

LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION MINUTES
June 8, 2009

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Present (P) and Absent (A)

Dave Landis, President, banged the gavel and called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. in Lexington, SC. Dave Landis welcomed Ryan Westmoreland as a guest and a neighbor. Ryan came to observe the Board as it had been portrayed as a “well-oiled, well-run meeting” and he wanted to see for himself. ☺ Ryan is a financial advisor with a strong interest in bringing value to the Lake Murray community as he has lived on the lake all his life. He does appreciate the evening meetings compared with 6:45 am Better Business Bureau meetings he also attends. Ralph led us in a prayer as we gave thanks for all who work hard to take care of the lake.

Minutes: All had responded to the emailed minutes and with changes approved them. No changes or additions were made at this time. The minutes were unanimously accepted and have been posted on the Website.

Treasurer’s Report: Tom Ruple presented the Treasury Report. The income total for March was \$1,375.00. We made \$180.00 for shirts, \$120 for Dock Signs and \$805 for Ladies Day on the Lake. The expenses were \$1,628.39 including normal expenses, money for the Sea Cadets, expenses for the Ladies Day, postage and gifts. Our overall income was - \$253.39. The treasure’s report was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

LADIES DAY ON THE LAKE: Ken Fox

This is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th @ Lighthouse Marina. All is ready to GO! Ken has a full roster and had to turn down 14 applications. He advised this happened due to the article that was in the Lake Murray Magazine. The magazine came out late.

- Amy Jo asked if this could be offered more than one time. *The difficulty in doing this is DNR’s ability to release 10 officers more than one time with budget restraints. 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. Consideration will be made to increasing the number participating. This will be re-visited.
- Tammy Rivera, leader of the Sea Cadets, has been given the day courtesy of LMA. Tammy will be presented with the check for the Sea Cadets at LDOL
- Ralph suggested we open this activity to members only so there is value-added to being a member of LMA. This will also be considered.

4H2O FOR KIDS: Rich Kidder

This is held the week of June 15-19th on Bundrick Island. 20 kids (ages 10-12) have signed up for this program. 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.

- Request made to send Kemble, Don and Dave an agenda of the week's events.
- Paulette will be contacted regarding refreshments.

LOUISE LOVE WITH T-SHIRTS: Louise Love

Louise brought the last of the shirts and sweatshirts with her tonight. If you owe money and don't pay tonight, she will email you on what you owe. She can continue to take orders for those who want to order more or may want to order a sweatshirt. Each is \$20 payable to LMA.

- Completed Dock Signs were also brought and she asked for help in delivering these to Chapin. Don Tyler will take the Chapin signs.

NEW BUSINESS

LICENSE AND SETTLEMENT MEETINGS: Roy, Joy, Dave, Don

Joy reported that settlement meetings are still in progress. The intent from SCE&G is to have all parties sign the license and to indicate their preference for the 1 ft or 2 ft trigger when they sign.

- Roy indicated that the proposal remains from Limnologist, Jim Ruane, is to have a periodic drawdown. Ruane proposes this helps with water quality and scouring of sludge. There is a second opinion coming on this proposal that has not been received. Jim Landreth, of SCE&G, has indicated that a drawdown will not be in consecutive years and no more than every 3- 5 years. *Tom Ruple feels that every 5 years should be the bench mark making sure that the 1495 cu ft of water is also releasing upstream to help insure the chances of the lake's ability to fill back up. This is a suggested consideration. If there is a drawdown, it will begin in November and end in January (30-40 days max).
- Roy also noted that they were discussing the Guide Curve and it clearly states the intent to keep water level at 358' from March 1 – September 1. It was noted that the "averaging technique" was eliminated replaced with a year by year evaluation during drought times to determine the effect of the drought, which impacts the trigger to be chosen. In a drought situation, a hard look at data from just drought years showed a 2 ft trigger would take the water level below 354' in July vs. Sept. with the 1 ft trigger.

Don Tyler noted that the downstream supporters tried to insert a "gag order" to all so that there would not be pressure from political people...this was refused as we do have freedom of speech. *Noted that this pressure is having an effect!

This continues to be a transitional stage in the end of the license process. There is a lot at stake for lake lovers and it continues to be a poker game with high stakes for all lake users and lovers.

- *11th hour requests and demands change daily in an effort by DNR to maneuver the license. It feels like DNR has little regard for stakeholders, which is*

frustrating to all who have spent time and energy in good faith that consensus, was to be reached.

