

**LAKE MURRAY ASSOCIATION MINUTES**  
**May 11, 2009**

Dave Landis, President, banged the gavel and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in Lexington, SC. Tom Ruple welcomed Bill East as an old member newly returned. ☺ Wallace Hubbard and his wife were welcomed to their first meeting. Wallace is a new Board Member. Ralph began with a prayer reflecting on our support for the Landis family in their time of mourning.

**Minutes:** All had printed and brought their minutes to the meeting. (YEA!) No changes or additions were made at this time. Don Tyler respectfully requested the minutes have the pages numbered. The request was duly noted. 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 \$6,574.00. \$545.00 was from dues, \$5,280.00 from the Tour of Homes and \$245.00 for Ladies Day on the Lake and \$4 from huggies. The expenses included \$1,049.39 for Tour of Homes and normal expenses. Our overall income was \$4,895.52. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**TOUR OF HOMES:** Dave Landis  
Comments made about the tour:

- Many people were delighted with 3 homes as it was the perfect number. Each home was unique, beautiful and demonstrated the love of living on Lake Murray.
- Irby Schultz is congratulated on her diligence securing the homes for the tour.
- Compliments given to boat captains and tour guides for making it interesting and fun.
- Suggestion that the date was difficult on Mother's Day weekend- may want to not have that conflict in the future.
- Suggestion that we raise the price next year to \$35.00.
- Suggestion that there be an incentive of 10% off to members.
- Questions regarding the gift to the home owners- these are forthcoming from Dave...
- Kemble moved that we give \$250 to the Sea Cadets for their outstanding contribution to the tour. This was approved unanimously. \*This will help send some cadets to camp. The Sea Cadets were given a boat that needs work to get it running. A suggestion was made by Stan on Saturday that she should hook up with a group of retired military mechanics who have been restoring a plane at Owen's Field.. They may be willing to donate talent to fix the boat for them. They have 18 cadets from all over the state and are working to build up to 25.

- The numbers for the tour were down, but the tour was a success for those who attended. This was thanks to Ginny, Dave, Joy and all the volunteers who graciously gave their time and talent to make it all go smoothly. A heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone.

**LOUISE LOVE WITH T-SHIRTS AND COOZIES:** Louise Love

Louise brought the last of the shirts with her tonight. They look great. She continues taking orders for those who want to order more or may want to order a sweatshirt. Each is \$20 payable to LMA.

**LADIES DAY ON THE LAKE:** Ken Fox

This is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> @ 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. He only has 8 tickets left and several “to be confirmed”. He may be closing the sales. He has asked for it to not be advertised again. The max is 32-36 ladies to allow for small groups. It seems to be successful again!

- Water left from Tour of Homes will be sent to this event.
- Lucy mentioned that Tammy Rivera, leader of the Sea Cadets, mentioned a desire to attend LDOL this year. A motion was made and approved for us to have her attend at no charge this year.
- Stan also may be able to do repair work on their boat.

**4H2O FOR KIDS:** Dave Landis for Rich Kidder

This is held the week of June 15-19<sup>th</sup>. 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.

- Water and Lemonade left from TOH may be sent to this program.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**GOVERNOR’S AWARD:** Joy Downs

Joy shared the award given to us by Governor Mark Sanford for the work the Lake Murray Association has done for the past 15 in protecting and preserving Lake Murray. It is quite an honor and it was humbly received.

**LIP AND DRAWDOWN:** Roy, Joy, Dave, Don

As the end of the license process is in site, we are at a transitional stage. This stage has been compared to a poker game with high stakes for all lake users and lovers.

- 11<sup>th</sup> 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.
- DNR's goal seems to be to have the LIP taken out of the license so they can further manipulate the process. In this case, we feel all guaranteed releases should be off the table.
- 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 meeting on April 26 or 29<sup>th</sup> requires a meeting before the meeting to prepare for what waits ahead- Joy will be in contact.
- 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. This may change.
- Russ advised that an aid for Rep. Wilson stated a letter would be sent to FERC on our behalf. We would love to see a copy of that letter. He also proposes we learn who is on the DNR commission to search out an ally. He further feels we need an expert with credentials to represent us. \*It was noted that at the beginning when money was being spent on river studies, SCE&G felt there was no need for lake studies. Now, we wish we had them done.
- It seems there are continually two issues running simultaneously.
- Roy's perspective is at the end of a long, laborious process, the main issue boils down to the trigger in the LIP. He feels following the Guide Curve is our strongest argument.
- Don Tyler feels frustrated with the process. He noted that Ronnie Cromer is the head of the oversight committee for this process. Keep encouraging Ronnie to put pressure on Mr. Frampton.
- All are convinced that the emails and letters are getting attention and should continue. If this is David and Goliath- use your slingshot and hit hard!

