MEETING NOTES

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
RECREATION RESOURCE GROUP

LAKE MURRAY TRAINING CENTER
February 15, 2006

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ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Bill Argentieri	SCE&G	David Hancock	SCE&G
Alison Guth	Kleinschmidt Associates	George Duke	LMHC
Alan Stuart	Kleinschmidt Associates	Norm Nicholson	LCSD
Randy Mahan	SCANA	Lee Barber	LMA
Tom Eppink	SCANA	Dave Anderson	Kleinschmidt Associates
Steve Bell	Lake Watch	Van Hoffman	SCE&G
Guy Jones	River Runner	Bill Marshall	SCDNR/LSSRAC
Tony Bebber	SCPRT		

HOMEWORK ITEMS:

- Alan Stuart/Tom Eppink – ADA Design Standards
- All – Review Standard Process Form
- All – draft a vision statement for Lake Murray/LSR

PARKING LOT ITEMS:

- None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: **April 17, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.**
Located at the Lake Murray Training Center

MEETING NOTES:

These notes serve to be a summary of the major points presented during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.

The meeting began with a group review of the updated facility inventory provided by David H. Tommy B. and David H. had updated the inventory from last meeting and included some additional variables such as number of shelters, number of grills, etc. There was a discussion regarding additional variables that should be collected so that the group can understand what is currently available around the lake and river. Tony B. mentioned that number of parking spaces would be useful to know so we can begin to talk about facility capacity. He noted he could get this information for Dreher Island. David H. commented counting parking spaces at some sites would be problematic because of gravel parking areas and/or un-striped parking lots. Dave A. asked if it would be acceptable to come up with an estimate based on the size of the parking area. Dave A. also mentioned we could identify paved and non-paved parking areas.

There was some discussion on the inventory of existing docks at access sites. Lee B. mentioned that knowing dock capacity would be useful, citing Hilton as an example where the dock is not big enough. David H. replied the dock at Hilton is supposed to be a courtesy dock for launching/trailering boats. There is also a fishing dock at Hilton. The group agreed that knowing the function of the dock would be helpful, i.e., identifying courtesy docks, multi-slip docks, fishing docks.

Dave noted the inventory at present has no indication of ADA compliant facilities at any of the sites. There was some discussion on whether we should record ADA compliant facilities (the entire facility is compliant) versus ADA compliant amenities (parking spaces, restrooms, trails). Alan S. and Tom E. agreed to research ADA design standards so we can be consistent across all recreational sites. Dave wondered if there are any design standards for ramp length, as this is a fluctuating reservoir. David H. replied SCE&G makes the ramps at their sites as long as functionally possible to accommodate for this.

Guy J. wondered if we could record the quality of the facility, specifically citing Gardendale as a facility that needs improvement. David H. noted this area was strictly supposed to be for launching canoes; Guy replied a different put-in (i.e., steps) would be better for canoe access. Dave A. remarked we need to focus on the big picture at the moment and individual sites will be discussed later.

Dave A. questioned the group as to the necessity of collecting all of the information for private marinas as well. Randy M. stated that SCE&G does not really have much of an impact as to what

amenities are available at these private facilities. Tony B. noted it would be nice to know the number of slips and boat launches, but not much beyond that. George D. asked for clarification for the meaning of "private," noting there are public private facilities and then private facilities that you have to belong to an organization before using the facility. The group discussed this distinction and concluded it will be nice to know if the facility is open to the public, and make the distinction between those facilities and those that are not available unless you are a member of an organization. One classification scheme put facilities into either public, commercial, or private.

The group also discussed adding a variable on the number of restrooms and identifying the restrooms as either seasonal (port a johns) or year round. There was also some discussion on how this information will be stored once collected. Steve B. wondered if we could include a facility's potential for expansion as a variable. Randy M. replied that we do not want to give the public any expectations of what might happen around the lake. Steve B. agreed but wanted to make sure the group understands what the potential build out will be around the lake.

Bill M. asked for clarification regarding ownership of recreational sites. David H. replied that SCE&G pays for most of the public sites around the lakes and does all of the maintenance on those sites. The group then discussed the need for identifying public campgrounds. The group decided to add "Primitive Camping" as a variable to the facility inventory. The list of variables the group would like to see added to the inventory are: courtesy dock, fishing dock, parking, overflow parking, multi-slip docks, private, commercial, restrooms (seasonal/permanent), ADA compliance, primitive camping, formal camping, on-site security.

Dave A. introduced the "standard process" that is being proposed for use by this group as a way of staying focused on recreation issues around the lake/river. Dave went over the standard process diagram (attached) and briefly discussed the solution principles that will guide decision making for this group. Dave agreed to send out the principles for comment by the next meeting. The solution principles are:

1. Consideration of new recreational facilities should be based on demonstrated need and the potential impact on existing facilities.

2. Priority should be given to demonstrated need within the FERC project boundary.

3. Priority should be given to recreational proposals where multiple stakeholders offer significant participation.

4. Recreational facilities should appeal to a broad public.

5. Reasonable access for the disabled should be provided.

6. Recreational needs should be prioritized for the project.

7. The improvement or expansion of existing recreational facilities should be considered first.

8. Additional recreational studies (if needed) should be only of sufficient scope and duration to provide necessary information to develop issue solutions.

9. Consensus based solutions are preferred over studies, unless solutions cannot be developed with existing information.

Preferred consideration will be given to ideas that:

- do not promote facilities that would adversely impact existing commercial operations;
- identify actual recreational needs that are not filled by existing facilities;
- receive broad public support;
- expand existing recreational facilities prior to developing green field sites;
- require doing recreational studies only if consensus cannot be reached with existing information (It is preferred to put financial resources into recreational facilities and opportunities that benefit the overall Project, rather than fund unnecessary/subjective studies).

These principles will be discussed at the next meeting after the group has had a chance to review them.

The group then discussed a few specifics of the solution principles. George D. wondered if we could shift some of the cost of the access sites to those people that use them. Randy M. pointed out that it would nice to identify potential partners through the process. There was also a brief discussion concerning demographic projections and how they relate to future recreational use. Lee B. noted we might be able to find projected boat sales data from the boating industry. Alan S. questioned Bill M. and Guy J. to see if they are comfortable with the process since they have focused interests on the Lower Saluda River. Both men agreed they are comfortable with the process.

Dave A. then introduced the standard process form that will guide the group throughout relicensing (the blank form is attached). Dave directed the group to approach the questions from a general sense to gauge whether the questions are sufficient for this project. Someone mentioned it would be nice to change "tailrace" to "Lower Saluda River" and "impoundment" and "reservoir" to "Lake Murray."

The group then began to discuss Step One questions. Rather than summarize the suggested responses to these questions, these meeting notes (and any future notes talking about answering the process questions) will simply state the group discussed the answers to the questions. The actual result of this discussion will be tracked using the Microsoft Word Tracking Tool on the Standard Process Form. For example, someone mentioned water level stability, which can be found as a response to Question One. Any disagreements about a particular answer will be summarized in the meeting notes.

The group agreed to review Question Three and get their vision statement to Dave by the next meeting. Dave will compile these visions and the group will discuss and finalize a vision statement for recreational opportunities at the Project.

As a result of discussing Question Five, the group discussed the need for more commercial marinas around the lake. Steve B. felt that there are areas on the lake that could use a commercial marina. Lee B. disagreed. There was some discussion on whether new marinas are needed or if the current ones need to be upgraded. David H. explained the current moratorium on multi-slip marinas and why it is in place. The group agreed that any future access sites should not impact existing commercial operations. Lee B. suggested asking Archie Trawick, owner of Jake's Landing, to come and speak to the group. Norm N. said that a marina management company had taken over Lake Murray Marina and wondered if it would be beneficial for them to come speak to the group.

After lunch, the group began to form Technical Working Committees. Dave A. listed three TWCs that he envisioned forming based on the issues submitted in response to the Initial Consultation Document. These are Recreation Management, Downstream Flows, and Lake Levels. The Recreation Management TWC will deal with future facilities, existing and future sites, policy, etc. The Downstream Flows TWC will talk about scheduled recreational releases. The Lake Levels TWC will help determine an appropriate lake level for recreational activities and will examine the effects of various lake levels on recreation. Membership in the TWCs is as follows:

Recreation Management	Downstream Flows	Lake Levels
Tommy Boozer	Charlene Coleman	Lee Barber
David Hancock	Malcolm Leaphart	Steve Bell
Tony Bebber	Patrick Moore	Bill Argentieri
SCDNR Rep	Guy Jones	DNR Rep
Steve Bell	Tom Eppink	Alan Stuart (facilitator)
Van Hoffman	Bill Marshall	
George Duke	Karen Kustafik	
Lee Barber (observer)	Dave Anderson (facilitator)	
Dave Anderson (facilitator)		

Bill M. asked about bringing up a new issue. He wanted to know about equipment requirements for the Lower Saluda River. He brought up that at other rivers he is familiar with, there are requirements for certain equipment before a recreational user is allowed on the river (i.e., helmets, PFDs). Alan S. noted that any regulations would be a legislative issue, but education could help the situation. Dave A. asked Bill M. if he would like to add this issue to the Parking Lot for the Safety RCG. Bill agreed.

Dave reminded the members of the TWCs that the recreation season is rapidly approaching and that he would like to see the first meeting of the Recreation Management TWC occur as quickly as possible. He also reminded the group that he would like to complete Step One of the Standard Process at the next RCG meeting. The group agreed on the next meeting date and then broke up into respective TWCs to schedule meetings.

Saluda Hydro Relicensing
Recreation Resource Conservation Group

Meeting Agenda

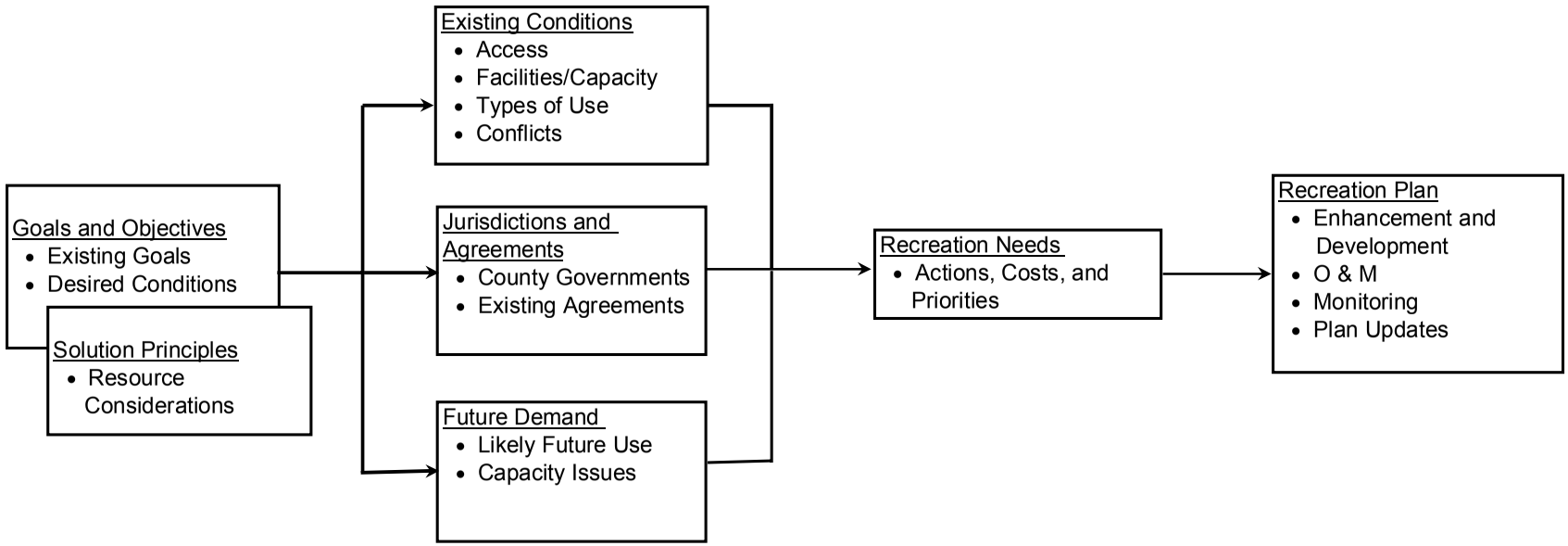
February 15, 2006
9:30 AM
Lake Murray Training Center

- **9:00 to 10:00** Discussion of Facility Inventory
- **10:00 to 12:00** Discussion of Standard Questions
- **12:00 to 12:30** Lunch
- **12:30 to 3:00** Identification of Technical Working Committees

Saluda HYDRO RELICENSING

Kleinschmidt
Energy & Water Resource Consultants

Recreation Plan Development
Standard Process



Step 1
Determine Desired Future Condition

Step 2
Establish Baseline Conditions

Step 3
Determine What Is Needed And When

Step 4
Decide How Needs Will Be Met And Who is Responsible

Recreation Issues Standard Process

The following is a list of standard questions designed to help characterize existing recreation resources and aid in development of an appropriate recreation plan for the Saluda Project. Questions pertaining to recreation management are categorized according to a four-step recreation planning process developed for the project. Questions pertaining to reservoir levels and downstream flows are listed following the facility management material.

