

LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION MINUTES
January 12, 2009

Dave Landis, President, pounded the gavel and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in Lexington, SC. Three guests were welcomed to the meeting as potential Board Members: Irby Shultz, Amy Jo Jacobson and Joe Agnew. Don Pertl was asked to introduce two of the guests. Don advised that Dr. Wendell Clamp had planned to attend but was unable he gave the bio for Wendell as well.

- Dr. Clamp lives in Windsong and 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 involved in many organizations and wants to serve on the LMA Board.
- Irby Shultz lives in Windsong and has been very active in the community by being an aid to legislators, a former auditor, involved with Republican Women organizations and a school board. She promises to be an active addition to the board.
- Amy Jo Jacobson has been involved in politics thru her parents Lyman and Joann Whitehead, helps run a business (Pin Point House Inspections), was involved with a mom's club for her 4-year-old son, Ash, and she has a boat, which gets her involved with the lake.

Joy introduced Joe Agnew a respected returning Board member who had also been President of LMA in 1996 and owns Agnew Lake Service. We welcome his help and expertise back to the board.

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 for 2 months. The income total for both months was \$3,030.00. We spent \$3,790.56 on the Saluda Shoals Lights, Boat Show Fees, Lake Link, a Projector Computer for meetings, BBQ expenses and other normal expenses. Insurance is coming due and we have liabilities of \$750.00. We have our CD's and other assets and the over-all net worth is \$25,095.66 with no interest recorded for the CD's as yet. The treasurer's report was seconded and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEWBERRY MEETING: Dave Landis

The recap on this meeting deemed it a success. Good information on the lake and the Re-Licensing status was presented by Bill Argentero with Jim Landreth answering questions. *Dave is looking for the money that was given as prizes...this went full circle from Don Pertl to Pat Wendling and back to Dave Landis...no resolution was reached on this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

SALUDA PUBLIC MEETING: Joy Downs

- This will be held at Hollywood Ruritan Club @ 7:00 P.M. on February 17, Tuesday. At present, Bill Argentari will again present information on the Re-Licensing status.

BOAT SHOW: Mike Murrell

The dates for the Boat Show were changed to February 12-15th at the Fair Grounds. Mike Murrell locked all the doors as he was sending around a sign up sheet to work the Boat Show hours. His objective was for at least 3 in the booth each time slot. The first and last time slot would require one of the persons in charge of setting up or breaking down the booth and to be the GO TO person.

- We want to borrow a large monitor to run a program constantly during the boat show with new pictures showing our activities over the year and with information on LMA. Any pictures of Ladies Day, Tour of Homes or other activities need to be sent to Mike Murrell.
- Don Pertl will create a chart (with the help of Jay) to show the lake levels with pictures inserted to demonstrate the effect of lower levels on the lake to educate the public on what is at stake for the next 50 years with the Re-Licensing being developed. Please send Don any pictures you have of the lower lake levels ASAP so he can develop the chart-note the site and date of the picture. Don also requires the Guide Curve which maps out optimum lake levels thru the year so that the pictures can be inserted on that chart – required before the boat show – we need to make sure that the photo's and the chart are accurate and contain the information that we (LMA) want shown at the boat show!
- A sheet of talking points will be developed for all who will work the show to make sure they can discuss important information comfortably and accurately. Another give away sheet noting the political issues with the LIP will be written up to give attendees of the boat show to inform them and to solicit their help. Copies of the Lake Link will be made available, as well.
- Membership is a prime goal of the Boat Show. Membership applications will be available. Kemble will get with Mike to brainstorm a specific membership strategy for the boat show to draw in as many members as possible.
- We will be giving away a Life Jacket with a value of \$160.00. The approval to spend this money was given unanimously. A suggestion was made to have LMA put on the life jacket: Ed Colie and Louise will check on getting this done. A manikin is needed to “wear” the life jacket for display.
- Badges and passes will be available at the next Board meeting

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. Ginny is working to have two more homes added to the tour. Amy Jo noted that she was friends with both Dr. Saleby and Stuart Mungo and is willing to speak with both about being on the Tour this year.

