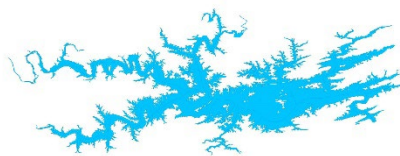


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: June 6, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: 6:02 PM by Jerry Shields

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Eric Jenkins, Project Manager, Lake Ouachita Project Office
Stacy Sigman, Lake Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Derick Walker, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Brett Hobbs
Matt Horton

U.S. Forest Service

Chris Hamm

Members Present:

Alan Atkins	Ron Mayfield	Jo West Taylor
Tom Butler	Bill Pell	
Robert Cavanaugh	Shane Scott	
George Dooley	Jerry Shields	
Al Gathright	John Simpson	

Guest Speaker: Matt Horton-AGFC Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator for State of AR. Mr. Horton gave a presentation on the AR aquatic nuisance species program. He showed a PowerPoint on the types, effects, and control of aquatic nuisance species. The focus is to prevent

introduction and spread of invasives. He explained this was the first time to have a program in Arkansas on aquatic nuisance species which cause 140 billion dollars in damages to the US annually. The list of aquatic nuisance species in Arkansas can be found on the AGFC website. There are 36 species on this list in Arkansas. Mr. Horton explained the grant funding for invasive carp program in Arkansas. There is an ANS task force whose mission is to develop, revise, and implement the AR ANS management plan. There are 48 members on this task force from 26 different agencies. Arkansas is the first state to implement the carp removal program and there is \$600,000 in grant funding for carp management. The focus is on the AR river and the White River where 37,000 lbs. of carp have been removed. Mr. Horton explained Giant Salvinia is in Lakes Erling and Columbia in Arkansas where they are working to improve documentation capabilities for AGFC staff and the public. They have set up a public boat cleaning station. Mr. Horton expressed the need to focus on educating the public and they are working to develop Arkansas specific ANS Identification materials. Stacy S. asked what the most dangerous invasive species was in Arkansas. Mr. Horton stated the ones of most concern are Giant Salvinia, Zebra, and Quagga mussels, and silver carp. Mr. Horton explained they needed the public's help on reporting any invasives they see. They are working to develop an ANS Phone app where people can upload photos and GPS locations. They are also working on an ANS dashboard map of reports in the state. Mr. Horton shared his contact information for anyone needing help with invasive species: matthew.horton@agfc.ar.gov

501-747-9012 (cell)

501-470-3309 ext. 1206

E- Bikes on Trails: Shane S., Robert C., and Ron M. discussed the use of E bikes on trails. Chris Hamm from the USFS stated they are working on an EA on the effects of E-bikes on the Ouachita Forest trails. The question they are trying to answer is should electric bikes be allowed, and what are the impacts on the trails of the electric bikes vs non-electric bikes. George D. stated the difference between the sound levels is not detectable. Shane stated they are trying to determine whether the e-bikes will damage the trail in any way. Chris Hamm stated the current Forest Service policy is unless the trails are open to motorized vehicles, they are closed to e-bikes. Shane explained the differences in classifications of e-bikes:

Class 1- Pedal assist, limited to 20 mph

Class 2- Throttle used to activate motor, can go up to 28 mph

Class 3- has 750-watt motor

Stacy stated the use of these would increase trail usage in more remote areas, but the Corps would have to reach out to the district for a policy change if we allowed these on the LOViT Corps property.

Jerry S. stated e-bikes would have no impact on EPIC status of the LOViT. Stacy and Eric J. stated that based on Corps policy, E-bikes are not allowed, however, it would be impossible to enforce this regulation on the LOViT. Stacy will send out the power point that Shane S. put together to the committee members.

2022 Cleanup: The cleanup will be top on agenda items discussed in August, as there is not a meeting in July.

Tree Restoration Program: Bill Pell stated the committee is going to encourage sticking to native trees as much as possible. They had visited Brady Mountain and Joplin to locate optimal areas for tree planting. The point at Brady and Brady playground areas are locations they would like to plant some trees. The goal is to purchase trees in September/October. Possible species: Shumard, and Southern Red Oak, Water Oak, and Willow Oak. They are looking to plant in the updated sections of Joplin. FOLO voted to allocate \$5,000 toward tree purchase in a previous meeting.

Comments: Jerry related that he and Tom B. were working on adding additional Grab-A-Bag dispensers and were making more signs.

Jerry also shared he talked with Kirsten Bartlow (AGFC) about introducing quail to the watchable wildlife trail.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.