

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
RECREATION MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEE**

**CONFERENCE CALL
March 17, 2006**

final dka 04-05-06

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Malcolm Leaphart	Trout Unlimited	Tim Vinson	SCDNR
Tommy Boozer	SCE&G	Steve Bell	Lake Murray Watch
Van Hoffman	SCE&G	Tony Bebber	SCPRT
David Hancock	SCE&G	Dave Anderson	Kleinschmidt Associates

HOMEWORK ITEMS:

- Tommy B. – locate photographs from boating use study
- Dave A. – finish and distribute site inventory form
- All – review draft site user questionnaire and provide feedback to Dave A.
- Tommy B. – review lease agreements for Dreher Island and Saluda Shoals
- Tim V. – provide group with number and location of regatta permits

PARKING LOT ITEMS:

- Discussion of project lands open to the public

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

**March 24, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Call**

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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.

After working out a few bugs with the conference call system, the meeting began with a discussion of the draft inventory form to be used to collect information from SCE&G public sites (attached). There was some discussion on whether Dreher Island and/or Saluda Shoals would be included in the inventory, mainly centering on if SCE&G would be able to fund any improvement projects at these sites. Tommy B. said they would have to review the lease agreements for these two facilities and see what kind of arrangement is currently in place.

There was some discussion on the ADA assessment for the park sites. David H. has not had a chance to contact the Department of Vocational Rehab, but will do so. Someone questioned if all the sites would have to be brought into compliance as a result of the assessment. Dave A. replied that no, they would not have to be, but upgrading existing facilities may be part of a mitigation package for the license application.

The group then proceeded to go through each section of the inventory form. Tommy and David H. agreed that there are no "Campsite" facility types on Lake Murray and the group agreed to drop this type. We will add "Launch Ramp" and "Primitive Camp" to this section. There were some questions on the "Access" section; the group agreed that changing this to "Road Access" would make the intention of this section more clear. The group agreed to change the heading from "Site Facilities" to "Site Amenities" to avoid confusion. There were some suggested changes to this section, including dropping "Sanitation", "Boat Ramp", and "Showers". These amenities are covered in other sections of the form. The group agreed to add "Trash Cans", "Pump Out", and "Trail Mileage" to this section. The group agreed to add "estimated" to the "Parking Lots" section to account for unimproved parking lots. "Showers" will be added to the "Sanitation Facilities" section, along with "ADA Compliance". Under "Campground/Campsites", the word "wilderness" will be changed to "primitive". Finally, "# of lanes" will be added to "Boat Launch Facilities". There was some discussion about inventorying the signs going into and at the sites; Dave A. said that this was a section he had deleted from the form, but would add it back. After this review of the inventory form, Dave A. agreed to modify the form and redistribute to the TWC for approval.

The discussion turned to the report "Investigation of Boating Use on Lake Murray" and some of the comments received from its email distribution. There was some discussion of whether the revised lake section map (attached) that Dave distributed correctly identified the sections used in the report. Tommy B. said the sections appeared correct. Someone asked about the time of day the photographs were taken. Tommy B. didn't remember exactly, but will investigate this. Tommy

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does have the photo set from some of the dates and will distribute these for the TWC to examine. Tommy will also locate the rest of the photos for use by the committee. Steve B. indicated he was fine with using these photos in lieu of conducting another boating density studies. Pending an examination of the actual photos, the group agreed that additional boat counts were not necessary.

The discussion then turned to the draft "Public Access Site Questionnaire" distributed by Dave A. prior to the meeting (attached). Dave explained that the questionnaire as written was meant to be filled out on-site by site users. There was some discussion about the pros and cons of using this method versus doing an interview type questionnaire. The group agreed that they would like to use the interview type questionnaire. Dave A. explained that this type of survey would mean that the group would have to delete about five questions from the questionnaire and that the wording of the questions would have to be modified to be more conducive to a spoken interview. Tony mentioned that perhaps we could offer some type of "give-away" for completing the interview. The group also decided the sampling period should be from sun-up to sun-down in order to include all users of the sites. There was some discussion of the individual questions; these remarks will be captured in actual changes to the questionnaire.

Since the meeting was running long, the group agreed to table the discussion on project lands open to the public. Homework assignments were reviewed and the meeting adjourned.

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**Saluda Hydro Relicensing
Recreation Management Technical Working Committee**

Meeting Agenda

**March 17, 2006
10:00 AM
Conference Call**

- **10:00 to 10:10** Review Inventory Form and Approve Final Version
- **10:10 to 10:20** Discussion of “Investigation of Boating Use on Lake Murray”
- **10:20 to 10:35** Discussion of Public Site User Questionnaire
- **10:35 to 10:45** Discussion of Project Lands Open to the Public
- **10:45 to 11:00** Moving Forward



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Additional Comments Received

Tim Vinson: Tommy asked me at our last meeting together if the ski and boating courses have to be permitted by DNR. I think it was understood that DNR does not have any regulation on these, but I found out today the DHEC does require persons to get Navigable Waters Permits for the installation of such devices.

Also, I have found out the number of regatta permits for Lake Murray in the year 2004. Not sure if anything is published on the year 2005, still checking into that and the locations of these events.

Malcolm Leaphart: Maybe we did not cover the following questions last week since we 'tabled' the discussion of "Project Lands Open to the Public"; but, would like to discuss these during the TWC conference call tomorrow. My suggested agenda topic is: 'Public access plans for the lower Saluda River Corridor '.

Also, I am assuming that more studies are not needed to show that more access needs to be provided on the river, right?? Additional studies should not be needed either for a river trail along the entire corridor as that was documented in the SC DNR Charrette which included landowners and broad public interest groups, including individual citizens (reference with Bill Marshall who led that effort and can supply plan copies). Thanks.

Q. What additional public access is planned for the new license plan along the lower Saluda River?

Q. Will consideration be given to expanding the Gardendale throw-in landing to a ramp suitable for small trailered boats? Or, if that is not a suitable site for a trailer launch because of hydraulics, where can a ramp suitable for small trailered boat launchings be located so that most of the river above I20 is accessible upstream? An upstream trip from there, especially by motor boat, is much safer for the public in that it allows for a downstream return to the landing in case of problems with motors, handling very high or very low flows, etc. Making the safer upstream trip from the Hopes Ferry landings only gives access to the short stretch to the dam - and that stretch is often not navigable at low flows at the sandy island a short distance upstream.

Q. What plans are being considered to make a riverfront trail from Saluda Shoals to the Riverbanks Zoo a reality? That is, will SCE&G help by developing trails or 'cluster parks', including parking, on their river corridor property, including along the stretch just below I-20 above the asphalt plant.

Q. Was a right of way for a public trail provided for in the property sale to a private party for the land sold between the Zoo and I-26 (the old Columbia Police Club property)? If not, what is the

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mitigation for not keeping that land and providing public access to that critical stretch just above the Mill Race Rapids and Zoo where public access and recreation demands are the highest?

Q. Will SCE&G support the River Center' and help to develop it as envisioned by the River Alliance?

Q. Will any access be provided, through a small ramp and/or cluster park in the stretch between the old trestles where the scenic river corridor begins and the sandy island upstream from Saluda Shoals Park? That is prime fishing water due to the location near the dam. While security concerns may not allow public facilities at the dam, facilities near the beginning of the scenic river corridor should be feasible and an acceptable substitute site.

Site Visit/Inventory Forms

Inspected by: _____

Date: _____

Site Name/Code: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Facility Type:

____ Campground/Campsites ____ Picnic Area ____ Day Use
____ Overlook Site ____ Informal Site

Access:

____ Paved access ____ # of lanes
____ Unpaved access ____ # of lanes

Operations:

____ Manned ____ Seasonal
____ Unmanned ____ Year Round
____ Fee (\$)

Site Facilities:

#	Type	#	Type
____	Picnic Tables	____	Potable Water
____	Grills	____	Dumping Station
____	Firepit/ring	____	Boat Ramp (____ # of lanes)
____	Sanitation	____	Docks
____	Trails (specify use _____)	____	Playground
____	Shelter	____	Showers
____	Designated Swim Area	____	Food
____	Store	____	Marina
____	Fuel		

Parking Lots:

_____ # _____ Type _____

_____ ADA spaces

_____ Spaces delineated?

_____ Regular spaces

_____ Curbs?

_____ Vehicle & trailer spaces

Sanitation Facilities:

Type: # # #
 Unisex Women Men

Flush _____ _____ _____

Portable _____ _____ _____

Campground/Campsite:

	RV sites	Cabin sites	Tent sites	Wilderness sites
# of sites	_____	_____	_____	_____
On site parking	_____	_____	_____	_____
Water front	_____	_____	_____	_____
ADA compliant	_____	_____	_____	_____

Boat Launch Facilities:

_____ Hard surface

_____ Unimproved

_____ Gravel

_____ Carry In

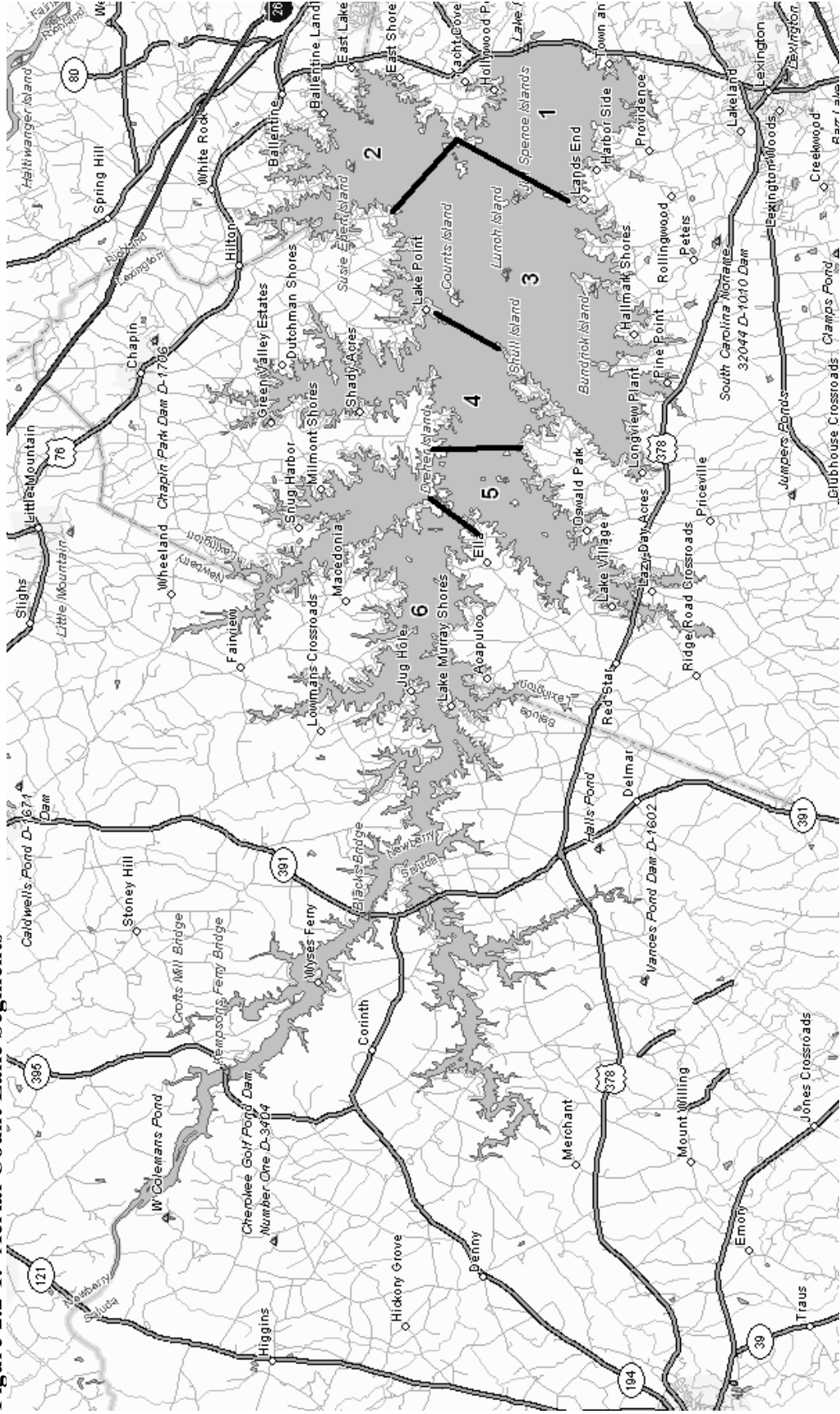
Courtesy/Fishing Docks:

Courtesy/Fishing

Dimensions

ADA Compliant

Figure 2.2-1. Aerial Count Lake Segments



Lake Murray and Lower Saluda River Recreation Study Public Access Site Questionnaire

IN QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 8, WE'D LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR TRIP TODAY:

1. What recreational activities did you participate in today at **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River**? (Please check only one main activity in the first column and all other secondary activities in the second column.)

