

LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION MINUTES
April 13, 2009

Dave Landis, President, banged the gavel and called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in Lexington, SC. Ralph began with a prayer. Our new Board Members Joe Agnew, Wendell Clamp, Amy Jo Jacobson and Irby Schultz were welcomed and congratulated.

Minutes: All had printed and brought their minutes to the meeting. (YEA!) No changes or additions were made at this time. The minutes had been approved and posted on the Web site following the last meeting. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Ruple presented the Treasury Report. The income total for March was \$1,360.00. \$1,270.00 was from dues and \$90.00 from Dock signs. The expenses were high this month as we sent out 15,800 letters and printed the Lake Link. WE spent \$7,110.44 with a net loss of \$5,750.44. The treasurer's report was seconded and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

TOUR OF HOMES: Ginny Landis

Ginny provided an update on the status of the TOH scheduled for Saturday, May 9th, launching from Lighthouse Marina. Disappointment was felt due to the cut backs in print media because Lake Murray Magazine will not be covering the Tour of Homes this year. Megan Sexton @ The State Newspaper will feature the Tour in the April 29th issue. Irby has agreed to go on TV on April 21st. Requests were made for flyers ...no real reply on this issue. The brochure is not ready and will be handed out at check-in this year. Ginny is still working to secure the 4th home and does not want to produce anything as yet. Flyers are at Lake Murray Country and Light House Marina. Kay has sent information out to the media, as well.

- Ralph has begun selling tickets with Sharon as the back-up. 26 sold to date.
- Rich has 14 pontoons to date and needs 6 more boats and drivers.
- Jay is running the Fast Boat and has a Safety Table for display and information.
- Sea Cadets will help at the docks, but more dock hands are needed. *Mike will take the cadets on their run-thru.
- More Tour Guides (4) and other helpers are needed.
- Roy is in charge of Parking and Bill Wendling will assist him.
- Check in is Pat and Kay at the moment. 1 more person is needed. Requested that the Ticket Confirmation sheet be in alphabetical Order.
- Shake Down Cruise is scheduled for May 2 @ 9:00 from Lake Murray Marina.
- Please let Ginny know how you can help. The tour is run out of Light House Marina again this year. Stan is ready for us.
- Lucy is waiting to file the Float Plan; Dave will send the information immediately.

LOUISE LOVE WITH T-SHIRTS AND COOZIES: Louise Love

Louise brought Women's and Men's shirts for all to determine the size they would like to order. They wrote the size needed on a sheet. She will then order the shirts and will have them at the next meeting. Money will be due at that time. Louise will email everyone with the total they owe. Checks will be made to LMA, unless otherwise directed. The shirts are Outer Banks and will be navy blue with a logo. The shirts will create a uniform look for the Association. The cute coozies were shown and are now available to sell, give away or to put Lake Murray Assoc.'s name out there. It was decided to sell them for \$1 each. (Stan bought 2 immediately!) Excitement was in the air over the shirts. Thank you, Louise for a spectacular job!

LEXINGTON MEETING: Dave Landis

Tuesday, April 28th will be our next public meeting held at Lexington High School @7:00. We will present the new Board Members at this time. Mr. Griffin will give a short talk about the B25 that was brought up in Lake Murray. Information will be presented from Bill Argentieri on the re-license with questions to both Bill and Jim Landreth. Updates on the LIP will be given by Dave Landis and how to TAKE ACTION to fight for the lake. There will be updated information on the Tour of Homes and other programs.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: Dave Landis

This Orientation was held @ 5:30 for all New Board Members. Pizza was served. An overview of LMA, plus the procedures, protocols and various committee functions was discussed. Joy also encouraged everyone to read the Constitution and By-laws and committee responsibility section in their Board Manual as it is very important to be well informed

- New Board Members are to decide which committee or committees they wish to join by the next meeting. Please advise Dave Landis of your choice. *Wendell Clamp has already chosen the Newsletter Assistant with Sharon...great selection!

LADIES DAY ON THE LAKE: Ken Fox

This is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th @ Lighthouse Marina. It is \$35.00 and includes lunch and soft drinks. DNR sets the Guidelines. Ladies learn to back up a trailer, drive a boat, dock a boat, drive a personal water craft (from Power Sports) and participate in a Safety Lecture. 7 tickets have been sold. The max is 32-36 ladies to allow for small groups.

4H2O FOR KIDS: Rich Kidder

This is held the week of June 15-19th. It is an all day event for Kids to learn how to be good stewards of the lake. Dave, Kemble and Don are helping by volunteering their boats to drive them around during the week. It is an excellent program.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTERS WERE MAILED OUT TO "TAKE ACTION": Dave and Joy

15,800 letters were sent out to ask people to TAKE ACTION and contact their State and Federal Representatives, plus DNR, SCE&G and FERC. They are asked to spread the word to friends, neighbors, media etc. Time is of the essence. *Complaints coming that the email addresses do not work...may need to verify them. Sharon advised you can go to American Family Assoc...click on legislatures, put in your zip code and the email addresses will come up.

SETTLEMENT INFORMATION: Joy and Dave

11th hour requests are appearing and changing daily by DNR and others. LMA will be asked to sign off on the Settlement Agreement attached to the license. If you do not sign, you may not go back. LMA needs to first see the information in writing before the decision will be made and they are not totally sure they will agree with what has been written.

- More information and data is needed by certain groups...Lake and Land Management and Fish and Wildlife.
- Groups are positioning themselves.
- LIP and the DRAWDOWN are the hot issues right now, especially in the case of a drought situation.
- LMA is aligned with SCE&G for the most part as it is LMA's contention that we need to be flexible and willing to compromise with hopes that FERC will note the inability of DNR to consider any other view, need or opinion. The license had a goal of consensus and those things are integral to consensus.

DRAWDOWN: This has reappeared after being 'dismissed' a while ago. Those that support this claim repeat "science says...to extend the life of the lake they need to drawdown the lake." The limnologist who presents this case had done studies on 'ponds', but *Lake Murray is not a pond*.

1. Jim Landreth of SCE&G is firm that there will not be consecutive drawdowns. He will consider every 3-5 years. *Per Roy, this may afford people time to work on their docks.
2. If there is a drawdown, it will begin in November and end in January (30-40 days max).
3. SCE&G is asking for a 2nd opinion from LMA's consulting limnologist, which is excellent. Nothing is in stone at this point.
4. Working theory is that if 1500 cu. Ft is coming in, the lake would easily come up for the summer. * Some suspect this is about getting water to the Marsh Land.
5. River people want the releases for the fish; this will be heavy releases in the spring if the water is there...LIP is important in this case.

LIP (Low inflow Protocol): A formula determining when to slow the water released from the lake. The concern is the plan with the provision for drought situations. DNR wants guaranteed high releases in the spring. Their LIP proposal insures these releases. LMA wants to insure that the lake reaches its proper spring level of 358' el. to provide water for commercial and recreational use of the lake during the spring and summer months.

RECAP

Positions:

1. DNR proposes that the lake drops 2 ft before the low inflow protocol goes into effect (to trigger the slowing of the water released)
2. SCE&G proposes that the lake drop 1 ft. before the low inflow protocol goes into effect (to trigger the slowing of the water released)
3. LMA proposes that the lake drop 6 inches before the low inflow protocol goes into effect (to trigger the slowing of the water released)
4. DNR wants guaranteed minimum flows from the lake of 1000 cfs during six weeks in spring (April and May) *critical time for lake levels
5. SCE&G minimum flows are 700 cfs and 500 cfs.
6. LMA minimum flows are 700 cfs, 500 cfs and NO flow based on defined lake levels. *Note Presidents message on web.

Previous License:

1. Minimum flows to the river were less than 200 cfs.
2. Later an agreement was entered into by SCE&G, SCDNR and DHEC that made the minimum outflows to the river from the lake 400 cfs.
3. Now DNR is requesting a minimum flow of 700 cfs year round with **1000 cfs** for two months in April and May.
4. In addition, DNR is requesting a Striped Bass Flow Regime which would entail an outflow from Lake Murray of 35% of the flow of the Broad River in April and May.

- **Facts:** SCE&G has established a Guide Curve which maps out optimum lake levels thru the year. LMA supports the Guide Curve. 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. **It is important for voices to be heard on this issue...once the license goes in, there is no recourse left.**

IT IS TIME TO FIGHT OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE....

SC MARINE ASSOCIATION: Stan Jones

Stan runs Lighthouse Marina and is asking LMA to consider joining the SC Marine Association. This association is dedicated to marine business and boaters, builders,

dealers and anyone or group dealing with boats. They are now receptive to the individual boater as well.

- SCMA has been successful in reducing the property tax on boats from 10.5% to 6% and wants to have our counties follow suit.
- They were responsible for the Clean Marina and Clean Vessel Act allowing marinas to apply for grants to get pump out stations.
- They are strong on protecting the environment and the lakes and they are the strongest voice in SC.
- They have a lobbyist that works on their behalf.

LMA is interested and Stan will gather information on exchanging memberships and on the protocol for non-profit organizations. You can learn about them at scmarine.org

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environmental: Roy Parker/ Ken Fox

None

Government: Joy Downs

None- already discussed

Publicity: Kay Gordon

Kay has turned in a news release about the Tour of Homes to print media as well as TV. Notice of the Lexington Meeting will also be sent out. LMA news has been included in any advertisements going out from Lighthouse Marina thanks to Stan.

Kay will be checking on the price to put in an ad to Lake Murray News.

Stan suggested we open a Face Book account- he and Kay will manage it.

She will contact the Cayce/ West Columbia and Chapin Chambers to invite them to the TOH.

Joy and Kay will work to contact developers, rentals and temporary real-estate people in an effort to advertise the TOH and to get them the Take Action letter.

Kay's efforts are always appreciated and her work is well done...thanks!

Membership: Kemble Oliver/ Ed Colie/ Aleda Anderson

Kemble's report indicated we had 40 new applications consisting of 11 renewals and 1 new member in March. April brought 27 renewals and 1 new member. (Excellent!)

- We had a 20% renewal from the honorary memberships given at Lighthouse Marina. This is outstanding and opens the opportunity to offer his to other marinas- one at a time.
- Suggestions to recruit are for Kemble to speak with Lake Murray Chamber, as they are very active right now.
- Stan posts LMA information on his website- thanks for that Mr. Jones!
- Thoughts to pursue: Can we make use of the electronic sign at the Irmo Chamber (see Lyman Whitehead or Chuck Larson). Get the scoop on this.

Newsletter: Sharon Miles

- Sharon thanked everyone for their articles this past month. She put out a huge newsletter this time (12 pages) and all excellent information. Sharon gave credit to Sonya @ Pine Press. She is thrilled to have help from Wendell.

- Reminder that the next articles are due to her on May 15th- please mark your calendars!!!!

Nominating: Aleda Anderson/ Bill East

The fruits of their efforts joined us this evening...outstanding job!

A slate of officers for this next term was nominated:

1st Vice President: Joe Agnew

2nd Vice President: Louise Love

Recording Sec.: Pat Wendling

Corp. Sec.: Joy Downs

President: Dave Landis

The slate was not only nominated but the entire slate was presented, moved, closed and accepted unanimously...

Safety: Ed Colie/ Jay Schabacker

Jay will have a Safety Display table at the Tour of Homes showing PFG's for children (& infants) and adults. Some may even be for sale at that time. He may ask Elaine Price to be available for information. Job well done, Jay.

Special Events: Mike Murrell/ Ken Fox

- TOH discussed. Ladies Day discussed- but they are encouraging women to participate in helping with Ladies Day.
- Spread the word so both programs are a huge success!

Projects: Ken Fox/ Louise Love

"All on schedule"

Web Site: Tom Ruple/ Wayne Kirby/ Mike Kletter

Please send pictures to Tom Ruple for the website. Kemble will forward some excellent pictures of the lake. Check out the new format...it is awesome!

- Joy wants things to move and not Morph! Is this possible?

Stan Jones: This Saturday, 18th, there will be a clean up on Susie Ebert Island. Be at Lighthouse Marina by 100:00.

May 2 us a Marine Flea Market where you can buy or swap "marine fleas" ☺ This begins at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 with thoughts of gathering pictures to send to Tom, getting people to **TAKE ACTION** with their legislatures on the LIP decisions and the to help with the Tour of Homes needs. 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.