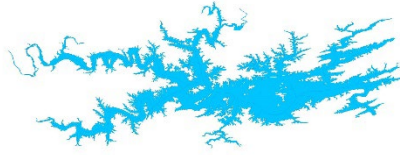


# Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road  
Royal, AR 71968

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

**DATE:** March 4, 2024, Minutes Updated- May 7, 2024.

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

Stacy Sigman, Natural Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office  
Matt Mitchell, Facility Operations Supervisor, Lake Ouachita Field office  
Shannon Herrin, Forrester, Lake Ouachita Project Office  
Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

**Special Guest:** Ty Huitt, Volunteer FFA Forestry Coach, and Pastor of Lake Ouachita Baptist Church, Mount Ida

**Members Present:**

Tom Butler	Al Gathright	Jerry Shields
Phillip Carr	Ron Mayfield	Dan Watson
Robert Cavanaugh	Rob Sanders	Jerry Williams
George Dooley	Shane Scott	

**Approval of February 2024 Meeting Minutes:** Ron M. moved to approve the February minutes, Phillip C. seconded, minutes approved as written.

**AARP Grant Update:** Jerry S. shared the AARP grant application was submitted a week ago and he received a note back that his submission was accepted. FOLO requested 15K in this grant for the fishing pier re-build.

**Owens Corning \$80K Grant Update:** Jerry shared the 80K check was mailed today and he believes it would be wise to invest it in short-term CD's that they could take out in August prior to needing the funds to gain interest on the investment. Phillip C. moved to invest money in short-term CD, Rob S. seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

**TAP \$409K Grant Construction Issues and Specs:** Jerry shared they are putting together bid packages for contractors and had set up a meeting with the ARDOT engineer, “Ashley Smith” assigned to their grant to see when they can begin in-kind service. They are including an estimate of materials with the new design specs. Jerry shared the ADA walkway specifications sheet with FOLO and asked for any additions/suggestions. He shared there would be 5 stringers under the walkway. Tom B. stated they needed to add the exact caps they would like, and the committee suggested the domed type to deter birds roosting and trash being placed on the caps. After discussion on concrete mix ratio, Stacy S. stated he would ask an expert on concrete mix ratio and get back with the committee. The committee discussed the size of spacing between decking, and after discussion Tom B. suggested 3/8 inch spacing with screws straight through the decking vs. on the sides. Jerry S. asked if the piers under the elevated bridge were yellow wood. Stacy said he would go look at them and let them know. The committee discussed using threaded stock bolts vs regular bolts. Tom B. suggested ½ inch threaded stock as they are more cost efficient. Jerry showed the colors the committee could choose from and discussed pros and cons of light colors vs dark. Committee decided on (2) color choices. They choose (2) different shades of gray, one for the framing and one for the decking to give a two-tone effect. Jerry stated he and David would have the new pitch package completed in the next few days, and Tom requested the package include the specific cap name and style. Tom B. moved the construction committee to take it from here Rob S. seconded, motion approved. Jerry suggested putting together a committee of Tom B. Jerry, Robert C., and Stacy S. to open the bids. Robert C. stated they needed to send the package to ARDOT engineer in advance of getting any bids for approval, as ARDOT must approve sending out the bids. Jerry S. stated they can charge 20% of in-kind service for administration. Jerry requested everyone keep records of amount of time committee members have worked on the project. Jerry S. emphasized that everyone working on the project at any time needed to record their phone call time as that counted towards in-kind services for documentation purposes.

**Forest and Land Competition Summary:** Shannon H. thanked FOLO for the donation for food for the FFA competition at the Seed Orchard. He shared there were 196 students from 28 schools participating in land judging, forestry, and wildlife competitions. In addition, there was 75-100 workers from the Corps, Forest Service, NRCS, Mount Ida FFA, and Mount Ida school. Shannon shared they had pulled pork sandwiches, chips, Subway donated cookies, and then an awards presentation at the conclusion of the event. Shannon showed a PowerPoint presentation of some pictures from the event and introduced Ty Huitt, Pastor of Lake Ouachita Baptist Church, and volunteer FFA Forestry Coach for Mount Ida School. Ty shared his appreciation to FOLO for the contribution for the meal. Shannon H. shared the event might be held at Stephens and Avery Park next year.

**Solar Eclipse:** Stacy S. shared the last emergency response meeting they will have will be March 14<sup>th</sup> in Montgomery County. Lake Ouachita is doubling it’s work force and establishing landing zones for emergency airlifts. Stacy further shared the Corps would be using temporary paint to create parking spaces along the dam, and when those are taken, the dam will be closed. There will be ATVs stationed in recreation areas in case emergency transport is needed and roadways are closed. There is a possibility of ramp closures if they reach capacity, with the main goal of keeping roadways open for emergency management.

**USACE Initiatives Update:** Matt M. shared the Corps is taking the Little Fir plant offline to hook to septic system. Stacy shared there was a timber sale at Joplin to prepare for site renovations hopefully in the fall. A wastewater plant has also been purchased for Joplin. Stacy shared the fish cleaning stations will be opened later this week.

**Adjournment:** Phillip C. moved to adjourn; Robert C. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.