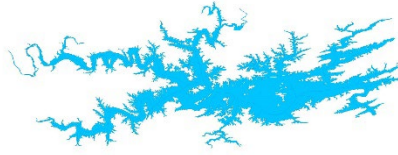


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: March 6, 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

Matt Mitchell, Facility Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Members Present:

Tom Butler	Al Gathright	Rob Sanders
Phillip Carr	Ron Mayfield	Jerry Shields
Robert Cavanaugh	Bill Pell	Jo West Taylor
George Dooley	Shane Scott	Dan Watson

Announcements: Jerry Shields opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M. and shared John Simpson resigned from FOLO and they would be looking for candidates to fill his vacancy. Jerry asked committee members to send recommendations to Stacy and Jerry for consideration. Stacy recommended putting out an announcement on social media and newspapers to the public to show transparency. Tom B. requested the application process be explained to Wayne and Helen Ball, as they had shown interest in serving on the committee in the past. Al G. suggested Ned Skoog might be a good candidate and shared he was a trail expert.

Approval of Minutes: Robert C. moved to approve the minutes from February 6 meeting with change made to Ned Skoog name spelling. Tom B. seconded. Minutes approved.

Forestry and Water Event: Jerry S. shared the event will be held in the day use area of Tompkins Bend from 8:30-12:00. He shared all volunteers are welcome to help with the event and pulled pork sandwiches will be served to the students and volunteers.

ADA Elevated Walkway Update and Discussion:

Jerry shared he had 3 conference calls with Owens Corning contractors and some suggestions they made were as follows: a 3-board railing with no board at bottom, possibly a metal handrail along the top rail. Jerry shared that would depend on cost of the metal rail and thought they could build the walkway and then put in a grant request for the handrail later. The company suggested the boards on walkway be 7 ¼' wide and 5 ¼" thick. They also suggested using triple threaded stainless-steel screws. Owens Corning can cut the boards to the needed link. They suggested leaving ¼ inch between the deck boards for drainage. Jerry showed the colors to choose from for boards. Jerry further shared he had a meeting with a local contractor tomorrow for another bid. George D. suggested contacting David Boatright (a local construction company).

Jerry S. shared copies of the booklet he and his son had assembled with history of the trail and cost estimates to aid in grant and donation requests. He also shared one challenge to contractors was the timeline of when the lake was down for construction. (Normally by September) Stacy stated he could provide the information on when the area is typically out of the water. Matt M. asked if they had an estimated time it would take to build the walkway from the contractors. Jerry shared not yet, but the Camden company he had visited with stated it would probably take 6-8 weeks.

George D. asked if there would be caps on the posts. Jerry shared caps would be on the posts. Finding funding sources: Jerry shared some of the grants did not have a date for submission yet. He shared the last time they had luck talking with the commissioners of AGFC and other companies first. Jerry S. asked if they should be approaching banks. George D. thinks banks would only give small donations. Tom B. suggested approaching big grant partners first. Tom asked if the Corps would provide security for the area where contractors will store materials and equipment. Stacy shared the area is behind locked gates, there will not be 24-hour security provided by the Corps, but cameras could be installed. Jerry discussed the differences in grants and believes NRT grants are better because you do not pay 20% down. He stated all grants are different on requirements and reporting. He also thinks it might be beneficial to break it into one grant request for materials and one request for labor. Tom B. will draft an ad and send to Jerry for proofing for grant requests. Jo W. moved to start the project of soliciting funding. Phillip C. seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

USACE Initiatives Update: Stacy S. shared March 1st all campgrounds opened, and the fish cleaning stations will open this week. Stacy introduced Matt Mitchell, Facility Manager to the group. Tom B. asked about the washed-out area in the parking area near the ADA trail bathroom. Stacy shared when things slowed down from opening recreation areas, the Corps would address the issue.

Closing Remarks: Al G. shared Tim Ernst will be showing picture slideshows at the college in Mena on Saturday at 1:00 PM. He also shared the 100-mile LOViT race was cold and wet.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 P.M.