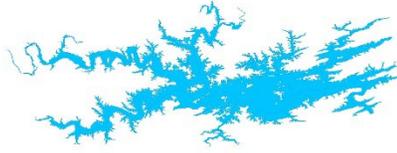


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: June 4, 2024

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Stacy Sigman, Lake Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Derick Walker, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita
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
Robert Cavanaugh	Ron Mayfield	Dan Watson
George Dooley	Shane Scott	Jerry Williams

Announcements: Jerry S. relayed there is no meeting scheduled in July due to the busy July 4th holiday.

Approval of May 2024 Minutes: Robert C. moved to approve the May 6th minutes, George D. seconded, minutes approved as written.

LOViT Mapping Project: Ron M. shared they had completed the first 10 miles of GPS locations for each mile marker to create a new map. They did not locate mile marker 9 and 10 and will turn this over to Mike Wade to find/or replace the markers not found. They should complete mapping of the entire trail in the next few weeks and all mile markers will be verified with the GPS coordinates. They will also map the benches and have notes for who purchased each bench. Jerry shared there are numbers on the backs of every bench and there are 47 benches along the trail with the first leg having the most benches because it is rated as the easiest part of the trail to hike. The service roads will also be on the maps and water features such as waterfalls will also be noted. The result will be a very detailed map for hikers and bikers.

Trail Maintenance: Al G. shared Christy Dodd has asked if FOLO is interested in hiring her again for maintenance on the trail. Al stated they decided to have her concentrate on the worst areas which are Bear Mt. from Crystal to Brady Mountain, the Forest Service Rd. 47 A junction, and the area west of Spillway. The only thing needed would be weed eating. They would pay \$250-\$275/mile. George Peterka has also volunteered to help with weed eating and has already done the Brady Mountain to Trail Dog Vista section of trail. He will be working with Christy Dodd to weed eat the bad sections. Al further shared he had received a call from Bart Hanners from Trail Advocacy Coalition of the Ouachita's (TACO) who works on the North Woods Trail, and he asked if his group could sponsor a portion of the LOViT to keep it maintained. Jerry shared their appreciation for Shane S. doing all the maintenance he has done on the trail. Shane shared that one large hazardous tree on Bear Mountain was marked to be cut and he sent a message to Tom Ledbetter to ask Forest Service to cut this tree. Ron M. shared there was also a tree near Denby section that needs removed and he will also send a message to Tom L. with location. Derick shared he would send the pictures of all the mile markers to Ron M. which might help in locating them.

2024 Lake Cleanup Update: Jerry shared Jo West could not be at the meeting. Amy S. shared the cleanup was set for September 14th to coincide with Lake Ouachita State Park's cleanup day.

TAP \$409K Grant Update: Jerry shared ARDOT plans to meet with him on Monday, June 10th on site at 10:00 am. Stacy S. will not be available to meet Monday, but Derick W. can meet with them. Jerry shared he would text them if the dates or times changed. Jerry related that after reading the grant rules, there is no reason why FOLO can't put out the bids now. The bid solicitations must be out for 21 days and must be announced twice which means they must be open to the public for a month and a half. Ron stated they may need to make plans in case the project cannot be done this year and must be done next year (2025). Tom B. stated the contractors may not be able to fit the time frame into their schedule. Jerry shared Sammy Jones, ex Montgomery County Judge, used a contractor out of Mena to pile drive piers in, and suggested they might want to contact him. The contractor they hire might wish to subcontract him for the piers. Tom B. believes they should get quotes both ways (with him and without). Jerry shared Owen's Corning engineers had relayed that they are over-specking the framing needed. ARDOT would like to use local contractors when possible.

Grab-A-Bag: Derick stated rangers conducted a survey on condition of Grab a Bag stations and the main thing needed is new signs in some locations. He will let Jerry know how many signs are needed. He suggested staying with the Corrugated Plastic. Jerry will talk with supplier and see if they can add an adhesive backing to the signs. Derick shared the Corps has plenty of bags for summer but may need to re-order in the fall. Jerry shared if more 4X4 poles are needed, they are in the Tompkins Bend storage area. Tom shared he installed a Grab-A-Bag at the Mountain Harbor ramp at Marina Services-East Basin Drive. It will need a sign. Mountain Harbor maintains the bags for this one.

USACE Initiatives Update: Stacy S. shared the Corps had started a timber sale at Little Fir. Jerry shared concern on the condition of some of the restrooms and toilets. Matt M. explained that now you can't just replace one toilet or restroom door, that you must replace the entire stall due to inability to order the discontinued fixtures that are currently installed. It costs a lot of

money to replace just one stall and the Corps does not currently have the funding. Jerry asked how much the new bathroom modules like the ones in Little Fir cost? Matt shared they were \$166,000 plus installation. Jerry suggested he could investigate some grant funding and see if they could get a grant for one of these. He suggested possibly a Blue and You grant.

Jerry shared Montgomery County could sell asphalt to Stacy to put down on ADA trail. Stacy shared he might contact Brett Hobbs, AGFC, to see if they have funding to help with the re-paving. Jerry provided Stacy with additional LOViT trail maps for the front desk. Derick shared that Jake Powell had been fixing North Side area ramps with the dozer, he further shared that Boat Patrol had cleared vegetation away from the point and island markers and were applying herbicide to make markers more visible. They are also noting the large Styrofoam locations and will be going back out to cut them up and remove.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:57 P.M.