

LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION MINUTES
June 9, 2008

Dave Landis, President, pounded the shoe and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in Lexington, SC. The meeting began with a prayer by Ralph Crafton. Special mention was made that Joy Downs is in Richland Memorial Hospital following knee surgery. Cards were passed around for signing and all wish her a speedy recovery.

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

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. We have our CD's and other assets and the over-all net worth is \$28,578.72. The treasurer's report was seconded and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tour of Homes: Commendations were given to Ginny Landis on the excellent organization for the TOH. Several Captains wrote a check back for their gas as their donation to the TOH. They can use the donation as a tax deduction- we thank them for their generosity.

Website Logo: Mike Kletter had sent out two designs for the logo for voting, but did not get any response back. It was learned that the email was not received by many so Dave will advise that he send the choices again. All are to select the one they like and return their choice to Mike. Mike has advised that to achieve the ability to create links with pictures we may need to purchase software. Kemble Oliver is going to get in touch with a source that may allow us to do this for a minimal fee of \$6.95/month. Bob Keener suggested getting in touch with the Webmaster at Lake Keowee as well before any significant purchases are made.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sea Cadet Donation: Dave Landis

Dave reminded the Board that we had given a \$250 donation to the Sea Cadets last year for their excellent help with The Tour of Homes and he proposed we do the same this year. This suggestion was immediately seconded and unanimously approved. The Sea Cadets did an outstanding job on the docks at each home, again this year.

- The Sea Cadets were aided by Dave Landis, Kemble Oliver and Bill Wendling with their Survivor Weekend on Goat Island, again this year. They were dropped 500 yards out from the island to swim in to shore. They then spent a weekend without cell phones "surviving" using survival skills and wits. They ate snake, cleaned the island and left it better than they had found it.

Ladies Day, June 17th, 2008: Ken Fox

Ken has 37 confirmed reservations for June 17th. Ken has everything in place for this event: DNR is lined up, Elaine Price of the Power Squadron is ready and groups are established for rotation on that day.

- The two loose ends are Wayne Wilkee from Power Sports bringing the personal watercraft and a firm commitment from Mike Murrell for the lunches. Ken will have this worked out by Wednesday.
- There is a waiting list that will carry over for next year.
- All volunteers are to be at Lighthouse Marina by 8:15 a.m. on the 17th. Dave will bring the water and ice it down that morning.
- Kay Gordon is doing an article on Ladies Day.
- Ken needs to get the full names of the participants to Dave to have the Certificates created.

4H2O Classes: Rich Kidder/ Bob Keener

Today was the first day of the week long 4H2O classes for kids. It goes from 8:00- 4:30. This class has 9 young ladies and 11 young men with 5 repeaters ready to learn about lake critters, water quality testing and all aspects of the lake. The goal is to teach them to be good stewards of the lake. The Sheriff brought out a fire hose today and they got to work it themselves. Several got wet in the process. Lots of questions were asked and answered as enthusiasm, curiosity and energy were demonstrated. The cost is \$100/ week and the class is well received and well done.

107 Foot Boat Article: Dave Landis

Tim Flach wrote an article about Downey's 107 Foot Boat implying that SCE&G were the Bad Guys in trying to enforce rules that have been established by DNR and F.E.R.C. for Lake Murray. LMA happens to agree with SCE&G in this case. We champion fairness, lake water quality and safety for all who use Lake Murray. A letter to the editor is being submitted declaring that the rules/ laws from DNR and F.E.R.C. have been established for all to follow. SCE&G is the enforcer and Mr. Downey is well aware he has broken the rules and laws and he should be expected to accept the consequences of his actions.

LMA Position on Jim Ruane Model: Roy Parker

Refresher on 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 winter 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. Jim Ruane's information is based on a reservoir- not a large lake and that this is quite a difference. In our opinion he has no data to support his observations and theories. Jim Ruane also spoke to SCE&G following his discussion with friend and fellow Limnologist that his findings are not definitive in noting any result.

There has been concern from the LMA Board that this very vague report will be used to justify lowering the lake when there is no evidence or real basis to presume his suggestions are accurate. Roy has spoken with John Haines, Limnologist & Aquatic specialist @ Clemson to discuss Ruane's model. The Board would like to have something more conclusive to submit with the final report to FERC. They have asked Roy to set up a meeting with John Haines and the Executive Board to discuss our options. Roy will set up the meeting,

Operations Joint Meeting Report: Dave Landis

All 7 RCG's met together to establish the parameters of the final License being sent to F.E.R.C. Joy would like in writing a letter from LMA that we would like the lake to always maintain a 354 level. The model is based on input on how the lake will react.

