

LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION MINUTES
August 11, 2008

Dave Landis, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in Lexington, SC. We welcomed Nancy & Dennis Hunniford who came to visit our Board meeting to get a sense of LMA. They are Lake lovers from IL who are visiting Columbia for a month to determine if they want to retire here.

The meeting began with a prayer by Ralph Crafton.

First order of business was an update on the health of several Board members by Joy Downs, who herself is still recovering from replacement knee surgery and a collision with a truck. (!) We send our thoughts and prayers to all who are suffering and fighting their way back to good health.

- Lee Barber spent 1 day in the hospital last week, but was in attendance tonight.
- Tom Ruple has been over a week in Providence Hospital with both heart and gall bladder problems.
- Kay Gordon has fallen and shattered her knee cap. She is in a hospital bed at home with instructions to keep her leg straight for 3-months. (Wow!)
- Mike Kletter is battling pneumonia.

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 \$2844.63. We collected \$5285.00 in dues, Dock Signs, Ladies Day and Tour of Homes tickets. The treasurer's report was seconded and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

LAKE AND LAND PUBLIC MEETING: Joy Downs & Roy Parker

This meeting was basically statistic sharing on the miles of shoreline to be developed and the intent of rebalance by SCE&G. This involves future development only on property that is not developed to date. It was determined that the miles of future development has been reduced and the miles for recreation have been increased.

SCE&G has set aside project lands and is making available 500-700 acres to be used for recreation. Roy feels they are working to be fair to all. *SCE&G's ultimate goal is to develop 75% of available land, LMA would like to keep the lake healthy and stop development at 67% usage.

- The land being designated for recreation is in Newberry and Saluda where the water is shallow. Roy maintains that this area is more likely to become polluted if otherwise developed because pollutants will have a greater impact on the lake in shallow water. Others feel that this forces new development to already congested areas in Lexington County.

- SCE&G is requiring 75 ft of undisturbed land and prohibiting cutting trees 3" in diameter on future developments.

NEW BUSINESS:

LIP MEETING: Dave Landis *Very important.

As SCE&G prepares to turn in the proposed license at the end of this month, (which will be in place for 30 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 30 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.

The first meeting of this Focus Group showed some improvement from LMA's perspective, but not enough to reach agreement. It has been established that it is in everyone's best interest when the lake is full: Lake Owners, Commercial users, Lake users, SCE&G and the downstream folks. They are suggesting the use of pulsing or intermittent spurts that tend to reduce the average cfs released. What is not being respected is the percentage effect of evaporation (lose 150-250 cfs daily), municipality use, and commercial use on the 'output' side of the lake water. Respect is not 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 30 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. Another question to consider is 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. In our opinion, without the dam 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 must be considered, proportionately in this decision. These rules are being established to safeguard Lake Murray in the future and the regulations need to be consistent with that goal. It should not feel like the will of a few are to dictate to the majority.

LMA is more than willing to follow the process and to keep the communication open for compromise. There is however a need for respect to be shown to all lake users, for all criteria of the water input and output to be part of the formula (and not just selective definitions). *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.

GOLF TOURNAMENT: Dave Landis

Due to the number of health issues to key players in organizing the golf tournament and the fact that there is building at the 9th hole of Timberlake until next year, the decision to table the 2nd Annual Tournament until next year.

PUBLIC MEETING: September 23, 2008- Tuesday, 7:00 @ St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. The focus of this meeting will be the LIP protocol discussed above. 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environmental: Roy Parker/ Ken Fox

Ken Fox is heading the water testing program. The next test will be on August 12th. Ken passed out results of first two tests. We are seeing phosphorous in the same areas as last year. They seem to be tied to rain- which causes run off into the lake. The 3rd test results should be ready soon to publish in the Lake Linc. A call was received from someone who suspects contamination in a cove- they will add this to the existing testing sites. They are now testing Bush River, the Little Saluda, Rocky Creek, Clouds Creek, Buffalo Creek and Holly Creek. Once we have data for a year, we will present our findings to DHEC so we can build awareness and address prevention.

Government: Joy Downs

No discussion.

Publicity: Kay Gordon

No report

Membership: Kemble Oliver/ Ed Colie/ Aleda Anderson

- Stan Jones has reported that we have about 28 complimentary memberships attained from our mail out to those in the Lighthouse Marina renters. We will monitor if these become a permanent membership following the interim period.

Newsletter: Bob Keener

- All articles were due to Bob by Friday, August 15. Bob has made arrangements with Mrs. Sharpe to get the articles and pictures in the final form for \$20/ page with the exception of the front and back, which are standard. These will be \$10 for both. Bob wants to check it before it is released for printing.
- 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 fill the need on the Newsletter or 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.

Safety: Ed Colie/ Jay Schabacker

Jay's article will be regarding the downstream warning system.

Special Events: Ken Fox Ladies Day was a huge success. Thanks to Don and Millie Tyler, Sharon Miles, Dave Landis, Mike Murrell, Stan Jones, Elaine Price of the Power Squadron, Wayne Wilkie of Power Sports and to the 37 women who participated in the event.

- There is interest in establishing a special event for all members. A committee has been formed to work up ideas for October @ Lighthouse Marina. The committee is Stan Jones, Don Pertl, Aleda Anderson, Louise Love, Pat Wendling and Del Jenkins. They are meeting on Monday, August 18th.

Projects: Ken Fox

- There is interest in getting ideas for LMA items to sell: T-shirts etc. Louise Love is going to explore the options and report back next meeting with ideas and prices.

Web Site: Tom Ruple/ Wayne Kirby/ Mike Kletter

No Report. All have been asked to vote for their favorite logo before leaving.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 with thoughts of the membership 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.