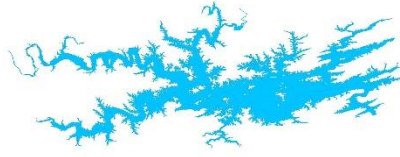


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: January 09, 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

Members Present:

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

Announcements: Jerry shared the special guest, Ned Skoog, was unable to attend the meeting due to sickness.

Minutes: Minutes from the November meeting were not available, approval of minutes tabled until February meeting.

Veterans January 2023 Squirrel Hunt: Jon Munz shared the 2023 warrior squirrel hunt (squirrel-a-palooza) is scheduled for January 27-29th with the Corps providing dinner for the hunters on Saturday night the 28th. There will be 80 + people in attendance including the 40 + hunters and their families and the personnel working the event. Jon further shared the Corps is requesting \$500 from FOLO to cover the cost of the food for Saturday night's meal. He explained the event is a multi-agency partnership with the Game and Fish, Corps, and Mountain

Harbor Resort being the main hosts. Jeff Black (AGFC) coordinates the dog handlers. The donation sponsors will be on the hunt banner and the t-shirts given to hunters. Jerry S. shared FOLO had \$600 in a fund that was designated for special hunts in honor of Arnie Habig. Jo W. moved to sponsor the food donation. Robert C. seconded, and donation of \$500 was unanimously approved. Jon also shared there will be a flag burning ceremony Saturday evening after the dinner. Jerry asked Jon to contact him on how to pay for food. The Corps thanked FOLO for the sponsorship and will email out a schedule of the hunt to FOLO members.

2023 Cleanup Plan: Jo W. shared the fall hunt will most likely be held in October with the student field trip held the week prior the weekend cleanup. She asked if they would still be feeding the students. Committee thought feeding them like last year went well. Committee shared October 7th and 14th were away Arkansas Games. Date of cleanups TBD

ADA Elevated Walkway: Jerry shared a list of possible grant/donation funding sources for the LOVIT Walkway. Members suggested adding Arvest Foundation and Simmons Bank to the list. Jerry shared the project will cost around 400K which includes materials and construction. He thinks the materials and construction might be better separated into two separate grant proposals. The material cost is approx. 175K. Jerry shared an email a contractor from Kamden contracting sent which gave estimates of metal frames vs EcoPile materials. EcoPiles will be the most economical materials requiring less labor and cheaper price. The lead time to get materials is approximately 3 weeks. EcoPile website has pictures of these structures, and the material is guaranteed for 25 years. The contractor stated they needed to construct it to 60 PSF (Pounds per square Foot) to be safe. Regulations are 40 PSF in Arkansas. Jerry discussed various funding sources such as Go Fund Me and Arkansas Recreation Grants Programs. He stated his son was putting together a package with graphics to submit with grant applications. Bill B. had suggested approaching the Game and Fish again for possible funding and believes the Arkansas Recreational Grants Program is most likely the best option for funding. Jerry will contact Matt McNair regarding the Arkansas Outdoor recreation Grants. Jerry shared the Corps had donated labor and equipment when the walkway was first constructed. This time, he believes breaking it into two groups for grants: one for construction and one for materials is the way to go. He further shared there are 7 benches that were sponsored and will need to be replaced along the walkway. Stacy shared it would be best if FOLO could handle the grant funding for this project instead of it being Corps managed, as it would have to go through contracting which would hold up the project. Jerry asked if members had any suggestions, to let him know. Robert C. stated they might also need some funding to rebuild the connector trail that has been washed out to the elevated trail.

New LOViT Maintenance Needs: Robert shared there were a few trees down on east side of Bear Mountain west of Brady Mountain Road. There are some erosion issues on several sections of trail. The Brady trailhead sign has also been stolen.

USACE Projects: Stacy shared the Corps was in the process of installing more valves through the campgrounds due to fighting water leaks. They are replacing the wastewater treatment plant at Joplin and continuing Crystal campground site rehabilitation.

Adjournment: Jo W. moved to adjourn; motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

