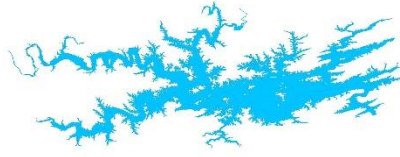


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: February 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM by Jerry Shields

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Stacy Sigman, Lake Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Jon Munz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Special Guest:

Ned Skoog, Arkansas Natural Sky Association

Members Present:

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

Jerry Shields opened the meeting and introduced guest speaker, Ned Skoog from Arkansas Natural Sky Association.

Dark Sky Initiative-Ned Skoog: Mr. Skoog from the Arkansas Natural Sky Association, a 501C (3) group shared a power point presentation highlighting the benefits of better practices for nighttime outdoor illumination. He shared that 83% of the world’s population cannot see the stars at night due to excessive lights. The population has risen from 3 billion people in 1960 to 8 billion people today. Mr. Skoog further shared that the increase in lighting at night leads to health concerns such as decrease in melatonin levels causing reduced sleep, certain increases in

types of cancers, obesity, diabetes to name a few. The recommendation is to change the direction of outdoor lighting to point downward, reduce LED lights to 35 watts, convert to all LED, and reduce number of lights. He further shared that lighting color should be 2700 kelvin which is a soft white. Tom B. brought up the excess lighting at car dealerships. Mr. Skoog stated they are working with the Lake Ouachita State Park to obtain Dark Sky certifications. They have a letter posted on their website: darkskyarkansas.org about the initiative. Several members requested copies of his presentation and copies of the letter. He will send these to Jerry S. to send to committee.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes: Tom B. moved to approve the January minutes as written. Jo W. seconded. Minutes from the January meeting approved as written.

Veteran's Jan. 2023 Squirrel Hunt and Dinner Feedback: Jon Munz provided a power point presentation showing pictures and highlights from the Veteran's Squirrel Hunt. He shared the morning hunt went ok due to weather, but the afternoon hunt was great. They hosted 29 hunters, with approx. 80 people including family members of hunters. Nine dogs were used, and the hunters harvested 75-80 squirrels. Jon shared the hunters were from all over the U.S. He thanked FOLO for the donation for the food and shared the food was cooked by two of our O&M staff, Shannon Davis and Chris Frazier, and was excellent.

ADA Elevated Walkway: Jerry S. shared a packet he and his son had put together to give to fund sources for the Watchable Wildlife Segment Walkway Replacement Proposal. The packet includes an overview and history of the LOViT along with grants received for construction costs for the trail and ADA, and funding needs going forward for renovation of the ADA walkway. Everyone agreed the package was well done. Bill P. suggested adding the estimate for construction costs for the ADA walkway. Jerry stated he had omitted that because he was talking to multiple contractors to get bids. Tom B. asked if a company or group wanted to fund the entire thing, if they could name this portion of trail after them. Stacy shared there were some strict rules on that, and he would research those and send Jerry the policy. Jerry suggested forming a 3-person negotiations team to approach funding sources. He stated he didn't mind helping but wasn't going to do this project on his own. He further suggested breaking it into two requests for funding-one for materials and one for labor. Tom B. suggested needing a committee also to get bids from contractors and suggested hiring a general contractor to manage the project. The contractor must be licensed in the state of Arkansas. Jerry asked what the members believed was the best sources for approaching for funding. After discussion, they believe Arkansas Outdoors Department, Walton Family Foundation, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be the best organizations to approach first. Tom B., Jerry W., and Jerry S. volunteered to be on the committee to get contracting bids. Al G., Robert C., and Ron M. agreed to be on the committee to talk with the Walton Foundation and present funding request package. Shane S. also volunteered to assist where needed. Jerry W. shared construction costs usually are 2.5 times the cost of materials.

USACE Initiatives Overview: Stacy S. shared the Corps is still working on Crystal Springs area 1 renovations which are on-track for March 1 opening.

Lake Ouachita Fall Cleanup: Jo W. suggested the cleanup date to be October 7th with the rain date of October 14th. She will be in contact with the school to choose the date the kids can participate.

Adjournment: Phillip C. moved to adjourn; Dan W. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM