

**LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION MINUTES**  
**February 11, 2008**

Dave Landis, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in Lexington, SC. The meeting began with a prayer by Ralph Crafton.

Aleda Anderson introduced Del Jenkins, a guest and interested potential Board Member. Don Pertl has nominated Del. Del has lived in Columbia since 1976; 21 of those years have been on the lake. He has been an LMA member for 3 years. He is married, a Trustee at Union Methodist Church and retired. His wife, Ruth is also interested in helping LMA. We welcome Del and look forward to his active participation in LMA.

The minutes had been approved and posted on the Web site.

Tom Ruple presented the Treasury Report. We spent \$993.07. We collected \$1550.00 in dues and earned \$1641.83 this past month

- A statement regarding boat show expenses noted we spent \$149.79 on the life jacket, raffle item. This was noted to be a wise use of the money.
- It was further noted that the \$48.00 in storage is for a storage rental in Ballentine.

The treasurer's report was seconded and approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Boat Show January:** Dave Landis, Mike Murrell.

Dave and Mike discussed the excellent, professional video created by Mike Kletter that added to the success of the boat show this year. The DVD will be available for future public meetings. We have access to a 19" monitor. Testing out this equipment is advised before the meeting in Saluda to make sure all parts are functioning.

**TOUR OF HOMES:** Ginny Landis

This event will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-6:00 pm. It will be run out of Stan Jones's Lighthouse Marina. To date, there are two houses secured: Peppy Rivera on Tapps Road and Jim and Margaret Morris on Salem Church Road.

Help is needed in getting more homes. Needed are Pontoons and drivers, tour guides, dock- hands and workers at the launch site. We will put out a call for help in the Newsletter and on the website.

\*Mention was made to look to Lexington and Timberlake in the future.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**LMA Position on Jim Ruane Model:**

**Background:** Jim Ruane, employed by SCE&G and Kleinschmidt, has been brought in as an "expert" on scouring Lake Murray. His proposition is that the water quality of Lake Murray 'may be' improved by periodic winder draw down to the 350 ft. msl to

increase sediment scouring in the vicinity of water inflows feeding the lake. His *hope* is to elevate levels of dissolved oxygen to reduce the incident of fish kills. His suggestions are *theoretical* and not based on *any* collected data from Lake Murray or a lake of equal size. Ed Colie stated that Jim Ruane's information is based on a reservoir- not a large lake and that this is quite a difference. It tends to negate his observations and theories. The Board was asked to approve two documents (A) and (B)

(A) 'There are a number of reasons the Lake Murray Association is opposed to any proposed operational policy for Lake Murray that calls for a periodic draw down to the 350 msl level for the purpose of sediment scouring.

1. Coves that have no stream inflows would not benefit from scouring, especially where the inflow terrain is fairly flat and the velocity of water movement would be insufficient for sediment scouring.
2. Unless there is torrential, big volume rainfall, any scouring will be confined to narrow streambeds and will be of insignificant benefit.
3. Scouring benefits occur at the interface of stream entry to the lake. This dynamic occurs whether the lake level is at 350 msl or at 354 msl. There is no available data that supports a greater benefit of scouring when lake levels are 350 msl versus when lake levels are at 354 msl.
4. There has been no data presented that shows that the recent multi-year draw down associated with dam remediation provided any benefit that reduced the chances for fish kills. (Following the draw down in 2007, there was a fish kill near the dam.)

(B)“ The LMA recommends a minimum water level of 354 msl as an operation policy in the license agreement to be approved by the FERC. It is understood by the LMA that under *emergency and extraordinary* circumstances the lake could be lowered down to 345'. This action should be on rare occasions. Examples for lowering the lake are for dam and downstream safety, for dam or equipment repair and for inadequate inflow to maintain the 354' msl during extended droughts. Stakeholders around the lake should be notified and given the opportunity to discuss the needs for deviating from the approved operation policy.”

