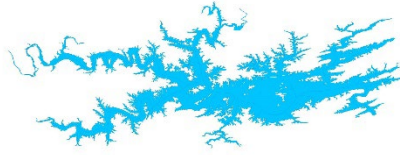


# Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road  
Royal, AR 71968

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:** Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

**DATE:** June 2, 2025

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:**

Derick Walker, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office  
Matt Mitchell, Supervisory Facility Operations Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office  
Amy Shultz, Natural Resources Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

**Members Present:**

Tom Butler	Al Gathright	Jerry Shields
Robert Cavanaugh	Rob Sanders	Jerry Williams
George Dooley	Shane Scott	

**Call to Order:** Meeting began at 6:00 PM.

**Approval of May 2025 Minutes:** Robert C. moved to approve the May minutes, Shane S. seconded, minutes approved as written.

**2024 Lake Cleanup Plans:** Jerry S. shared Jo W. will not be attending the meeting and asked if Corps had a date on the school or community fall cleanup. Amy S. shared she had contacted the State Park, and although they have not set a date, they stated it would be in September around National Public Lands Day which is September 27<sup>th</sup>. Derick W. suggested September 20<sup>th</sup> as the date for the community clean up so it would be before the opening day of bow season when many rangers would be off, and September 18<sup>th</sup> as possible date for the kid's cleanup.

**Gap Creek Blockage:** Matt M. shared Mike Wade is looking at ideas to fix the Gap Creek blockage. Currently trees have fallen into the creek, and the Corps is looking at ways to stabilize the banks. Some possible solutions involve using tree stumps and existing rock to strengthen the channel. Jerry suggested using boulders. Tom B. asked if the Corps could sweep the asphalt

path between the trees and the water. Derick stated he would write a work order, and the Corps/RBS can use street sweeper or bob cat to take care of this.

**Status of ARDoT ADA Walkway Grant:** Jerry S. thanked Tom for his work on the bid solicitations. Currently they have not received any bids. Jerry S. shared that Ashley Smith, Senior Engineer for ARDOT, told him they could apply for a 2<sup>nd</sup> grant if all bids came in too high, or they could change the design to shorten the trail since cost of materials have increased significantly. Jerry S. discussed options to make fishing pier smaller or the walkway approach shorter and take out the curves. Jerry stated he could have his son re-draw the walkway without the curves. Shane S. agreed these two options to lower cost would be good. Jerry S. shared the May FOLO financial report print out with the committee and asked what they were willing to pay above the grant funding and the amount of funds they want to see left in account. George D. would like to wait and see if they get any bids. Tom B. believes they will possibly get 2 bids in, and they sent out 22 solicitations for bids. Shane S. suggested going ahead and running the numbers with the reductions to the size of the walkway and see how much the cuts will save. Rob S. suggested cutting the two items (size of pier, and walkway) down and going to Walton's to request more funding. Jerry S. asked the Corps about a possible grant like the Pakistani fly grant. Derick W. shared that this is a handshake grant that is usually only 25K. The Corps will check into the handshake challenge grant. Jerry S. shared that FOLO received about 2K/year from the online trail map sales and possibly 10K/year for other income. Rob S. asked what buffer money amount they would like to leave in FOLO funds. Jerry S. suggested 50K. Jerry S. shared another possible option is to begin selling trail memorabilia such as hats, patches, pins.

**Corps 2025 Operation Issues:** Tom B. asked who cuts the grass for the Corps, as it was high in certain areas. Derick W. discussed the reduction in RBS staffing this year, and the liability issues with volunteers cutting grass. Rob S. requested grading of the ADA parking area to make it more level.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned @ 6:56 P.M.