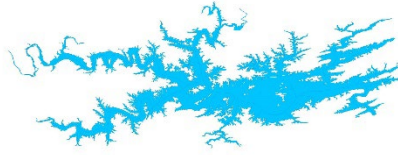


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: April 3, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM by Jerry Shields

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Stacy Sigman, Lake Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Matt Mitchell, Facility Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Tom Butler	Ron Mayfield	Jo West Taylor
Robert Cavanaugh	Bill Pell	Dan Watson
George Dooley	Shane Scott	
Al Gathright	Jerry Shields	

Approval of March 2023 Meeting Minutes: Robert C. moved to approve the March 6 minutes; Al G. seconded. Minutes approved as written.

ADA Walkway Contractor Bid Status: Tom B., George D, Jerry S., and Shane S. who are on the bid committee drafted a request for proposal to be posted in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. The news release will ask potential contractors to email Tom B. and he will send all the project information from Jerry and the contractor will then provide the bid proposal. Jerry suggested after the bids are in, the committee picks a place where the Corps can witness the selection process. Stacy S. asked if they would go with the lowest bid or the best value? Tom shared they would look at experience also as cheapest isn't always the best. Tom suggested Matt M. be present in the selection meeting. Jerry asked if there was going to be an opportunity for volunteer teams to work with the contractor towards the end of the contract, and if they needed to break

down the bids by sources for material and sources for labor. After some discussion, Matt M. stated they wouldn't want to disqualify the warranty on the product by installing some of the material themselves, and Tom B. suggested FOLO could always help by dressing up the area beside the work site. George D. stated they needed to make sure and put in the bid that work can only be done during the dry season and that track machines can be used during that time. Stacy S. will send a spreadsheet of historical rule curve of Ouachita water levels. Jerry stated the Dallas contractor said it would take about 6 weeks to complete the project. Tom B. stated he would try to get it in the paper by mid- April and hopefully get responses in by 3rd week in May. Tom will pay for the ad and FOLO will re-imburse. Tom asked Jerry what sources he had for materials. Jerry stated he would find out in the next few days. Stacy requested the "storage area" for materials that was listed in the draft solicitation as Denby Point be changed to Tompkins Bend. Storage area is 2.5 miles from work site. Tom asked the committee if he was authorized to send this to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette after corrections are made. Jo W. moved for authorization to send; Bill P. seconded. Committee unanimously approved.

ADA Walkway Funding Status: Al G., Robert C., Ron M., and Bill P are on this committee. They referenced three websites in the funding discussion:

- Trails@mena
- oztrails.com (@ northwest Arkansas)
- AR State Park Monument Trails

Al shared he had attended an event at Mena and Gary Vernon, Program Officer for Walton Personal Philanthropy Group, was the guest speaker and they were able to visit with him and Mayor Seth Smith. Mayor Smith told Al to look up the trails of Mena. They are planning a gravity trail from Wilhelmina State Park to Downtown Mena with a chair lift for bikes. After visiting with Gary Vernon, Jerry will send him the vendor solicitation information. Al also spoke with Suzanne Grobmyer, Chief of Staff of Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, and Mitchell Allen, Trail Project Manager for Arkansas Parks and Recreation Foundation. Jerry will send packet to Suzanne. Jerry also talked to Bill Barnes who is on the Arkansas Outdoor Recreation Commission which has funded 54 grant applications last year. This grant application will be submitted by July 1st.

Al G. asked the committee on recommendations for foundations to approach: They will talk to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Gary Vernon (Walmart Foundation), West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, Arkansas Outdoor Recreation Commission, and ARDOT.

George D. suggested talking with Steve Arrison, CEO of Visit Hot Springs, who is working with Little Rock Trails to Hot Springs that will supposedly be connected to the LOViT when completed.

Jerry S. shared an individual had sent them a \$500 donation. Jerry wants to find out what Owens Corning has in mind about discounting or donating some of the materials. Jerry also asked if the committee thinks setting up a Go Fund Me account would be beneficial. After discussion, Shane S. moved to go forward with setting up the Go Fund Me and Jo W. seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

Jerry stated he talked with Southwest Regional Development Association and there are no dates yet on their grant applications. Bill P. will follow up.

FOLO Committee Replacement Candidates: Stacy S. shared they had received 4-5 applicants, and the announcement is open until April 14th. Announcement was sent out again to Public Affairs to go on social media and local newspapers. Jerry S. mentioned talking to Ned Skoog about the position.

2023 Lake Cleanup Dates and Areas of Focus:

Jo W. shared the Corps will locate areas of high litter closer to the end of recreation season. She registered with Keep Arkansas Beautiful on February 13th. The cleanup is set for October 7th with a rain date of October 14th. Jo suggested having a get-together the Friday night before the event (October 6th) at Tompkins bend Pavilion.

USACE Initiatives Update: Stacy shared the parking lot at ADA trail was the priority once they get the dump truck that has been in the shop back. He further shared they decided to install wells at Little Fir vs a wastewater treatment plant due to maintenance requirements of the plant. Stacy shared the water tank at Brady Mountain is still on schedule and they are looking at scopes for a new Joplin treatment plant. George D. asked if Joplin was in the plans to be paved. Stacy shared that funding will not allow for this right now, but they are looking at getting 3 loads of cold mix to patch larger areas of roadway at Joplin campground.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM