

MEETING MINUTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
LAKE AND LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE GROUP**

**SCE&G Training Center
December 8, 2005**

Final ACG 2-17-06

ATTENDEES:

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates
Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates
Tommy Boozer, SCE&G
David Hancock, SCE&G
Ron Ahle, SCDNR
Bob Keener, LMA & LMSCA
Beth Trump, SCE&G
Randy Mahan, SCANA Services
George Duke, LMHC
Chris Page, SCDNR
Dan Tufford, USC
Dick Christie, SCDNR
Bertina Floyd, LMHOC
Joy Downs, LMA

Mike Murrell, LMA
Tom Brooks, Newberry County
Don Tyler, LMA & LMHC
Roy Parker, LMA
Mary Anne Taylor, SCE&G
Bill Marshall, SCDNR & LSSRAC
Randall Shealy, Lake Murray Historical Soc.
Bill Cutler, LW & SCCCL
Steve Bell, LW
Amanda Hill, USFWS
Bill Argentieri, SCE&G
Tony Bebber, SCPRT
Bill Mathias, LMA & Lake Murray Power Squadron

DATE: December 8, 2005

ACTION ITEMS:

- Check on the Status of the Map Monitorization Program Using LIDAR – *Chris Page*
- Check on the Criteria of Water Quality Monitoring Programs on Lake Murray – *Tommy Boozer*
- Acquire Information from Clemson on Total Build-Out Scenarios – *Tom Brooks*

HOMEWORK ITEMS:

- Prioritization of Issues for Discussion in the Upcoming Meetings

AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- To be determined with the receipt of prioritized issues

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING: **February 9, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.**
Located at the Lake Murray Training Center

INTRODUCTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Alan opened the meeting and introduced Tommy Boozer and David Hancock as the speakers. Tommy noted that for informational purposes he had brought an application permit for a boat ramp as well as the Shoreline Management Program booklet. Tommy began his presentation and explained that easement property could be defined as property that SCE&G has sold down to the 360 or has never owned. George Duke asked if the Forest and Game management property could be sold, to which Tommy replied that it could not. Randy Mahan elaborated that SCE&G has informed the FERC of the classification and that it would not be available to sell, although there is no conservation easement on it. He noted that therefore SCE&G could not sell it without going through a FERC process.

Through discussions, Tommy pointed out that SCE&G owns about 70 to 71 of the islands and that they are open for public recreation. In a discussion on easement property, Randy noted that SCE&G's policy has been that they will only sell to those individuals who already own the back property and that they do not allow someone to purchase property between another individuals home and the Lake. Tommy further explained that they do not directly solicit landowners to buy this property, and noted that it was important to remember that these individuals have access to this property they just cannot put in a dock or do any type of brush clearing.

Ron Ahle pointed out that due to the uniqueness of the Project, in having extra lands around the project boundary, that SCE&G could mitigate using property they already own. Duke has had to purchase property for mitigation.

Tommy showed the group a map depicting the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA). He also showed examples of future development property that would be set aside for use as a conservation area. He noted that if land was protected as a conservation area it would be identified as such on future maps. Tom Brooks inquired as to how long in advance SCE&G typically finds out about a new development coming in. Tommy replied that those developers will usually not buy the property unless it has dock access. He continued to note that he has yet to see a developer not come to them before they buy the property in order to see what could be done with the property. Tom Brooks and SCE&G had brief discussion on the need for increased communication between the counties and SCE&G.

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There was some discussion on the possible future use of LIDAR technology by SCE&G and what contours were going to use when it was performed. It was noted that contours from the 354 to the 360 would be used. Chris Page briefly discussed that there was a map monitorization program that uses LIDAR to bring most maps in the state to the right designation. Tom Brooks added that Lexington has already been completed; however he was not sure about Saluda and Richland. Chris Page noted that he would check on what has been done.

After a short break the group began to discuss issues related to Shoreline Management. Tommy noted that to aid in discussions and presentation prep, that a homework assignment would be for each individual or organization to go home and prepare a list of prioritized issues based on items mentioned by stakeholders, study requests, etc. Tommy prepared a packet with an extended list of issues; he noted that this packet could aid in the prioritization of issues.

As the group began to go through the issues in this packet, Tommy began to discuss the residential dock policy, as well as common docks. He noted that docks that have been permitted in the last 10 years are relatively consistent; however, older docks that have been “grandfathered in” have various differences. Tommy noted that docks can be permitted up to 750 sq. feet. However, he added that SCE&G does not always permit a 750 sq. ft dock when requested; it very much depends on the land and the water.

In a discussion of activities on the Lake, Tommy noted that they do not allow moorings on the Lake. He explained that they do not move boats that are moored over the weekend but they will require individuals to move a boat that is moored for an extended period of time. There was some discussion on the excavation policy and Ron Ahle mentioned that he believed there was room for improvement there. Tommy noted that they would discuss it. David Hancock added that the typical excavation that they approve allows an individual to increase their depth on an average of 2 feet. He continued to state that most excavations take place between the 352 and 354 elevations.

In a discussion on dock permitting and marinas, Tommy mentioned that there has not been a new marina on the lake in some time. He noted that they were looking into requirements that would ensure that public marinas stay public marinas. David Hancock noted that common access areas have become great tools for selling off water lots and if those same individuals did not have common access areas then they would have to go to public access points, which are already crowded.

The group continued to go through the issues packet and brief discussions continued on each of the items. It was noted that SCE&G will request a 10 year review of the SMPs instead of a 5 year review. Tommy noted that with the current 5 year review period, by the time they had finished with one review it would be time to start the next review.

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The group then began to discuss the Buffer Zone Management Plan. Randy noted that as far as he understood, a 10 foot meandering path is more stringent than what the FERC order required, however, SCE&G decided that they needed something that would give as much protection as possible and was easy for Tommy and the Lake and Land Management Group to implement. Randy reiterated that their standard was going to allow a 10 foot meandering path down to the bank with absolutely no disturbance for the whole 75 foot buffer zone. Tommy added that there would be some safety issues to deal with such as pines and pine beetles, however they would be dealt with on a case to case basis. Joy Downs expressed concern about having buffer zones open for the public, especially if it becomes public knowledge, when there are other areas that are available for public recreation. Tommy explained that federal law requires that they allow public use of the buffer zone, however the public's access can be limited, camping for example could be restricted, while they do allow a passage type of activity.

As the group continued to discuss issues, Dick Christie noted that he thought it was important that everyone understand the current land classifications and what the ramifications would be if all of the developable lands were to be developed. Tom Brooks noted that they could get information on the particular counties.

Joy Downs asked Tommy if they performed water quality testing. Tommy noted that they did to a certain extent through USGS monitoring. However he noted that DHEC performed the testing at the back of coves. Tommy noted that he would check into what exactly was monitored for.

The group began to go over homework items. It was noted that each individual or organization should prioritize their issues and then send your prioritizations to Alison Guth by December 30th. Tommy and David were tasked with preparing a presentation on those issues that are raised. Tom Brooks mentioned that he felt the use of LIDAR up to the PBL was a very important issue although it was not listed.

The group decided that the next meeting would occur on February 9th at 9:00.

Ron Ahle noted that he had concerns that the way the issues were broken down was too specific at this time. He noted that he believed that the discussion could be focused toward going through the plan and addressing the issues in the way it is written. The group agreed that that may be a good approach.

In reference to the land classification maps of Lake Murray, Bill Marshall mentioned that it may be helpful to also have land classification maps of the LSR.

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Tom Brooks was tasked with acquiring Total build out information from Clemson. Chris Page was tasked with finding out the status on the map monitorization. It was also noted that it would be important to send out more letters to the County Administrators.

Lee's Powerpoint Presentation of Saluda Hydro System Control can be viewed through the website as well as through the November 1st Operations meeting notes.

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**Saluda Hydro Relicensing
Lake and Land Management Resource Conservation Group**

Meeting Agenda

**December 8, 2005
9:30 AM
Lake Murray Training Center**

- **9:35 to 9:45** Introductions and Discussion On Presentation
- **9:45 to 10:30** Discussion on Lake Murray Lake and Land Maps – Tommy Boozer, SCE&G
- **10:30 to 11:45** Preliminary Discussion of Issues
- **11:45 to 12:15** Lunch
- **12:15 to 1:00** Develop List of Homework Assignments, Agenda and Date for Meeting
Next
- **1:00 to 3:00** **Presentation – Saluda Hydro Operations – Lee Xanthakos**
SCANA Services
Adjourn

