



Friends of Lake Ouachita, Inc.

1424 Blakely Dam Road, Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: March 3, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM by Jerry Shields

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Tom Butler	Al Gathright	John Simpson
Phillip Carr	Ron Mayfield	Jo West Taylor
Robert Cavanaugh	Bill Pell	Dan Watson
George Dooley	Jerry Shields	Jerry Williams

Review of Minutes: Robert C. moved to approve the minutes from January 6th and Jo W. seconded, minutes approved as written.

Announcements: Jerry S. shared the committee was sorry to see Rick Stokes resign from FOLO and FOLO Inc. board. He introduced Bill Pell and welcomed him to FOLO. Jerry shared Mr. Pell's membership was voted on and unanimously approved. Jerry further shared Dan W. will be replacing Rick S. on the FOLO Inc. board.

USFS Walnut Creek Study: Jerry shared the Forest service is conducting a Walnut Creek study which is an environmental study. Most of the proposed items in the Hickory Nut Mountain proposal are listed in the study. Jerry urged committee members to contact the Womble office to obtain a copy of the study. Bill P. asked why a proposed visitor's center on top of Hickory Nut was listed in the study. Jerry stated the study took pieces of an original proposal and this was in an original proposal and not in FOLO's proposal.

LOViT Trail: Jerry shared a fellow Trail Dog had suggested the 100 foot wide exclusion zone for the LOViT was not an adequate zone to protect the canopy, and suggested expanding the no-

cutting (exclusion zone) another 50 feet on each side of the trail. Al G. shared the LOViT marathon was held on the trail and Phillip C. shared that there were approx. 83 participants and 28 out of 46 finished the 100 mile race. Several records were broken and everything ran smoothly. Al shared the Boy Scout working on the trailhead sign at the ADA trail finished this Eagle Scout project. He further shared these were nice metal signs.

Hickory Nut Mountain Coalition: Jerry stated the committee had met with Bruce Westerman and discussed the main goal of having the Forest Service Road to Hickory Nut vista paved. They discussed having the road transferred to the counties inventory so they can get some state and county funding. Montgomery County Judge has met with the Womble district ranger and they are discussing swapping 6.2 miles of roads the county maintains across the lake from the Twin Creek boat launch area (where camp Ozark has canoes) with the 4.17 mile Hickory Nut Mountain Road. Bill P. shared if Hickory Nut Mountain road became a county road, more funding would become available. Possible funding sources include: Federal Lands Access Program, timber sales money, Department of Transportation money, etc...

USACE Operational Review: Jerry shared the lock on the gate at the Tompkins Bend Storage yard is broken and needs replaced. Amy S. will turn this in and Corps will replace lock. Amy shared the March 1st opening of Tompkins Bend recreation area, Little Fir Recreation area, and the north recreation areas along with Spillway, Crystal, and Twin Creek day use areas went smoothly. Amy further shared Brady Mountain will be opening April 1st and Joplin May 1st. Amy shared notes Stacy S. had sent for the update: Work continues in Joplin. The Brady Mountain water treatment install and training will be completed next week. Stacy is still working with contracting on Brady Mountain/Stephens paving start date. Stacy shared Ouachita received extra supplemental funding for FY20 and the following work is scheduled:

- Purchase a water tank for BM. This will complete all major backlog maintenance on the utility systems.
- Purchase a waste water treatment plant for LF.
- Provided 50% funding for FY20 boundary survey work. Corps will fund the remaining 50%.
- Provide funding to complete 100% inventory and replacement of project key system.
- Purchase primary electrical for Twin Creeks (Property line to transformer)
- Remaining funds will be used to purchase supplies and materials for Joplin campsite rehabilitation in FY21.

Derick has completed a Scope of Work for a new patrol boat. This will be sent to Contracting in early March.

Jerry stated that he believed some of the committee members need to meet with Derick in Joplin when weather gets warm and look at the work being done and the improvements planned for the area.

Lake Ouachita Cleanup: Jo W. suggested setting a date for the fall cleanup. Jo W. moved to set October 3rd as the fall cleanup date working east from Tompkins Bend to Mountain Harbor. Phillip C. seconded. Motion unanimously approved. George D. stated they needed more boats this year. Jo W. believes using non-violent prisoners (309 program) would be beneficial. Jerry suggested forming a committee to talk with David White (MCSO Sheriff). Phillip C. believes

this may be a struggle to get them. John S. volunteered to go with Jo W. to meet and discuss this with David White.

Crystal Springs Courtesy Dock: Jerry stated the courtesy dock must be repaired and modified before it can be moved to Mountain Harbor. It is going to take \$4,000 to fix it.

Closing Remarks: Tom B. stated he thinks the next time there is an opening on FOLO committee, they might contact the Hot Springs Mountain Biking Association to try to get a younger person on the committee who has an interest in Mountain Biking and the trail. Tom also suggested having annual members for FOLO that pledge \$20/year to be a member and possibly receive bumper sticker or pen for membership. Jerry S. believes this is a great idea and would like to see someone working on this project. George D. volunteered to go with Tom to talk with the Mountain Biking Association about this.

Jerry S. shared he and Stacy S. had looked at the attendance to the meetings and also looked at the members who weren't participating in the meetings and/or events such as the cleanup. He stated if you aren't able to participate, you are on the wrong committee.

Adjournment: George D. moved to adjourn and Jo W. seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 6:55 P.M.