

LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION MINUTES
February 9, 2009

Special guests: Joe Agnew, Irby Schultz and Wendell Clamp

Dave Landis, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in Lexington, SC.

Bill East began our meeting with a prayer. Dave welcomed guests: Irby Schultz, Joe Agnew and Aleda introduced Wendell Clamp.

- Dr. Clamp has been married 45 years. He served in education for 40 years from teacher, coach, principal to Superintendent of several school districts. He is retired as of 2006 and has moved back to Columbia. He is living in a wonderful home on Lake Murray and loves the lake. He would like to serve on the LMA Board.
- * Correction from last meeting: Irby Schultz lives on Setting Sun Lane on the lake.

Minutes: All had been asked to print and bring the minutes with them. (This will be an ongoing practice.) The minutes had been approved and posted on the Web site following the last meeting. A final time was given to make any changes or additions to the minutes as written. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Ruple presented the Treasury Report. The income total for January was \$250.00 from dues. The expenses were normal with \$197.50 for electricity and chairs for the Boat show with total expenses of \$863.38. The treasurer's report was seconded and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALUDA PUBLIC MEETING: Dave Landis

This will be Tuesday, February 17th in Saluda @ Hollywood Ruritan Club, 1459 Hollywood Road. All are encouraged to attend and to wear their name badge. Those setting up should be there by 6:30. Bill Argentieri of SCE&G will discuss the license. Ken Fox will discuss the LMA Water Testing Program and Dave Landis will discuss the LIP in the License and how this will affect the lake in Drought times. There will be a question and answer period until all questions have been asked and answered.

BOAT SHOW: Mike Murrell

The Boat Show schedule (Feb. 12-15) was passed out with assignments listed. Name badges and passes were also given to those who have signed up to help. Adjustments were made to the schedule to accommodate needs. The first group will set up everything and the last group will tear it all down. The first group each morning will have bring the cash box with them. You will pay \$2 for parking and come in Gate 11.

- All are to wear their name badges. Membership is the prime goal!
- We are giving away a \$165 value Inflatable Vest. Those eligible are new members, renewals and extensions on present membership (pay to play). They will fill out a form to be put in a box for the drawing.
- Payment may be by cash, check or Credit card (MasterCard or Visa). Make sure the writing is legible and the information complete. Mark each application with information on how they paid (cash, check # or credit card). Kemble will be bringing some single sheets for membership, but use the brochure as well.
- Lake Links will be available.

- There will be a monitor set up to project information about LMA.
- A letter simplifying the LIP process will be available as well as talking points. Russ has proposed that the handout letter be simple with a couple of bullet points encouraging people to call their senators and congressmen to help. *He further suggested that there be a special meeting of LMA called to determine a plan of action.
- Pictures of the lake at various stages are to go to Jay @ jayschab@aol.com and he will attach them to a graph for a visual. He needs them NOW.
- Talk with people regarding the effects on the lake if DNR gets to release heavy water in the spring during drought, with NO concern if rains will come or not. *If it is not coming in, it should not be going out rapidly. We want them to adjust the drawdown when the water drops 6"- they want to wait until it drops 2 '- and this is irresponsible and selfish to LMA.
- Post a flyer for the Saluda Meeting and a flyer for the Tour of Homes if we have them.

TOUR OF HOMES: Dave Landis

May 9th. We have two lovely homes (including Dr. Clamp's home) scheduled at this time and are working to get (2) more. Help is needed in that area. We will be running the tour out of Light House Marina.

NEW BUSINESS

LOUISE LOVE WITH T-SHIRTS AND SALEABLE ITEMS: Louise Love

Louise had been given the task to find some items that LMA could use to hand out or sell at meetings and LMA events. She presented a Koozie, a Floating Key Chain and a Pen. The decision was made to stick with one color (navy blue/White) and to order just the Koozie at this time. It was unanimous to order 300 Koozies from Geiger.

Shirts for Board Members and perhaps extending to Boat Captains etc. were discussed. Louise presented an Outer Banks shirt for \$16.50 from Carolina Raines in Navy/White embroidered logo. It was suggested that she bring in samples of sizes and of a higher quality shirt as well to the next meeting before a decision is made. All liked the idea of uniformity. Good job, Louise...thanks for organizing all the information.

TOUR OF HOMES: Ginny Landis

The Tour of Homes will be held on Saturday, May 9th. To date two houses have been secured for the tour: Dr. Wendell Clamp in Windsong and Johnny Mitchell on Blackbird Road, West.

