

LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION MINUTES
September 16, 2008

Dave Landis, President, pounded the shoe and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in Lexington, SC. He welcomed back Ed Collie and Kay Gordon from their health battles.

The meeting began with a silent prayer.

The minutes had been approved and posted on the Web site, they were unanimously accepted.

Tom Ruple was absent but the Treasury Report was passed around. We spent \$3288.88. We pay our registration fee to the Boat Show, printing of the Lake Link, charity donation and normal expenses. We collected \$430.00 in dues and Dock Signs. We have our CD's and other assets and the over-all net worth is \$25,676.34. The treasurer's report was seconded and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

LIP MEETING: Dave Landis *Very important.

** **RECAP:** As SCE&G prepares to turn in the proposed license at the end of this month, (which will be in place for 50 years), there have been numerous meetings to put 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.*

The Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) that has been proposed at this time is not acceptable to LMA and communications via a Focus Group remain in process to find an acceptable compromise. The basic issue concerns the amount of water released to the Saluda River. What is now written as protocol is a guaranteed minimum of 400 cfs released every day (Released 200 cfs Jan., 200 cfs Feb., 220 cfs March, 500 cfs April, 330 cfs May, 530 cfs Jun and 500 cfs July now). In our opinion, this would not be an issue if we were in a normal rain cycle, but we have been in a drought situation for 7 of the last 10 years and the license will be set for the next 50 years. There is no written caveat or leeway to allow for drought situations. Point in fact is that if this 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 circumventing 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.

This Focus Group is still in discussion. All agree that a full lake is a healthy lake. Representing the lake interests are Dave Landis w/ LMA and Steve Bell w/ Lake Watch. The river interests are being represented by DNR, American Rivers and Coastal Conservation. LMA and Lake Watch agree in principle in the direction wanted for

protecting lake level. Kleinschmidt & SCE&G are hoping for a consensus at this 3rd meeting. The bottom line for us is that there is no sense in agreeing to a guaranteed all the time minimum cfs outflow that will result in a quick draw down on the lake during drought years. (This has been 7/10 past years.) Although there have been several surveys done noting the impact of low water on the environment, fish, and general nature of what they feel is important to the river, no surveys have been done to note the impact on the environment, fish, or economics of Lake Murray when the lake level goes down. The factors that have an effect on the lake level are evaporation (200 cfs/ day in hot weather), the draw from business, and lack of rainfall. Yet, evaporation is not considered in the equation used to determine the formula for what they want released to maintain their minimum guaranteed release.

It is our feeling that in nature, there are no absolutes or guarantees and therefore the same should hold true in this instance. No more water should go out than goes into the lake. History notes that Nature has a way of adapting to circumstances and this should also be an accepted premise from all sides. Do not punish many for the sake of a few. Should the lake levels drop 6" from the guide curve then the release is stopped and adjusted to what comes into the lake. Otherwise, in a drought year, the lake will be down to 354 by August. Since the license is for 50 years, it is imperative that there be exceptions in the license, rather than absolutes. Should the lake be full and the rainfall normal, there is no problem meeting their request.

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. 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) weigh heavily in favor of LMA's point of view. No studies are available to support this premise because the only studies done were for the river point of view.

We re-ask the question: If the DAM were not built; what would be the status of the CFS flow to the river? How would the fish be dealing with their environment? It has been noted that people are still fishing since 1922. The river is *stocked* with trout to be caught even in times of drought. The lake is not a natural lake, but stocking fish is not following nature, either. In our opinion, without the damn and the lake, the river would be at the mercy of the weather and the fish and wildlife would adjust just as all nature adjusts. Not even nature is consistent. *To demand a consistent minimum number of cfs to be released each day irregardless of 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.

The license demands that all comments 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.

**LMA works to consider the big picture and what is best for Lake Murray and its users. We may note that there was great animosity for the use of the carp in the lake to kill the Hydrilla. LMA supported the use of the carp. The carp have killed the Hydrilla and have been so successful that we are now hosting a National Bass Tournament that will bring in \$40 million dollars to our economy with no detriment to the lake or the river.*

BBQ APPRECIATION SOCIAL: Pat Wendling, Don Pertl, Aleda Anderson
LMA is hosting an Appreciation BBQ Social “Celebration” event at Lighthouse Marina/ Rusty Anchor on Sunday, October 26 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. The invitation is to all LMA members and their families, Corporate Sponsors and everyone interested in the preservation and protection of Lake Murray. We want to have a fun event to get to know each other. Keith Brown, will be our DJ to get all out dancing and having fun. There are BBQ meals for \$5- that includes, BBQ, cole slaw, beans, rolls, cake and tea. This is a great lunch to have after you go to church. You can come by land or by sea! We have wonderful prizes donated and you can take a chance for \$5- every prize is worth more than \$5. A few you can win without being present, but the majority are for those in attendance- so we encourage everyone to invite a friend or treat a friend to lunch beside Lake Murray and know that you are appreciated. Check the website to see the prizes...share the news. You will be glad you came!

