Jesse Hollifield responded there has been none scheduled to his knowledge. Jerry Shields, Tom Butler, Bill Pell and Jo Davis discussed ordering “blaze paint” for better marking the train or “button like” pins that would be stuck in the trees to better assist runners stay on the trail

during these competitions. There was discussion on which method would last longer and be more cost efficient. Discussion about trail markings was ended with Jerry Shields stating they would take a vote on what to do next meeting.

**ARDOT ADA Walkway Grant Status:** Tom Butler stated that ARDOT has approved Jerry Williams construction plan of the Elevated Walkway. A letter is prepared to send off to ARDOT to gain permission to publishing bids for the construction process. Once authority is approved to get bids it could be late May before we see any bids being submitted. Jerry Shields stated it has been 15 months since the process has started for reconstructing the trail. FOLO commended Jerry Williams of his work on the process.

**Arkansas Fisheries Grant:** Jerry S. stated the \$15,000 Beyond the Pond Grant check should be in the mail and received tomorrow 04/08/2025. Shields stated this Grant was non-matching and asked about what materials USACE would be constructing the bream beds out of. Jesse Hollifield Responded that USACE was looking at construction of Beds to be made from Cypress or Cedar Boards because of how slow they degrade over time. Shields and Butler recommended looking at constructing the beds out of same synthetic material the LOVIT Elevated Walkway Trail would be made from and calling Hamilton Lumber for a quote. Jesse Hollifield stated he would look at price difference of materials and report back with whether management would support building bream beds out of synthetic material.

**New Business:** Jerry S. asked the committee for any new business.

**Missing LOVIT Trail Crossing Sign on Brady MTN Road:** FOLO discussed the missing trail crossing sign on Brady MTN Road. Jesse Hollifield responded that Ford Engineering possibly removed the sign for the culvert replacement operation happening currently. Shields stated that since Forest Service owned sign, he would contact them. Jesse Hollifield stated as soon as the workers start back to work on the culvert, he will speak to someone if they have the sign or if the sign was stolen prior to their arrival.

**Great American Cleanup 2025 Dates:** FOLO discussed setting a tentative date for their annual Great American Cleanup day. Jerry Shields and Tom Butler discussed choosing a date that does not fall on a home game for Arkansas Razorback Football. FOLO decided on (2) tentative dates September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> or October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> for the event. Shields stated they would choose the date next meeting. Jesse Hollifield stated that Caddo Hills had reached out to him regarding scheduling a cleanup day on April 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> of this month. FOLO stated they would leave it up to USACE to organize the event since it is such as short notice. Jesse Hollifield and Matt Mitchell explained that the event is not confirmed yet, and due to high water and staffing shortage we may not be able to host the event this time around.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.