- *LMA is representing people and has no regulatory power, but has the support of those who love and use the lake.*
- *DNR has been shown respect and as well as a willingness to compromise while they continue to respond by spinning and distorting facts and maneuvering information with arrogance and total disregard for any interest other than their own. The representatives at meetings are stacked 4-1 in favor of downstream vs. lake representatives.*
- *The new Guide Curve is excellent and should be honored as much as possible. LMA is not against releasing water, we are just for slowing down the releases in drought situations. It is a basic issue of Common sense vs. demand for power.*
- *Federal Representatives (Senators DeMint and Graham and Rep. Wilson) need to be contacted now as FERC has the final say in this process.*
- *The terms of how to sign this license are being discussed. At present, if you don't sign, all that you have worked to accomplish will be discounted. If you do sign, you are not able to "qualify" your concerns.*

After much discussion, Dave asked whether or not the board would like for them to sign the agreement. Due to the fact that the 2nd opinion for the drawdown has not been received, permission was given for them to evaluate and use their discretion with our support.

FYI 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.*

IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT OR FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE....TAKE IT TO WASHINGTON NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!

REPORT ON SEWER PROBLEMS: Roy Parker

Roy received a call came from Lindler Lane on the Chapin side of the lake in regards to a sewer problem. The sewer runs adjacent to the lake on the roadway and it has broken and was dumping raw sewage (490,000 gallons) into a cove. It is considered a small spill, but because it is concentrated in a cove with no washing action, it smells and is a mess. This is the 3rd time this has happened to this cove. The sewer falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Chapin. DHEC and the EPA are taking a look at it and the hope is they will request a resolution to this issue. LMA tested the water in that cove and found the though the phosphorous levels were only slightly elevated, the fecal chloroform was very high (200 per 1 ml) the normal range is 30- 40 per 1 ml. This is dangerous. The regulations say you have to take 5 samples in 30 days to determine a standard.

Also there is a septic issue out on Clear Lake near The Barn. Someone is running a pipe across his sister's property and under a bridge to avoid regulations and this is also a water quality issue.

We will follow both of these scenarios to see the outcome.

PUBLIC MEETING SEPT. 22: Dave Landis

Dave asked for suggestions for possible speakers for our Sept. 22 meeting at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Suggestions included: Mr. Frampton of DNR, Rebecca Spratlin, West Marine on going green and a Fishing expert. These will be pursued to end up with (2) speakers with a Q&A following each.

JULY BREAK: Dave Landis

July is usually a break from a full Board meeting with only an executive meeting held. Discussion ensued on whether or not to have the July Break or to have the full board meet per usual.

After several interesting perspectives were presented, it was decided to meet in July at Lighthouse Marina on the Quarter Deck to give a change of scenery and to be available as the settlement meetings are at a critical stage right now. It would also allow us to set the groundwork for the Appreciation Day for LMA Members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environmental: Roy Parker/ Ken Fox

The water testing began in May and Little River was a bit out of spec. The next testing will be on June 16th.

Government: Joy Downs

*Noted that the next settlement meeting will be @ the Training Center on June 11th and 12th.

Publicity: Kay Gordon

Kay has not had any luck in getting an article on the LMA Award in any publication and will continue to move up the ladder to get this done. Ken will take pictures at Ladies Day on the Lake and will write an article to give to Kay to get out in the papers.

- Kay will be writing an article on the H2O program first hand as she rides along on the pontoon armed with camera and notebook. We look forward to her account of the day.

Membership: Kemble Oliver/ Ed Colie/ Aleda Anderson

Kemble turned in a report that stated that we have gotten 4 new members and 2 renewals. He is working on exchanges with several Chambers: Lake Murray, Irmo, (Lexington-done), Saluda and Newberry as well as the LM Tourism.

- Rich Kidder asked that a free year's membership be given to those businesses who lent us a boat for the Tour of Homes. The motion stated: The year a company provides a boat for the tour of homes that LMA provide a free membership for that year to said business.
- Discussion ensued noting that this was already a business write-off and may open an unwanted can of worms in the future.
- The vote was 21-1 against the proposal.

Newsletter: Sharon Miles

- Sharon noted that due to circumstances beyond our control, the newsletter would be a week late this time. But she reminded all to turn in their articles by August 1st - no exceptions as it had a ballot that needed to be inserted. She is also looking for extra articles (wildlife especially) to be turned in for publication.

Nominating: Aleda Anderson/ Bill East

Nothing

Safety: Ed Colie/ Jay Schabacker

Ed Colie will be writing an article on the proper use of lights at night on the lake. Ed noted that the Regatta had been cancelled due to storms and they have a disclaimer that the skipper has the final word in continuing or not in dangerous conditions.

Special Events: Mike Murrell/ Ken Fox

Discussed.

Projects: Ken Fox/ Louise Love

Ken put up (2) windsocks on Black's Bridge and Dreher Island. 18 are on order and once received will get replacements on Macedonia, Shealy's, Lighthouse Marina and Rawl's Point.

Web Site: Tom Ruple

Tom encourages all to visit the website as there is “good stuff” on the web. *Remember to send him any pictures you want on the Web.

- Joy still wants a sailboat to move and not Morph!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 with thoughts of signing the license, a safe and beautiful Ladies Day on the Lake, wonderful weather for the H2O Program. 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.