THE LIP: Dave Landis, Joy Downs

- **RECAP:** *As SCE&G prepares to turn in the proposed license (which will be in place for 50 years), there have been numerous meetings to establish in writing the terms of this license. Many agencies and lake interest groups have been meeting to determine the outcome of the license. One major area of concern has always been Lake Level for LMA in their quest to represent the Lake Murray users and lovers. It has come down to the wire and we have **grave** concerns. The establishment of 354' as the lowest the lake will be taken has been established. The remaining issue is deciding what the parameters will be during a drought situation. In the last 10 years, we have been in a drought situation for 7 of the 10 years or 70% of the time and this fact increases the level of concern. These parameters are being called the LIP or Low Inflow Protocol. It comes down to a stand-off with the River people vs. the Lake People.*

- *The basic issue concerns the amount of water released daily to the Saluda River and below. What is now written as protocol is a guaranteed minimum of 400 cfs released every day **regardless** of inflow and 700 plus cfs most years. This is a significant increase over releases **EVER** given to downstream in the past. It is basically a demand from them with no evidence of compromise or concern for any negative impact on the health, environment, economic impact or any concerns for the high number of people who live or work on Lake Murray.*

i.e. This year's releases were much less: (Released 200 cfs Jan., 200 cfs Feb., 220 cfs March, 500 cfs April, 330 cfs May, 530 cfs Jun and 500 cfs July now). This may be increased as a result of the letters sent to FERC thru lawyers for Coastal Conservation and American Rivers.

** Point in fact is that if this LIP (protocol) had been followed this summer, we would already be below the 354' agreed minimum lake level. The model relies on water input and output ignoring lake level as their basis. The down river's prime concern is to provide a cool down place for the fish after they spawn. LMA's prime concern is to consider all facets of the lake's value driven by the lake level.*

- We have approached two politicians, Jake Knotts and Ronnie Cromer. More help from local politicians is needed and from all who have an interest in the lake. Fairness and compromise in this instance are falling on deaf ears.
- DNR and the other agencies did not seem to comprehend **that 354' is ONLY the beginning and ending minimum level for the lake in the off season; it is not the accepted level for year round lake levels.** Note: If the lake was 354' year round it would mean that only 52% of lake homeowners would have access to their docks. 354' would negatively impact the marinas and other lake businesses by negatively affecting the economics to these businesses and ultimately the economy to towns all around the lake. **That is huge.**
- SCE&G has established a Guide Curve which maps out optimum lake levels thru the year. It begins with 354' (minimum- no lower but may increase with rain) in January and if the rain comes it gradually increases to 358' by March and stays there until September. By November it will decrease to 356' and ends at the minimum level of 354' in December. Maintaining these levels is at the hands of Mother Nature: if we get the rain, the lake will fill. Evaporation diminishes the levels by an average of 200 cfs each day and Industrial use diminishes the lake by an average 150 cfs each day. The River group does not recognize either of these two facts in their equation. Evaporation and industrial use results in the automatic addition of 350 cfs to their demands taking the releases they demand to 1,000 cfs **every day** during a drought. LMA is unclear on how they may pick and choose what counts when the loss of water thru evaporation and industry is a constant that impacts the lake and IS a factor. Logic dictates they should be in any equation. We also know that reserve status is money in the bank for SCE&G and ultimately is of value to all.

LMA feels that respect must be given to the economic impact and % of usage on the lake vs. the river economic impact and % of usage on the river or swamp. LMA feels this discrepancy is huge and needs to be part of the formula used to determine what happens on this lake for the next 50 years. Considering all of these things (evaporation, commercial and municipality use, % of use and economic impact plus the importance of reserve status) weigh heavily in favor of LMA's point of view. Few studies are available to support this premise because the lake studies done were, in our opinion, incomplete in recreation count. More studies were done on river habitat and recreation.... NO study has been brought forth that

shows if the fish have been hurt by the present water levels to warrant the increase in water to the river...just demands to make it better for the fish.

To demand a consistent minimum number of cfs to be released each day irregardless of the drought, evaporation, industrial use, the impact on the economy, the ability to generate needed power and negatively affecting the majority of the 'users' is more than irresponsible, arrogant and selfish, it is unreasonable, negligent and intolerant. It is even more arrogant and selfish when the demand exceeds what was given in the past for the sake of a species (fish) who will by nature adapt to its surrounding. IF the lake were not here, the fish would survive with whatever rain fell on the river. Some of the fish are stocked in the river and not in their natural habitat from the start. The lake likewise has habitats for animals (including humans), fish and wildlife that are equally important to **those animals, wildlife, lake users and lovers, business and the economy around the lake. Why do fish in the river have more rights in this equation? The license demands that **all** comments and concerns must be considered, **proportionately** in this decision. Since these rules are being established to safeguard Lake Murray in the future then the regulations need to be consistent with that goal. The will of a few should not dictate to the majority. Consensus requires compromise on BOTH sides. Any help in making this concept clear and consistent is appreciated. Frustration is rampant when discussion is one-sided, **inconsistent** and unreasonable.*