#### **Discussion ensued:**

- Roy Parker, LMA expert in water quality and head of LMA water quality testing, feels that it is important to establish an operating policy approved by F.E.R.C. in regards to this lowering of lake levels to improve water quality. (B)
- In regards to (A), Roy sees no benefit to taking the lake to 350 ft when the area of concern is in the upper end of a 49,000-acre lake. It is an insignificant problem area and no difference or data has been noted in the water quality of the lake at 354' or 350'. He did feel there might be some validity on smaller lakes but on a 49,000-acre lake there is no back up that this would cause any significant change. Roy will contact Dr. Haller to obtain a quote from him in support of our conclusions.
- (A) Ed Colie asked how much scouring could occur in 2” of rain per hour? He further noted that he (Ed) studied the growth of aquatic weeds in 2 areas of the lake (Salem Church and the Sailing Club) and noted the aquatic weeds were

- encouraged to grow with the recent drawdowns. The decomposing of these weeds occurred only when there was higher water. Essentially, the draw down kept primrose growing and encouraged its becoming a nuisance. He emphatically stated that 100% of Ruane's theories were unsupported by data and a fallacy.
- Lee Barber's comment was that nowhere did he see an absolute in Ruane's statement- Ruane continually said "*could*" or "*might*" and this was not a definitive answer to give credence to his "*theory*".
  - Russ noted that fish kills are not happening in the area of concern. Fish kills occur near the dam area. Bob Keener supported this comment by mentioning that Bass are stocked fish and that the fish kills occur when they avoid the warmer water and go deep for cooler temperatures and encounter low oxygen levels. This is not going to be changed by scouring in the upper levels of the lake.
  - Rich Kidder felt that in years with a high spring inflow there were fish kills for reasons stated by Bob and concurred that Ruane has no facts on which to base his opinion.
  - Russ stated he feels very strongly that we should hire our own expert to refute Ruane's recommendations. Russ defines 'expert' as someone recognized as having testified in a circuit court or higher court; having published books or papers on the expertise in this specific field. It is his contention that we must do all that is possible to support what we already know to be true.
  - Stan Jones expressed a safety concern in the draw downs. He has observed that a draw down creates steep slopes, harms personal property (docks), and causes more opportunity for accidents due to unknown shoals and shallow areas.
  - Jay mentioned that his Lake Level Chart and article point out the detriments to water drawdowns. He asked for help in editing this document to verify accuracy.
  - Tom Ruple then called for acceptance of (A)-The written position that states our opposition to 'Lowering Lake Levels at 2-year intervals for scouring to Improve Water Quality' to be accepted to use at upcoming meetings with SCE&G, TWC's and public meetings. This was second and approved unanimously by the Board.
  - Louise Love asked that we adopt (B) our LMA Operation Policy for FERC re-licensing *after* striking the emergency power generation example. This was second and approved unanimously.

**Saluda Meeting Hollywood Ruritan Club** Dave Landis

This will be Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm at the Hollywood Ruritan Club.

Ken Fox will be passing out flyers. Mailings advertising the meeting were put together during the meeting and will be mailed to members in that area. (Thanks to those who helped with this project. Good use of time!)

- The program will have the DVD video displayed on our 19" screen. Wallace Hubbard will discuss Bio-Gator, Stan Jones will discuss his clean marina and SCE&G will be present to answer any questions. Our positions will be discussed regarding Ruane's recommendations.
- All Board members are encouraged to be present with their name badges on and to meet and greet members new and old.

**Funds in the Treasury:** Tom Ruple

The Finance Committee, chaired by Bill East, has met and come up with a way to let our money work for us. Presently, we are not making money in our low interest checking account. We spend about \$1000/ month, but the rest of the money just sits there. The proposal is to put money into 2-3 short term CD's in a 'ladder' format (thank you Louise). It allows us access to the money should we need it and the only loss would be on the interest, not the principal.

This idea met approval unanimously. (Congrats Finance Committee.)

**Lake Keowee Meeting:** Rich Kidder

April 16, Wednesday, will be the date of a meeting with the Friends of Lake Keowee. Phil Blackstone @ Clemson is arranging this trip and meeting. The purpose is to learn how the Lake Keowee group has been able to acquire their own building, have their own testing lab, hire a PHD Chemist, write and win grants and to do remediation work. There are 10 slots in the State Van that Rich has secured. Those interested in attending are: Rich, Lee, Ralph, Ken, Bob, Curtis, Dave, Joy, Roy and Stan. Stan has other interests at Lake Keowee and a commitment at 7:00 that night. He will be driving himself, which leaves an opening in the van. Stan has offered to drive anyone else who would like to go with the very clear understanding that he controls the radio. IF you are interested, please let Stan or Rich know ASAP. \*Lake Keowee also hosted a very successful golf tournament- an area Ralph will explore.

**SC Marine Association:** Stan Jones

Stan, Vice President of the SC Marine Association, brought us up to speed on pending issues. This group began in Charleston, then moved to include the coast and is now gathering strength in the midlands area. The group works closely with DHEC, DNR and OCRM. They have their own lobbyist on board. Six issues are prominent at present.

1. *Pushing the lessening of property tax on boats.* If a boat has running water and a 'bathroom' they may ask for a decrease from 10% tax to 6.5% tax, right now.
2. *Situs Law:* This determines how long you may store your out of state boat in SC w/o paying tax. Right now it is 60 days. SC legislature want this changed. (RV's that are Canadian owned don't pay tax.) The idea is to encourage not discourage boat owners to spend their money in the state to build our economy.
3. *Property Tax on a boat* will be heavily fined (\$500) if it is not paid on time. The \$500 is to reinstate your license. They will declare the right to seize all of your registrations until all property tax is paid. \*Should someone not pay on an old John Boat, then all the other licenses would be seized and you would be charged \$500 to reinstate them.
  - One concern is that many will just abandon boats to avoid this issue.
4. *Clean Vessel Act:* DHEC has been able to grant a 75% reduction with a grant to marinas to establish a pump out station. - but the funds are DEFUNCT at this time.

5. *Clean Marina Program*: This is in Limbo-hoping that SC Marine will be able to take over this program. It has zero funding at the moment. Stan's marina is the first in the state to be available to receive this status. He could be an Inland Inspector to check out other marinas and keep them up to standards. (YEA Stan!)
6. Stan has advised that he has put *dye tabs* in all the Holding Tanks of those at his marina who are not willing to use his service to pump out (\$5/ month). Should they dump in the lake, a green cloud will appear. Dumping is illegal, so should you see this green cloud, please take down the number of the boat and turn them into Stan and the authorities.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Environmental: Roy Parker**

10 Wood Duck boxes have been distributed. Roy shared pictures of both the male and female ducks on boxes in Lake Murray. They are beautiful.

### **Government: Joy Downs**

- Joy advised the seriousness of Jim Ruane's proposition and the possibility of down playing the issue by officials. She said she did not expect SCE&G to go along with every 2.5 years of draw down but would suggest something in the 3-5 year range. This would still not be acceptable to LMA for the same reasons.

### **Publicity: Kay Gordon**

Kay has written and sent out news releases, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, for the Meeting in several newspapers including the State, LM News, the Star as well as the Saluda Centennial. Kay advised that Vicki Davis of the Lexington Life Magazine is interested in stories about LMA. She further mentioned that the LM Magazine has an old friend from The State as the new editor. This could be a great resource for LMA.

She is interested in forming coalitions with other groups that will benefit each group. Ie:

- Taste of Lake Murray, April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 at the Radisson is a suggestion as to a beginning to our networking and helping each other. Perhaps we could man a booth at this event- and advertise it on our website.\* This is a great win-win idea!

If there are any ideas or thoughts for future articles please send Kay an email with your ideas.

### **Membership: Kemble Oliver/ Ed Colie**

Kemble brought CD's of his templates to use for membership applications, envelopes and business cards. He can send those to everyone so they will have immediate access to print off an application. These include a pre-printed envelope. This is a wonderful addition to our tools for recruiting!

Tom Ruple handed out lists of members from our database who have not renewed. If anyone knows a person on that list, please contact him or her to renew so we can lower the rate of dropouts. Let Bill East know who you have contacted as he does not want to be a multiple caller.

**Newsletter: Bob Keener**

Bob handed out a roster of articles due to him by Friday, March 14th. He has also given a specific format to follow so it will make the job of editing easier. He further encourages the use of pictures with your article.

Bob encourages anyone to submit an article of interest to him (with pictures if possible.)

**Nominating: Aleda Anderson/ Bill East**

Del Jenkins who visited with us tonight is a candidate to join the Board. Pat provided Bill with another name as a potential Board Member.

**Safety: Ed Colie/ Jay Schabacker**

Jay encourages anyone to email him ideas on any safety issues you may have. He will research and follow up with an article.

**Special Events: Mike Murrell**

Ladies Day on the Lake is organized and ready to roll. The date is June 17<sup>th</sup>. More information on how to sign up will be forthcoming.

**Projects: Ken Fox**

. No report.

**Web Site: Tom Ruple/ Wayne Kirby/ Mike Kletter**

10,497 hits and 1305 special visits to the website this past month.

**Presidential Comment: Dave Landis**

Dave made an appeal for any names of those who would be interested in being President next year. Both Mike M. and Ken have declined the position. Dave Landis is comfortable remaining for another year, but wants to extend the opportunity to anyone who may be interested. Please advise by the end of this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm with thoughts of getting the Operating Policy instated in the FERC re-licensing agreement. As always we continue to work for our members. We are now in need of help *from* our members with the Tour of Homes and in continuing to build our membership.

Thanks and good-bye.