



Friends of Lake Ouachita, Inc.

1424 Blakely Dam Road, Royal, AR 71968

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

**DATE:** January 6, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:01 PM by Jerry Shields

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

Stacy Sigman, Natural Resources Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office

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

**Members Present:**

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

**Review of Minutes:** Tom B. moved to approve the minutes from November 4<sup>th</sup> and Dan W. seconded, minutes approved as written.

**Invasive Species Update:** Al G. attended the state level meeting in December for their group. The committee is forming a database of invasive species for all state waters. The committee is encouraging anyone who finds an invasive species to report to Jimmy Barnett of AGFC to include in this database. He requests a GPS coordinate and photo of what was discovered. The committee is recruiting members from various agencies and schools to form a coalition. They are focused on public awareness and education. A private lands commission is already in place and led by Jamie Anderson at Lonoke Fish Ponds. They have a Rapid Response Team that address issues as they arise. Stacy S. asked if there is a system in place to put caught fish or aquarium dumps at. Bill B. expresses that people would do the right thing if they just knew the

process was harming the waters. Al G. stated you can contact this group via Twitter and Facebook through the AGFC website.

**Courtesy Dock Relocation:** Stacy S. informed the group the Crystal Springs courtesy dock was vandalized again for approximately \$4K in repairs. He stated he will fix, but he will not put back at Crystal Springs and wanted the group to decide where to put it after repairs are made. The group voted on either Joplin or Spillway boat ramps. George D. made a motion to move to Joplin and Jo W. seconded it. The group was all in favor. Bill B. thanked the group and ensured he would take care of as waters levels rise and fall.

**Joplin Recreation Area Rehabilitation Update:** Derick W. gave progress update and shared pictures of the rehabilitation of the area. He explained the methodology of the planning that went into the plans and emphasized that the current terrain was been used to put sites where they make sense. He stated he believes this area is unique and the driving reason for adapting the campsites to meet the current terrain to not lose that. Derick W. explained the new Ranger Ridge section that will have 7 Tent Only campsites measuring 16' x 32'. These tent sites will be a "tread lightly" theme being that all equipment the visitors has must remain on the designated camp pad. After the rehabilitation, all RV campsites will have 50 AMP service, a water hookup, fire ring, picnic table, and a pedestal grill. Most RV campsites will also have a designated tent pad constructed. All Tent Only campsites will have a water jug filler near where the parking spots have been placed. They will also have a picnic table, fire ring, pedestal grill and lantern hanger.

**LOViT Trail:** Jerry S. informed group of a boy scout working on his eagle project was building a new ADA trailhead sign. He stated USACE had provided materials for him and the sign looks great. Jerry S. also informed group that boy scouts have helped construct bridge crossings on the LOViT. Al G. shared with the group that the LOViT Marathon was a huge success and it was conducted since the group last meet.

**Hickory Nut Mtn. Proposal:** Jerry S. said the group's proposal was not dead yet. He stated he has been in contact Will Layton with Bruce Westerman's office and were drafting a letter to USFS office to encourage this project. Jerry S. stated the USFS received a 75% increased budget for roads, but was probably for fire lines. Alan A. asked if FOLO has ever got in contact with the Dark Skies group for assistance with this project.

**Tompkins Bend Day Use Area Update:** Stacy S. showed pictures of the sidewalk completions to the new restroom. He also showed pictures of the LED lighting under the pavilion and the new security light. Stacy S. also shared a new proposal Derick W. and Josh T. (USACE Ranger) worked on for a swim beach facility and amnesties for this area. He stated he would have to receive approval through the District. He wants to add this new area and close Twin Creek Day Use beach to return back to nature and due to the cultural significance.

**Closing Comments:** Jerry S. asked for members for participation in 2020 and are you active in this group. Stacy S. said he would gather a list of projects for the group by next meeting.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned @ 7:20 P.M.