- SCE&G is turning in a modified plan to FERC. LMA does not agree with DNR's LIP plan which has a 2' Trigger, 14-day-flow averaging and guaranteed flows for striped bass from April 1 to May 31. SCE&G's modified LIP plan uses a 1' trigger, 14 day flow averaging and reducing outflows if inflow is reduced during that time period. LMA's plan uses a 6" trigger @ 14 day flow averaging and reducing outflows if inflow is reduced during that time period. LMA wants to protect the water level in the lake should there not be rain coming.
- Visuals and charts are needed to better explain how this will impact those on the lake. Send pictures to jayschaub@aol.com now and he will add them to a graph. This can be displayed both at the Boat Show and on the Website- perhaps even put in an article to the local papers to make sure there is an understanding of the facts and to encourage the public to get involved. The issues need to be graphic and easily understood.
- The projected image showed the effect of the DNR proposal would have made in 2007 and 2008 when no rain came- it is devastating! People need to understand and fight now before this is written in a license that will last for 50 years!
- Maybe letters need to be sent to Mr. Frampton of DNR regarding his decision
- Russ Jernigan had expressed grave concerns that we are not disseminating information well enough to the public or soliciting the help of all the politicians that serve lake users and lovers or the membership. As he had suggested, DNR is not going to move in their demand and they are using time to wear us down. He continues to feel we need to act now and aggressively. He proposes that a letter be written as a hand out and that we meet to determine a plan. *Russ would like for LMA to develop a campaign and a media blitz to encourage everyone to write to their senators and legislatures and to make big noise.
- Lee seems to feel that the bottom line on this is that we are fighting for the lake level.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environmental: Roy Parker/ Ken Fox
No report.

Government: Joy Downs

No report. *Mention was made that there is a grant available for Water Quality. Bill East asked for that information to be sent to him.

Publicity: Kay Gordon

Kay has turned in a news release about the Boat Show and the February Meeting at the Hollywood Ruritan Club. She will get with Ginny Landis about the Tour of Homes information to begin work on this event.

Membership: Kemble Oliver/ Ed Colie/ Aleda Anderson

- 2 new memberships and 6 renewals in January. Discussion was held regarding a deduction in the fees for new members at the boat show resulted in a qualified no-times are hard and the fees are more than reasonable. *Value added is something we need to work towards this year.

Newsletter: Sharon Miles/ Dave Landis in absentia

- Sharon Miles has distributed the assignments due for the next newsletter. "ALL are encouraged to meet the deadlines and help her to be successful in her new position."

Nominating: Aleda Anderson/ Bill East/ Dave Landis in absentia

The new candidates are presented and unanimously approved by the board. They will be voted on a ballot in the next newsletter: Joe Agnew, Amy Jo Jacobson, Wendell Clamp, and Irby Schultz. The nominating committee has done a wonderful job.

- Please send the Bios on the nominees to Joy for her to add on the ballot to go in the newsletter.

Safety: Ed Colie/ Jay Schabacker

Jay asked for permission or feedback on having a Safety Display table at the Tour of Homes showing PFG's for children. All agreed this was a wonderful idea.

- Lee would like to discuss the issue of SCE&G sponsoring Safety meetings at some point.

Special Events: Mike Murrell/ Ken Fox

- Rich Kidder asked for help from those with Pontoons on the Irmo side of the lake to help Captain their boat on June 15th and 17th with the Children's 4H2O program. It is all day for 8 hours and you would have 4-5 Kids and other adults. It is a rewarding and very worthwhile project. It teaches kids to protect the lake and to be future good stewards of the lake. Call Rich Kidder 803-892-6539.
- Ken informed us that Ladies Day on the Lake could only be a go if DNR was involved and they are mentioning budget cuts that may not allow them to do it this year. If this is the case we may need to come up with a plan to help them. This is a very popular and important event for LMA.
- Bob Keener said for all to think about whom to nominate a Person of the Year- send a note for any nominations to Bob, Joy or Dave.

Projects: Ken Fox/ Louise Love

Web Site: Tom Ruple/ Wayne Kirby/ Mike Kletter
No Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 with thoughts of gathering pictures to send to Jay, the upcoming LIP decisions and the Boat Show displays and cut sheets. We continue to look for new members; new ideas to build our membership and to promote awareness of all issues that protect and preserve Lake Murray. Thanks and good-bye.