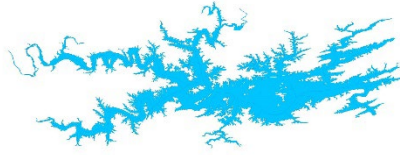


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: February 5, 2024

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Stacy Sigman, Natural Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Derick Walker, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Matt Mitchell, Facility Operations Supervisor, Lake Ouachita Field office
Shannon Herrin, Forrester, Lake Ouachita Project Office
Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Special Guest: Amanda Gee, District Ranger for Caddo-Womble District, Forest Service

Members Present:

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

Approval of January 2024 Meeting Minutes: Robert C. moved to approve January Minutes, Jo West seconded, minutes approved as written.

Announcements: Jerry S. shared FOLO had received an 80K grant from Owens Corning for the ADA elevated walkway.

NEEF Grant Update: Amy S. and Jerry S. provided information on the National Environment Education Foundation (NEEF) grant application for possible 10K for the construction of the ADA fishing pier. Amy explained this grant was geared toward Veterans, minorities, and the disabled. Jerry took a count of veterans on the committee (6). Amy shared the application

required FOLO to upload their budget and financials. Jerry will work with Amy on getting these uploaded. Jerry procured a letter of support from Mountain Harbor and Montgomery County Veteran Service Office. Grant submission is due March 1st.

Fisheries Grant: Amy S. shared the Corps would like to apply for a Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Grant for installation of bream beds to enhance spawning and thereby increase yield of sportfish in the Joplin/Mountain Harbor area. Amy shared the Corps would like to partner with FOLO and FOLO handle and disperse the funds should the Corps receive the 15K grant. The Corps will also be partnering with Lake Hamilton, Caddo Hills, and Mount Ida students who will assist in construction of the bream beds. Amy shared FOLO might be asked to provide food for a small group of students helping install the beds in 2025 if FOLO approves. Jo W. moved to partner with the Corps on the fisheries grant. George D. seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

Owens Corning Grant: Jerry shared that back in August when they met with Owens Corning, Owens Corning wanted to wait to see if FOLO would receive a grant to fund entire project before offering any of their grants. After being awarded the 409K grant from ARDOT, Owens Corning Foundation contacted FOLO inc., met with them for lunch and announced the foundation was very impressed with the project proposal and awarded FOLO inc. 80K in cash with no match required. Jerry provided a write up of the grant update to FOLO members.

Tap Grant Seminar Report: Ron M., Al G., Robert C., and Jerry S. attended a Tap seminar for the ARDOT grant and found out that FOLO was the only organization who was not a municipality that received a grant. They cannot begin any in-kind service until they are given permission to start. Federal in-kind service cannot count, and they will need 2600 hours of in-kind service for the match. They may not be able to begin next fall due to the requirements for the funding. Tom B. Believes the contractors would hold their labor prices, but the material prices would have to be re-quoted at time of project. Tom also thinks the contractor should be responsible for buying the material and handling it. Matt M. stated that contractors can get materials cheaper than they can. Jerry shared they are modifying the plans by using three rails instead of 2, added a brace and decking boards for the railing. They will be using smaller bolts and less wood. Tom B. asked if anyone was re-drawing the specs. Jerry shared that he and David were working on it. After some discussion on ways to move forward, Shane S. moved to get bids from contractors with materials and labor included George D. added with a goal of starting by September 2024. Bill P. seconded; motion approved.

Jerry shared they would also be applying for an AARP community grant of up to 50K. He believes they have a good chance of getting a grant through this, as project aligns with the grant qualifications. They could use this to re-pave the ADA trail through the woods. This is a non-matching grant.

Forest and Land Competition Request: Shannon Herrin shared information on the 2nd annual Ouachita Challenge where FFA and 4H students from throughout Arkansas come to compete in land, soil, forestry, and wildlife competition. He shared last year over 200 students competed and it was held at Tompkins Bend. This year it will be held at the seed orchard, and 192 are already signed up and they are anticipating around 250 by the time registration closes February 15th. The

Corps requested FOLO's help providing the meal. Jerry shared FOLO inc. had voted to purchase a \$500 visa gift card to use for food, but he requested the card back for re-loading since you must pay a fee every time you get a card. Shannon thanked the committee for the donation for food. George D. asked how you cleared site for the land judging. Amanda Gee stated their archaeologist surveys the site and sends findings to SHPO. They must give tribes 30 days' notice.

Jo W. moved to sponsor the gift card for food, George D. seconded, motion unanimously approved.

New Business: Jerry suggested forming a small committee to move forward with the ADA pier project. He suggested Stacy S., Tom B., Robert C, and Jerry S. be on the committee to open bids, make decisions, and keep the committee apprised of the progress. Committee approved unanimously this suggestion.

USACE Initiatives Update: Derick shared the logging in Joplin is completed, the Corps burned Joplin, and got a 75% burn, the Corps is sweeping Joplin roads and clearing limbs, and debris from the logging. He further shared the Tompkins Bend homestead trailhead is a mess and when it dries, the Corps will bring in the dozer to blade ditches for drainage. The Corps is applying cold patches to roadway going into Joplin campground and clearing area for new wastewater treatment plant tentatively scheduled for delivery September-November or early 2025. The hail damaged roofs on comfort stations have now been replaced.

Adjournment: Tom B. moved to adjourn meeting, Jo W. seconded, meeting adjourned @ 7:10 P.M.