- There was discussion to have the lake up to 358' in March and to leave it there until September. This is a MAJOR change in thinking.
- DNR should support this as they are in favor of a consistent, stable water level during the spawning season for fish. They were opposed to the Yo-Yo levels in the past.
- No releases are planned from SCE&G. Current Lake conditions can be monitored at USGS.com.

Vice President: Dave Landis

A search for a Vice President has begun. Ed Thomas has decided to resign to pursue other interests. This leaves a vacancy that needs to be filled. LMA Directors, please let Dave know if you are interested in serving as Vice President.

CSX Concerns: Russ Jernigan

Russ began his discussion by giving kudos to Ken Fox for his fast response in replacing a windsock that was in disrepair as the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard was touring. This was outstanding PR for LMA.

Russ then spoke of a grave concern. He had spoken with Ken Colton, a Methodist Minister from Shiloh Church, regarding the site on which CSX is planning to establish a side track near the lake. The site is the property of CSX, located in Ballentine and is a very close point to Lake Murray, Lowman Home, and Lake Murray Elementary. There has already been a de-railment on Old Hilton/ 3-Dog Road a few years ago. If there would be a toxic spill, like what happened in Graniteville, going into Lake Murray it could impact water quality for drinking water, fish and all lake users. There is no infrastructure in place to quickly and safely remove those in the Lowman Home or Lake Murray Elementary should there be a spill. This is not a good site and there is grave concern.

- Ken Colton had contacted Jim DeMint in WA, who sits on the surface transportation committee, and he was not aware of this site. He is going to look into the matter.

- Nathan Ballentine, Lindsay Graham and Joe Wilson were mentioned as people who may help.
- All have agreed to do research on this issue and report back to Russ to formulate a plan of action.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environmental: Roy Parker/ Ken Fox

Ken Fox is heading the water testing program. The next test will be on June 16th and Ken was distributing the bottles following the meeting. He will be relocating 3 test sites in an effort to pinpoint a problem. He is moving the test upstream and will now test Bush River, the Little Saluda, Rocky Creek, Clouds Creek, Buffalo Creek and Holly Creek. This makes it easier for Ken to test and is near Chicken Houses. We want to see if the phosphorus levels are high. Once we have data for a year, we will present our findings to DHEC so we can build awareness and address prevention. It will be time to 'beat the drum' as Ken puts it.

- Stan Jones will also be forwarding his latest test results from Lighthouse Marina to add to our findings.

Government: Joy Downs

No discussion other than writing FERC a letter regarding water level.

Publicity: Kay Gordon

Kay is writing a story for the August Lake Murray Magazine regarding the 4H2O program. She will also write a piece about Ladies Day on the lake.

Membership: Kemble Oliver/ Ed Colie

Kemble has given Stan Jones a membership form to send out in his statements this month. It will offer his clients a free 6-months membership to LMA, but they will have to fill out the information and turn it in to have it enacted. Stan anticipates 500 members will participate in this test program. These will be tracked to see how effective they were in building membership permanently.

- Penny Bacon has also contacted Kemble about adding a membership in her packet to new homeowners. We have agreed to offer a membership form good for a free 3-month membership. If they are interested, they will join the organization.
- Don Pertl brought up the question that many ask "what do I get for joining LMA?" His suggestion is a social activity to allow us to mingle and solicit members...a BBQ with music etc. This is a successful approach for lots of business associations. All were in agreement. The membership committee will brainstorm and come up with suggestions.

Newsletter: Bob Keener

All articles were due to Bob *NO LATER* than May 30th, and they did not get to him in time. The newsletter will be later than anticipated. Bob announced that August will be the last newsletter that he and Kay Keener will put together. He feels it is time for new

blood, new ideas and a new approach. Bob and Kay will be available for guidance. The search is on for someone to take on this task in the future. Since we are moving towards selling advertising with the newsletter, this will be part of the change in the future.

- The next newsletter will feature the Tour of Homes.
- MOST importantly...everyone wants Kay and Bob to know they have done a spectacular job over the years and every single minute spent has been appreciated!

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.

Safety: Ed Colie/ Jay Schabacker

Jay feels that we are very safety conscious. He has submitted a couple of articles; one regarding safety on the Lower Saluda. He noted there were 2 drownings this month, which is a caution for all to be very careful.

Special Events: Ken Fox

No Report- covered.

Projects: Ken Fox

One of the Metal Osprey platforms has fallen down on Hancock Point. It will be put up with Norman Agnew's help.

Web Site: Tom Ruple/ Wayne Kirby/ Mike Kletter

No Report

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm with thoughts of the 4H2O kids, Ladies Day, and Joy Downs' quick recovery. 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.

Pat Wendling
Recording Secretary