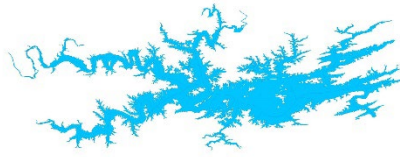


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: February 3, 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Matt Mitchell, Supervisory Operations and Maintenance, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

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

Approval of October 2024 Minutes: Tom B. moved to approve the October minutes, Jo W. seconded, minutes approved as written.

Annual Financial Report: Jerry discussed the expenditures and Revenue for 2024 listed below. There is currently \$196,000 in the FOLO account. Below is the 2024 financial report Jerry sent to the committee.

Expenditures:

Jan - \$504.88 - Veterans Hunt
Feb - \$350.00 - CPA Expenses
Mar - \$92.17 - Trail supplies
May - \$196.15 - Trail Supplies
Aug - \$852.50 - Trail Maintenance Contract
\$125.00 - CPA Expense for ArDot Grant

Sep - \$321.15 - Children's Lake Cleanup Lunch Expense
Dec - \$2,900.00 - ArDot Grant Engineer Expense

Total \$5,291.85

Revenue:

Donations - \$500.00
Trail Map Ads - \$1,650.00
Grants - \$85,000 (2-Grants)
Interest - \$6,479.63

Total \$93,629.63

2025 Proposed Budget: Jerry shared that he, Tom B., Dan W., Al G., and Robert C. were members of FOLO Inc. board and the following that was previously sent to FOLO members is the 2025 proposed budget, however Jerry suggested adding \$500 to the community outreach expenditures, as there was an additional community outreach event not previously accounted for. Robert C. moved and Tom B. seconded adding the \$500 to community outreach program fund. The following is what was sent to the committee through email, so total for community outreach will be changed to \$1500.

FOLO 2025 Proposed Budget

Community Out Reach - \$1,000.00 (now \$1500)

Trail Maintenance - \$5,000.00

ArDot Grant Matching - \$90,000.00

Administrative Exp. - \$500.00

LOViT Trail Re-blazing: Ron M. and Jerry S. had discussed adding reflective trail markers every 1,000 feet of trail for each direction of travel to aid in navigation of the trail and the reflective markers will assist marathon hikers and bikers in the dark. The committee discussed types of markers and cost of the markers needed. Jerry showed some examples and estimated approx. \$4,000 in trail marker cost would be needed. Tom B. will get with Jerry on marker suggestions.

ARDOT ADA Walkway Grant Status: Tom B. shared that ARDOT had rejected Jerry W. design because they categorized the project as a bridge instead of a walkway and the loading capacity for a bridge must be 90 lbs/square foot. Jerry W. was talking to Owens Corning about 60 lbs/sq foot. They would need to double the number of runners for 90 lbs which will drastically increase the price.

George D. asked how much it would cost to construct the walkway without the ARDOT grant. Jerry S. estimated they were about 50K short of having the money for materials without the grant. Currently the grant is on hold due to the government's hold on all federal grants. Tom B. suggested looking into alternative materials such as steel underscore and composite decking, and suggested they meet with ARDOT to see about getting it reclassified to a pedestrian walkway. Al G. suggested getting Bruce Westerman involved. Jerry S. stated he would make some calls and try to set up a meeting. Tom B. will forward an email Ashley Smith, Program Management Engineer had sent from ARDOT and Jerry will contact her.

Committee Leadership Transition: Jerry S. stated he believes we need another chair. He explained in the bylaws that the chair of the committee was to have a two-year term with the option of another two-year term. Al G. is chair of the FOLO Inc. committee, and they would need to replace these positions or make a motion to change the by-laws. Jerry stated he had already spoken to Stacy about it and Stacy will support the decision either way. Tom B. stated they needed to consider filling a chair and vice chair so the vice chair can step into the chair position after the chair leaves. After some discussion, Robert and Jerry will visit with Shane S. to see if he is interested in the Vice Chair position. Jerry stated he would stay as Chair until the end of the year to finish this grant process and then would turn it over to whoever is nominated for Vice Chair.

Jo W. proposed to nominate Shane Scott as Vice Chair for 2025 and then become the next Chair. Bill P. seconded; motion carried. Robert C. will talk to Shane about it.

Corps 2025 Operational Goals: Jerry S. shared the Corps received a Fisheries Habitat Grant that FOLO would be receiving as the partner to purchase supplies. Amy S. shared the grant was for Bream bed construction, and that FOLO would receive funds and Dustin T. would be purchasing the supplies with FOLO paying for supplies with the grant funding. Amy explained it was a 15 K in-kind grant, and no money was required for a match. Amy asked Al G. if they could get the agreement signed and a copy of FOLO's W-9 form. Al signed agreement and will email the W-9.

Matt M. shared the Corps and contractors are clearing roadways in recreation areas to prepare for opening on March 1st. Matt further shared Joplin will not open until April 1st due to wastewater treatment plant installation. All other areas will open March 1st. Matt shared the Warrior Hunt had 29 hunters and approximately 50 people involved this year which was about 20 less than last year. The weather was beautiful, and 40 squirrels and 2 raccoons were harvested. He thanked FOLO for the donation. Amy S. passed around pictures of the Bathymetric boats doing the lake survey and the Warrior hunt.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 P.M.