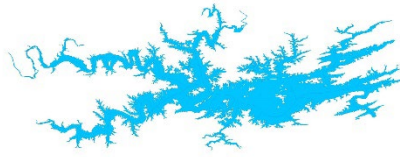


# Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road  
Royal, AR 71968

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

**DATE:** September 9, 2024

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

Stacy Sigman, Lake Manager, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Matt Mitchell, Supervisory Operations and Maintenance, Lake Ouachita Field Office

Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office

### **Members Present:**

|                  |               |            |
|------------------|---------------|------------|
| Phillip Carr     | Ron Mayfield  | Dan Watson |
| Robert Cavanaugh | Bill Pell     |            |
| George Dooley    | Jerry Shields |            |

**Approval of August 2024 Minutes:** Dan W. moved to approve the August 5<sup>th</sup> minutes, Phillip C. seconded, minutes approved as written.

**Walmart Foundation Grant:** Jerry S. shared the Walmart Foundation has again given a 5K grant for trail maintenance cost for 2024 to FOOT who in turn gave the check to FOLO. Jerry further shared the University of Arkansas is now offering a degree in trail development.

**2024 Lake Cleanup Plans:** Stacy S. shared there was no back up rain date for the cleanups at this time, but they would look at the weather by Wednesday night and see if they should cancel the kids cleanup due to forecasted tropical rain from the hurricane. Stacy asked Jerry if they could wait to purchase the food until Thursday morning since the event might be cancelled. Jerry shared since they cook the hot dogs in the crock pot overnight, that would be difficult to do. Phillip C. offered to provide large pots to boil the hotdogs in. Jerry stated he would call Stacy Wednesday night to find out if the event is cancelled. Stacy shared Derick W. had put together

maps of locations where the most litter was located. Stacy also shared there would be 9 rangers from LOFO and 7 personnel from the Project Office and DeGray Lake working the kid's cleanup. He shared the Dog Show grounds was the location that had the most amount of litter. Amy S. shared the students will meet at Twin Creek at 9:00 A.M. Amy also shared Keep Arkansas Beautiful had sent the cleaning supplies and t-shirts.

**Discussion on Continuing ARDOT Grant process vs. Alternative Funding:** Jerry S. shared information on how tedious the grant process was with ARDOT, and that there were tons of red tape involved. Jerry said it was not impossible, but very time and effort consuming. He further shared they had to go through the same grant process as huge money projects, and that FOLO was not structured to provide this kind of contract. All the other projects awarded this grant had engineers and lawyers assisting in the process. Jerry had done a critical path analysis and determined the earliest they could start would be mid-December. Jerry further shared that Jerry Williams believes they will have to get Core samples even though this was done prior to the first construction. Jerry also stated it was a requirement to have someone designated to be with the contractor the entire time they were working on the project. He said they did allow three to take turns, so Shane S., Jerry S., and Mike Wade will take turns being onsite. They also require quarterly, weekly, and daily reports. He shared they already have the 80K grant from Owens Corning. Stacy shared the project will not get executed this year, so he suggested taking a breath before deciding anything and stated he would support the group with whatever they decide to do. Jerry stated the TAP forms he must fill out asks questions like "who owns the property, the impact on railroads or utilities, and who will maintain trail if FOLO disbands. George D. asked who the engineer was they were talking with. Jerry shared she was Ashley Smith. After some additional discussion, the committee believes they need to visit with someone in charge of ARDOT in Little Rock. Robert and Jerry asked Stacy if he would be able to go with them to Little Rock to visit with one of the heads if they got a meeting set up. Stacy said he would be glad to go but it would depend on his schedule and the date of the meeting. Stacy will contact Jerry with his available dates. Jerry S. stated the hardest part may be finding a lawyer that will look at the documents. Stacy asked if Bill B. Knows anyone with the Highway Department that can help. Jerry did not know but stated at one time they had met with the head of the highway department, but that they had all retired since then. George D. suggested contacting Lorie Tudor the Director of ARDOT. After looking over the documents, Matt M. stated there was no way to get around hiring an attorney and going through the process. He stated they would be out 25% on admin costs and would not recover these funds. Jerry stated his fear is that they might run out of time and money with this grant. Jerry S. shared Jerry W. had been working with Jerry Shield's son on blueprints for the project. After some additional discussion, Jerry S. will work on setting up a meeting with the right people and discussed the need for Bill B. and Phillip C. along with Stacy S. to attend the meeting with him once it is scheduled.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.