STEP 1 – DETERMINE DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

1. Identify impoundment and/or downstream tailrace qualities important to keep and any qualities that need changes.

2. Are there unique characteristics of the reservoir and/or tailrace relative to other reservoirs/tailraces in the area?

3. What is the overall vision for the reservoir and/or tailrace, in terms of recreation experiences and opportunities?

4. Are there sensitive biological or cultural resources associated with the Project that need to be considered? Where are these resources located and are there seasonal sensitivities (e.g., nesting or spawning times, etc.)?

5. Identify specific goals and objectives for managing recreation at the reservoir and/or in the tailrace.

STEP 2 – ESTABLISH BASELINE CONDITIONS

6. What is the nature of existing recreational access to the reservoir?
   a. How many public accessible, developed recreation sites are there?
   b. Where are they located/how are they distributed around reservoir?
   c. Of these publicly accessible access sites how many are owned and operated by public versus private entities and how are they supervised?
   d. How many sites, open to the public, provide boat access to the reservoir?
   e. How many provide shoreline fishing?
   f. Identify the most heavily used facilities.
   g. Are there informal, undeveloped use areas? Where are they?

7. What types of existing developed facilities are there?
   a. Enumerate boat ramps, restrooms, docks, and other facilities.
   b. What is the existing capacity at each site?
   c. What is the general condition of each site and its facilities?
   d. Ideas for improving existing facilities.

8. Describe notable recreation activities on the reservoir.
    a. List recreation activities currently occurring and identify most prominent activities.
    b. Where are these uses occurring, and are they concentrated in certain areas?
    c. Identify existing impediments to these activities, if any.

9. Are there known management issues associated with use?
    a. Are there areas of congestion, and if so where?
    b. Are there known conflicts between users, and if so where and when?
    c. Are there other known management issues, such as littering, trespassing, etc.?

10. What is the expected future demand for recreation activities at the reservoir?
    a. Will existing facility capacity likely be exceeded, and if so where and when?
    b. Would accommodating this demand be consistent with the long-term vision for the reservoir?
    c. Will demand introduce new or additional congestion, conflicts, or other management issues?

11. Identify current local benefits from recreation and any local detriments.

STEP 3 – DETERMINE WHAT IS NEEDED AND WHEN

12. Ideas for better or different access, consistent with Step 2 above.

13. Potential facility enhancements or upgrades, consistent with Step 2 above.

14. Potential new facilities, or other management actions, consistent with Step 2 above.

15. What are the priorities regarding identified needs both in terms of resources and time? How do priorities compare across the entire Project?

STEP 4 – DECIDE HOW NEEDS WILL BE MET AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

QUESTIONS REGARDING RESERVOIR LEVELS

16. How is the reservoir currently operated and what are the typical reservoir levels during key recreation seasons?

17. Are there changes to reservoir level operations that you would like to see addressed to improve the overall value of the reservoir, and how specifically would such changes benefit recreation?

18. Are there seasonal and/or daily variations in reservoir level that can occur without adversely affecting the overall value of the project (including impoundment objectives such as recreation, fish and wildlife, flood control, generation, navigation, etc.)?

19. What are the reservoir levels at which recreation problems tend to occur (may be different for different locations or problems)?

20. When (i.e., what time of year) and how frequently do problems occur related to reservoir levels?

21. Why are the current operating water levels important to the operation of the project and the overall system?

22. Are there state or federal operating requirements that stipulate specific operating goals?

QUESTIONS REGARDING DOWNSTREAM FLOWS

23. Are there riverine recreation opportunities below the dam? If yes, move to additional questions, if not, stop.

24. Do we know how different flow levels affect recreation opportunities and specific recreation activities?

25. Can opportunities be enhanced by modifying releases, and in what way?

26. How would modified releases affect upstream lake levels?

27. How would suggested modified downstream flows affect project operations at the project and at upstream and downstream projects?

28. Are there additional concerns with regard to state and federal requirements or existing ecological issues that limit suggested changes to downstream flows?