*Louise noted that Amy Jo let them know how we work to protect the home as if it were our own: a tour guide is with them each minute they are in the home, no cell phones or cameras are allowed in the home, any area they want to be off limits will be honored, only one bathroom is designated for use if needed. They will be asked information about their home to help make the tour special. It was further noted to let them know what to expect next. First, they will receive a call from Ginny, who will need to preview the home and talk with them about their home. Next, a meeting with the tour guides will be held for them to determine the best way to show the home before the date. It is important that they know what to expect if they agree to be on the tour. It will be an all day event. Amy Jo will advise the outcome of her discussion with both families and a decision will be made on how to proceed from that report. The goal is to have 4 homes. All of the wonderful help up to this point is appreciated. Ginny has already secured the gifts for the homeowners from Sharon Miles who sells Southern Living Home Accessories. She will bring them to the next meeting.

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 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.*

- Jake Knotts and Ronnie Cromer were updated on information regarding this issue and their help with DNR and the agencies was solicited. It may be necessary to ask for more help from local politicians who have an interest in the lake and leverage with money given to the agencies. 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. 354' year round 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.*

- An example of inconsistency was the fact that the term ‘runner’ was given to Joy in the last week. It was suggested that ‘runners’ would be added to the facility and perhaps they would not be able to regulate the releases to less than 700 cfs... This is a **new** twist to the issues and unfairly sprung into the negotiation at the 11th hour. More information on runners and why they need to be added and what they can or cannot do will need to be gathered on this discussion to confirm this statement.
- It was suggested that we determine the goals of the New River Keeper to see where he stands on this issue.
- Visuals and charts are needed to better explain how this will impact those on the lake. All who have pictures of any drawdown are to send them to Don Pertl to incorporate in a chart that will 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.
- Russ Jernigan 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. He feels it is obvious that DNR is not going to move in their demand and they are using time to wear us down. He feels we need to act now and aggressively. 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environmental: Roy Parker/ Ken Fox
No report.

Government: Joy Downs
No report.

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. *She has sent pictures of our First Board Baby,

Hannah Jones. Hannah is beautiful, healthy and the delight of her parents. Congratulations to both Stan and Holly. A gift certificate is being sent to them from the LMA Board to express our congratulations.

Membership: Kemble Oliver/ Ed Colie/ Aleda Anderson

- 7 new memberships were registered in the past two months and 46 renewals.

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

Wallace Hubbard has not been successfully contacted to let him know he has been chosen to fill the remaining days in the spot left by Ed Thomas. The new candidates are as stated: Joe Agnew, Amy Jo Jacobson, Wendell Clamp, and Irby Schultz. The nominating committee has done a wonderful job.

Safety: Ed Colie/ Jay Schabacker

Jay has mentioned an RCG meeting on Tuesday, January 27th at 1:00 if you are interested in attending. Jay is looking for ideas for Safety, please email him with any thoughts for 2009 (jayschab@aol.com).

- Louise commented on the deaths on the lake due to speed for the last two years and perhaps an article or stand should be taken on the root cause of these deaths. *One comment mentioned drinking and driving a boat are not a good mix.
- Lee Barber noted that his presentation “Drive in a Ditch” to the Power Squadron @ Flotilla on Dec. 16th from 0900- 1500 (9-3:00) had great attendance and a great response.

Special Events: Mike Murrell/ Ken Fox

Mike waited to fill up the open spaces on the Boat Show sign up sheet.

Projects: Ken Fox/ Louise Love

- Louise discussed the research done on the request to have LMA stock items to sell. She suggested cozies, hats, flags, towels, bags and T-shirts. Her question was how many items did we want to stock, what items and how much money should be allocated.
- T-Shirts were discussed and the need for all board members to wear them to events to designate they are LMA members.
- Louise asked for ideas to be emailed to her. Once she gets that list of ideas, she will create a report showing the pricing on various quantities (50, 100, 200 etc) This will enable the executive board to make some evaluations and suggestions on what to keep on hand. It is suggested that Louise receive these quotes dated and

in writing from whomever she gets the information so we have the pricing established for a specific time frame.

Web Site: Tom Ruple/ Wayne Kirby/ Mike Kletter

No Report. Tom mentioned all look at the Lake Link in color on the web. He would like you to email him recommendations on changes you would like to see implemented.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 with thoughts of gathering pictures to send to Don Pertl, 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.