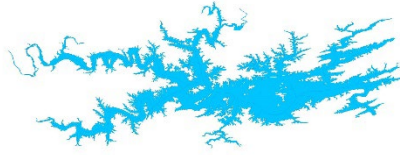


# Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road  
Royal, AR 71968

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

**DATE:** August 7, 2023

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

Stacy Sigman, Lake Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office  
Derick Walker, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita  
Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

**Special Guest:** Kimberly Miller, Silviculturists, U.S. Forest Service

**Members Present:**

Bill Barnes	Al Gathright	Jo West Taylor
Tom Butler	Bill Pell	Dan Watson
Robert Cavanaugh	Rob Sanders	Jerry Williams
George Dooley	Jerry Shields	

**Approval of June 2023 Meeting Minutes:** Robert C. moved to approve the March 6 minutes; Jo W. seconded; minutes approved as written.

**Parks and Tourism Grant:** Jerry S. shared he met with the Montgomery County Judge about the Office of Outdoor Recreation Grants. The judge contacted Glenwood who had written the grants, and they are 50/50 grants. FOLO would have to put 100K towards the project before the project began. Jerry stated, they voted not to pursue this route. Bill B. made some calls and found out all the Parks and Tourism grants had been moved to the Outdoor Recreation grants (OOR). Bill stated they have grants other than 50/50 matching grants. They also have 75/25 grants. He has a call in to Katherine Anderson, director of OOR, to find out who the decision maker is for the Grants. Office of Outdoor Recreation will meet in September, and any grant they give will be 2024 funded.

Tom B. shared they had three firm bids with an average bid of 500 K to complete the project. Jerry S. shared Owens Corning company might be willing to donate materials. Bill B. asked if the materials donated could count for in-kind-services on a grant proposal. Jerry stated that it would. Jerry further stated that if FOLO widened the corridor, that would also count for in-kind services. The Corps will help with this, but cannot begin until a grant is procured, or it can't be counted as in-kind service. Jerry S. had asked Arkansas Game and Fish about any money available and was told there was not any money at this time. Jerry shared FOLO currently has 108 K in the bank. Bill B. stated he would contact OOR and AGFC. Al G. shared the Walton Foundation is more focused on the Mena Trail system currently.

**October 2023 Lake Cleanup:** Jo W. shared the counselors for the students at Caddo Hills and Mt. Ida has not gotten back with her regarding the cleanup. Cleanup is set for October 7<sup>th</sup> with rain date of October 14<sup>th</sup>. Stacy recommended only one school group come out on Wednesday before the cleanup and the other can assist on Saturday if both want to be involved. Kimberly Miller offered the Forest Service assistance if needed for the school day. Derick stated the Corps would identify primary spots to focus on and will pick up the large trash collected with barge.

**Committee Membership Candidates:** Jerry S. shared FOLO is still short a member. He shared Kristy Dodd has been a volunteer for Friends of Ouachita Trails and had an idea to open a business to hire a crew and plan and perform trail maintenance. She is talking to Mitchell Allen, acting director of the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Foundation. She will be clearing Denby Bay to Joplin next week. Bill P. shared that if FOLO were to hire her to clear trails, it might be a conflict of interest to have her as a member of FOLO. Stacy stated she could still attend monthly meetings, but not as a voting member. Stacy will send out the emails and resumes he has received tomorrow of the 5 applicants for the board position.

**New Business:** Al G. stated he met with Kristy Dodd and Bart Hanners, board member with Trail Advocacy Coalition of the Ouachita's (TACO), and they want to go out with Shane Scott and clear a section of Little Bear.

**USACE Initiatives Update:** Stacy shared the end of the FY is in sight and the 24' budget does not look much better than 23's. He has submitted packages for storm damage funding, so hopefully will receive some funding from those. He shared the boring machine for the Hot Springs water intake has pushed through the mountain and they are assembling a barge on Brady ramp to go get it. The operations have slowed down at Mountain Pine. Jerry S. asked if campground hosts were still manning booths at the recreation areas. Stacy shared volunteers are working 20 hrs./week at some of the booths, but the Corps has saved 120K by not having fee operators. Bill B. shared his appreciation for the Corps and working with a great group of people.

Bill moved to write a letter to the Supervisors to state their appreciation to the Corps. Motion unanimously approved.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.