- Information will be posted on our website.
- Postcards and emails will be sent to our members.
- Publicity plus all encouraging and inviting friends to come.

PUBLIC MEETING: September 23, 2008- Tuesday, 7:00 @ St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. SCE&G will present an overview of the license, the mechanics and the procedures to date. They will answer questions regarding how this may impact all lake users. This is critical to how lake users will be affected and all need to be made aware of how this process is working, what they next step will be and how they can help. It is imperative that we have a strong showing at this meeting to state your views and to understand the facts of the License. Please encourage all to bring friends.

- Articles will be written to encourage all to attend.
- Considering establishing a war chest if needed.
- Raffle Tickets available for the BBQ Appreciation Social event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environmental: Roy Parker/ Ken Fox

Roy reported on his interview with Dr. Haines, Clemson Limnologist. The discussion centered on the LIP issue with the demands of downstream on a minimum of 400 cfs released each day (with spikes up to 750 cfs in the summer). One question that arose from this discussion was that he did not note any information on the adverse effect or impact on the fish or environment habitats on the lake when this occurs. This is because there is no study on the lake effects. Does this mean they are equal and therefore each case is of equal value? The biggest impact that is apparent and has been seen during the draw down is the negative economic impact low lake levels cause for Lake Murray and lake users. Lake Murray is an artificial lake, but if it were not present, the rivers would

be at the mercy of nature. Since the rivers also stock the river with fish- it is in essence a request to protect an “unnatural” environment.

Government: Joy Downs

Merriam Atrium has been contacted get the number of people who live on the lake and those who are lake users.

Questions have come in to LMA:

- Why can utilities take all the water they need;
- What will be the effect on lake water of (3) nuclear plants being built;
- What will be the impact of Inter basin transfer of water? (*There seems to be concern over the water in the Lake from several directions.*)

Publicity: Kay Gordon

An article about 4H2O children’s program that was supported by LMA was in the Lake Murray Magazine in the July-August edition.

Articles will be written about the Appreciation Day BBQ Social and submitted to local papers (Lake Murray news, Neighbors etc.). Kay may contact WVOC and TV stations to promote the first (hopefully annual) event for all members, their families, Corporate Sponsors and everyone who is interested in preserving and protecting Lake Murray.

Membership: Kemble Oliver/ Ed Colie/ Aleda Anderson

- There is a need for more Membership brochures. Pat Wendling is getting a quote for 1,000, 2500 or 5,000 brochures. The board will vote by email to approve spending the money. We are presently sending out a brochure with each new membership and renewal to encourage the member to get a friend to join.

Newsletter: Bob Keener (Now being replaced by Sharon Miles)

- Sharon Miles is our new Newsletter Chair. She was welcomed and will be lined up with Sonia Sharpe at Pine Press to work out the details of what is needed. Sharon will report the future assignments next meeting. Bob Keener has assured her that he and Kay will be available to work thru the questions.
- Congratulations Sharon- we know you will do an outstanding job in this capacity!
- LMA is considering adding advertising to the newsletter and Mrs. Sharpe is willing to handle this as well. *She has worked with our product at Pine Press and presently works with several other newsletters.

Nominating: Aleda Anderson/ Bill East

We are actively searching for new Board Members. Please think of people who would be good helping develop and sell the advertising for the newsletter. 12 Board member terms will be expiring in September. This gives us several vacancies.

- Wallace Hubbard’s name was mentioned as interested in becoming a Board Member.
- Other names were given to Aleda to pursue.

Safety: Ed Colie/ Jay Schabacker

Swim for Drew is a charity event that will involve 100 swimmers. Help is needed to watch for any swimmers that may get into trouble. Boats manning DNR, Sheriffs Office and Power Squadron will be there.

SCE&G has entered language into the license that they will meet at least annually, if not semi-annually with all agencies to discuss safety issues on the lake. This was important!

Special Events: Mike Murrell/ Ken Fox

- LMA will be manning a booth at the Boat Show in January 2009. We need to gather ideas for the booth, prizes etc. next month so we can organize the event. If you have any pictures of H2O, Tour of Homes, and the upcoming BBQ Social- please send them to Mike.
- Information was sent to us to participate in keeping the Midlands Beautiful. It is sponsored by SCE&G and organized by Heidi Johnson. There will be islands on the lake that can be adopted to clean up. It is Oct. 4th- then again in March/May and a third one you can schedule. If there is interest, contact Dave Landis.

Projects: Ken Fox

- Louise Love will present the information on items to sell thru LMA at the next meeting.

Web Site: Tom Ruple/ Wayne Kirby/ Mike Kletter

No Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 with thoughts of the BBQ Appreciation party, the quick recovery of all who are ill and hurting. 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.