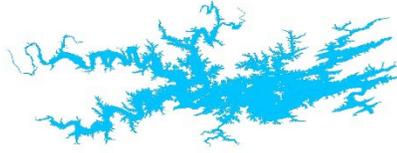


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: May 6th, 2024

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Stacy Sigman, Supervisory Natural Resource Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Derick Walker, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Bill Barnes	Ron Mayfield	Dan Watson
Tom Butler	Bill Pell	Jo West Taylor
Phillip Carr	Shane Scott	
Robert Cavanaugh	Jerry Shields	

Approval of March 2024 Meeting Minutes: Jerry S. wanted to correct minutes on (2) items. Notes made to re-word color choices and phone calls for in-kind services. Jerry S. moved to approve the March minutes pending these (2) changes, Tom B. seconded, minutes approved with changes spoken.

2024 Lake Cleanup: Jo West T. inquired with Derick W. if Amy had received date back from Lake Ouachita State Park to team up cleanup operations with them. Derick W. was unaware but would get back to her. Jo West T. proposed October 12th and Tom B. recommended September 7th as an alternate date. Stacy S. stated the Derick W. would have the NRM crew scout for areas of trash to focus on and where the best launch place would be for the boaters. Jerry S. asked if Dan W. could be part of Jo West T.'s sub-committee for the planning of the event. Jerry S. also asked if Jo West T. had contacted any schools. Bill B. agreed to contact Caddo Hills High School to coordinate their attendance. The committee supported continuance of the "one-day school" cleanup prior to the actual cleanup as years past. Jerry S. asked the committee if they wanted to have FOLO cook lunch for them, and everyone agreed that was a good thing to continue.

NEEP Grant Update: Jerry S. stated that FOLO did not receive this grant. He stated that the entire grant was on 200K nationwide. Jerry S. also stated that the AARP grant awardees had not been announced yet. He stated that this grant opportunity has millions in the pot.

ArDot TAP Grant Progress Report: Jerry S. provided handout on “Update Status of Elevated Walkway Grant”. The Right-of-Way Documentation and Project Plans/Estimates were listed as OK. The Environmental Documentation is expected for approval this week. Jerry S. discussed that the Request for Concurrence on how to do the project was in process. Other items that should be completed this month are the reviewing of specifications of the project and the official “Obligate of Funds (OOF)”. He stated the obligate of funds is where they issue a letter to take federal funds and give to the state of Arkansas to use for the project and this MUST be completed, signed, and sealed. Tom B. asked when we can put the bid package back out to potential vendors. Jerry S. said that ARDOT is using the USFS forms for the process and format. The ARDOT representative, Ashley, said they would contact FOLO at whatever step to do and when to do it. Ron M. asked to explain the concurrence section again. He was looking up and reading things from the USFS website on forms. Jerry S. moved on to “In-Kind Volunteer HRS” tracking on FORM 15 and stated that all FOLO members should track their time when speaking with anyone while working on this project. Members needed to record time, weather, who was there, location, etc. Shane S. asked if you could put multiple people down on (1) form or should it be split by people and separation of days. Tom B. asked about the contract bid process and if we were going to have to use the prevailing wage rate on contractors. Ron M. stated that “LPA003” FORM was listed on the prevailing wage scale on the USFS website. Stacy S. mentioned that with timeframe projected and as it approaches, he could possibly ask Eric Jenkins to discuss with hydropower to keep the lake lowered during this time for construction.

Walkway Proposed Design Modification: Jerry S. mentioned that Mr. Sammy Jones, retired Montgomery County Judge, called him to tell him he knew of someone with a pile driver system that sets piles, if FOLO was interested in trying that route. He asked group if anyone had concerns over utilizing a pile driver for posts instead of concrete. Discussion over pros and cons of both ensued. No decision was confirmed. Jo West T. asked if they could do a field trip to see what other places had used this pile driver.

New Business:

Grab-A-Bag: Tom B. asked Derick W. of plastic bag situation. Derick W. would check inventory and get back with him. Also, discussion by group on the status of all units and stickers if any needed serviced. Derick W. said he would get NRM Rangers to inventory all units.

Far-Out Maps: Robert C. encourage everyone to look at these maps that the USFS uses to get notifications on trail maintenance needed on the USFS trails. There is a QR Code posted at each trailhead for visitors to use as reporting system.

Red-Bud Planting/Trail Area Under brushing Status: Jerry S. stated that all red bud trees they planted at the elevated walkway area had survived the winter. Shane S. mentioned he had been cutting briars and vines in the wooded area between the walkway and paved trail. He said

he just needed to wait for a dry day to burn. Shane S. mentioned we FOLO should develop system of QR Codes like USFS to implement on the LOViT Trail System.

USACE Initiatives Update: Stacy S. did not have any new information to report. Derick W. reported that on May 1st, (15) USACE volunteers had started in the recreation areas for either assistance on campground management with the RIS reservation system or minor campground maintenance.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.