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.

**Note: 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.*

- Jim Landreth of SCE&G is firm that there will not be consecutive drawdowns. He will consider every 3-5 years.
- If there is a drawdown, it will begin in November and end in January (30-40 days max).

- SCE&G is asking for a 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion from LMA's consulting limnologist, which is excellent. Nothing is in stone at this point.
- 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.
- 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.

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

**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 continue to spread the word to friends, neighbors, media etc. Time is of the essence.

- This needs to continue as it has caught the attention of those involved...keep up the pressure with emails and letters to the editor or any news program on both radio and TV...

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Environmental:** Roy Parker/ Ken Fox

The water testing program will begin on May 20<sup>th</sup> and it will run each month thru October.

**Government: Joy Downs**

None- already discussed

**Publicity: Kay Gordon**

Dave has asked if Kay could take the reporter role to interview various committee heads to keep information in the local papers- with perhaps her own bi-line. He would like this to begin with our water testing program. Perhaps Kay could also write an article regarding the 4H2O program as we have always been involved in it and are not garnering any credit for our efforts. Ken has asked that there not be any more ads for Ladies Day on the Lake.

**Membership: Kemble Oliver/ Ed Colie/ Aleda Anderson**

Kemble turned in a report that stated that we have gotten 11, 37 and 6 renewals respectfully in March, April and May. New members were 1, 6 and 0 in March, April and May. His goal is to increase the numbers. He noted that the program offered at Lighthouse Marina did get memberships. We had offered a 6-months free membership and then hoped to turn those into paying members.

- John Altenburg, Sea Tow Lake Murray, has offered a 6-month membership to members of LMA. No “exchange” was involved. John was offered the same option as Stan at Lighthouse, to offer a free 6-month introductory membership to his clients. Kemble feels he has about 1200 clients but doubts that he will make the offer to all 1200 of them, but has a strong lake client base. John seems to have arrangements with all the marinas and may deal directly with the marina

managers. Details have not been determined at this time. Kemble reached out to Tom for help with the details. Del suggested that Sea Tow offer 6-months free tow at the front end.

- Dave asked for numbers on this volume of memberships and details to help Kemble work thru the process... kudos for being proactive on membership!
- Note that last month we had a report from Tom Ruple:

*\*Last month, Tom Ruple reported we had 40 new applications consisting of 11 renewals and 1 new member in March. April brought 27 renewals and 1 new member. It was discussed that this opportunity could be explored to offer this to other marinas, one at a time.*

- *It was determined we had a 20% renewal from the honorary memberships given at Lighthouse Marina. This is outstanding and opens the opportunity to offer this 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. Kemble did follow up on contacting this group. It comes to our attention that there is drama with this action. Kemble's contact has been with Terry Francis and Debra Lauer. At present we are a non-profit member of the chamber and they are an associate member of the Lake Murray Association. Kemble did give the chamber the ability to offer their membership a 6-month introductory membership with LMA. Joy may need to intervene on this one. Kemble followed his directive.*

#### **Newsletter: Sharon Miles**

- Sharon reminded all to turn in their articles by Friday, May 15th. Wendell will be helping her this time around. She is looking for pictures if the TOH, \*especially Tom's second washing of his shirt.

#### **Nominating: Aleda Anderson/ Bill East**

The board has a full compliment of members with a very strong freshman group. We are proud of the outstanding job of the nominating committee. We also have a full slate of officers for this next term.

As in all things, this is an ongoing process and good workers are always welcome and needed.

#### **Safety: Ed Colie/ Jay Schabacker**

Jay had a Safety Display table at the Tour of Homes showing PFG's for children (& infants) and adults. He felt it was successful and fun. The majority of those attending were not boat owners so the PFG's were interesting but sales were not forthcoming. This month's article will be on fires on board your boat. Always good information from Jay.

#### **Special Events: Mike Murrell/ Ken Fox**

Nothing- Mike sends well wishes from Italy.

#### **Projects: Ken Fox/ Louise Love**

Ken asked for approval to order 12 more windsocks. The motion was unanimously approved. He will be putting up 3 of his last 4 windsocks next week.

- Bill East asked how many Ospreys we had on the platforms...somehow this turned into a Ken story about geese, platforms, boats and interesting requests...and that there are birds in all but 4 of the 22 platforms.

**Web Site: Tom Ruple**

Please send pictures to Tom Ruple from the Tour of Homes or of good lake pictures w/o people for the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 with thoughts of how to continue to inform Federal legislatures about the license on the LIP decisions; gathering pictures to send to Tom. 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. Our sympathies are again extended to the Landis family on the death of Ginny's sister. Thanks and good-bye.