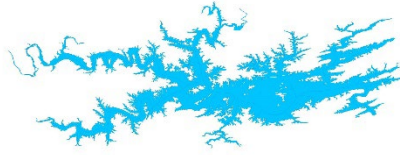


Friends of Lake Ouachita



1424 Blakely Dam Road
Royal, AR 71968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Friends of Lake Ouachita Committee Minutes

DATE: September 11, 2023

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Derick Walker, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita
Amy Shultz, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake Ouachita Field Office
Dustin Thomason-Biologist, Lake Ouachita Project Office

Special Guest: Bill Jackson, U.S. Forest Service Recreation Manager

Members Present:

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

Approval of June 2023 Meeting Minutes: Phillip C. moved to approve the August minutes; Jo W. seconded. Minutes approved as written.

Announcements: Lake Ouachita biologist, Dustin Thomason, discussed the Eagle Nest platform project. The Corps has applied for a grant from Entergy for the platforms in the amount of 3K. Dustin asked if FOLO would be willing to handle the grant funds and disburse to purchase the platforms. He shared this was Josh Tyler's idea and they plan to put one platform close to the LOFO, one on the south bank of Big Fir. There may be an opportunity to install a live camera on one of the platforms in the future. Al. G. moved to approve FOLO handling the funds. Robert C. seconded; motion unanimously approved.

October 2023 Lake Cleanup and Student Day: Jo W. shared October 7th was the date set for the cleanup with October 14th the alternate rain date. She shared Caddo Hills hasn't nailed down a date and requested Amy Shultz to contact Haleigh Young to find out a good date. She shared Jerry S. will be handling the food for the students. Derick handed out maps the rangers put together of points on the lake needing cleanup. Most of the points were on the North Fork. He shared the rangers will focus on the main open-water islands and collect large items as needed.

Parks and Tourism Grant Cancellation: Robert C. stated FOLO decided not to apply for the Parks and Tourism Grant due to the matching fund requirement. Bill B. stated he attended the Office of Outdoor Recreation meeting and the grant funding this year had decreased to 4 mil which is down from 6.5 mil last year. He further shared, there is a Trails for Life program that is a different grant program that utilizes funds from the tobacco settlement. Funds are through the Department of health. Matt McNair, Director of Outdoor Grant's Program from OOR, is working with the Department of Health on this grant criteria. The grant funding available would be approx. half a million and would go to projects that are benefitting trails (especially existing trails.) Bill B. asked if they had looked at applying for a Game and Fish Grant. Al G. shared they had spoken with their contacts from the last grant and were told no funding was available. Bill B. suggested sending a letter to the director or specific person at AGFC in charge of grants.

ADA Walkway Reconstruction: Bill P. asked if the people who purchased plaques on benches had been notified the plaques were in storage. Al stated some had been, but no formal contact with all had been made. Tom B. stated he had notified the low bidder on the status of lack of funding this year. Robert C. stated they had a meeting scheduled with Owen's Corning set for September 27th.

New Membership Candidates:

Committee asked if Stacy S. could provide the information to FOLO on the applicants.

Forest Service Update: Bill J. shared the Forest Service has 3 use-fee proposals on areas use fees will be collected and the fees will then be returned to the Forest Service. The three areas are as follows: Little Missouri Falls, Shady Lake (rent caretakers' cabin for \$100/night), and Wolf Pen Gap OHV trail fee (scan QR code and pay on phone) Fees would be \$5-\$10/day or \$60 annual pass.

Bill further shared the Forest Service has requested two teams through Ameri-Corps. They will be working with the trail dogs on the LOViT, along with other Forest Service Trails near the State Park where they will be staying from January through April.

Bill also shared the Forest Service will be competing with the Sate Park in amount of trash collected during a cleanup on September 23rd. The National Park Service is giving away trophies for most trash collected by an agency.

Bill stated Jerry S. had sent a request to apply herbicide on Bear Mtn. section of LOViT. Bill stated that would not be approved anytime soon due to the botanicals on that section. The Trail Dogs had also requested Bear section to be cut two times/year.

USACE Update: Derick W. shared USACE had contractors on the dam utilizing a drone and spraying herbicide to kill the vegetation on the dam. He also shared USACE was pouring concrete for the new Brady Mountain water tank and hopefully this will allow water to

eventually be installed to sites at Brady. Derick further shared there will be a small timber sale the end of October in Joplin to get ready for next year's renovations. Derick stated the Hot Springs water intake project should be completed by end of September. Derick also stated the Corps has the shortest permanent staffing in years with only 5 permanent patrol rangers. Ouachita was able to hire 6 temporary rangers this year.

Robert C. shared the next FOLO meeting will be held October 2nd which is prior to the Lake Cleanup on the 7th.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:47 P.M.