Check only one main activity	Check all other activities	Types of Activities
		FISHING:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	boat fishing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	bank/pier/dock fishing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	stream fishing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	tailrace/river fishing
		BOATING:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	motor boating
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	pontoon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	water skiing/tubing/other tow
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	jet skiing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	sailing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	lake canoeing/kayaking
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	river canoeing/kayaking
		OTHER:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	bicycling
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	tent or vehicle camping
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	hiking/backpacking
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	sightseeing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	hunting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	nature study/wildlife viewing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	lake swimming
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	picnicking
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	other: _____

2. Including yourself, how many people are in your party today? (Please fill in blank.)

_____ people in party

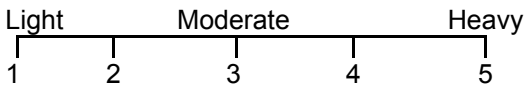
3. Today, how many hours did you visit **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River** for recreational purposes? (Please fill in blank.)

_____ hours

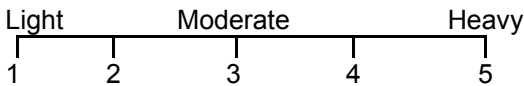
4. In total, how many days will you be visiting **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River** on this trip? (Please fill in blank.)

_____ days

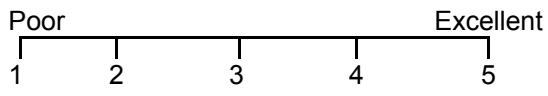
- 5a. How would you rate the crowdedness **on the water on Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River** today? (Please circle one number.)



- 5b. How would you rate the crowdedness **at the particular recreation site you are at** today? (Please circle one number.)



6a. How would you rate the overall condition **at the particular recreation site you are at** today? (Please circle one number.)



6b. Please rate the condition of the facilities **at the particular recreation site you are at** today. (Please circle all that apply. If a facility is not available at this site, please indicate whether or not it is needed.)

	Poor					Excellent					Is Facility Needed at this Site?	
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
restrooms	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
swimming area	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
fishing pier/dock	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
picnic tables/shelter	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
trash cans	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
boat launch	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
boat dock	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
camping area	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
signs	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
lighting	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
fish cleaning station	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
access road	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
parking lot	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No

6c. Please indicate which additional facilities are needed **at the particular recreation site you are at** today. (Please check all that apply.)

- better access road
- paving/grading of parking area or access road
- increased security/patrolling
- other - (please describe _____)
- better lake/river access
- better maintenance (emptying trash cans, cleaning restrooms, etc.)
- ADA compliant facilities

7a. Have you had any negative experiences while participating in recreational activities at **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River** on this trip? (Please check one box.)

- Yes
- No → (If no, skip to Question 8.)

7b. If yes, please indicate the types of issues experienced at **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River** on this trip. (Please check all that apply.)

- too much litter/trash
- too crowded
- water levels too high
- poor weather
- other - (please describe _____)
- reckless boaters
- boating hazards
- water levels too low
- water temperature
- boats too noisy
- people too noisy
- poor site conditions
- difficult access

8. In preparing for and making this trip to **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River**, about how much money did you spend on each of the following items before you got home? (If you live in this area and/or didn't spend anything for certain items, write \$0. If you paid for other members of your party, please include these costs in your costs. Please fill in the blank, providing your best estimate rounded to the nearest dollar.)

- \$ _____ Food & Drink
- \$ _____ Hotel/Motel/Lodging
- \$ _____ Boating Rentals, Bait and Tackle and Other Recreational Supplies
- \$ _____ Gasoline (auto and boat)
- \$ _____ Guide Fees or User Fees (parking/entrance/admission)
- \$ _____ Other (_____)
- \$ _____ TOTAL

**IN QUESTIONS 9 THROUGH 14B, WE'D LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR TRIPS
TO LAKE MURRAY/LOWER SALUDA RIVER IN GENERAL:**

9. During what **one** season do you spend the most time participating in recreational activities at **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River**? (Please check only one.)

- Winter (Dec.-Feb.)
- Spring (March-May)
- Summer (June-Aug.)
- Fall (Sept.-Nov.)
- Except for this trip, I haven't participated in recreation activities at Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River. → (Skip to Question 15)

10. In an average year, approximately how many days do you spend at **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River** for recreational purposes? (Please fill in the blank for each month; if you do not visit Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River in a specific month, write 0.)

Number of Trips	Number of Trips	Number of Trips
_____ January	_____ May	_____ September
_____ February	_____ June	_____ October
_____ March	_____ July	_____ November
_____ April	_____ August	_____ December

11a. During the past 5 years, has the number of visits you have made to **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River** increased, decreased, or stayed about the same? (Please check one box.)

- increased
- decreased
- stayed about the same → (Skip to Question 12a.)
- I live here year round → (Skip to Question 12a.)

11b. If the number of trips has increased or decreased, what is the major reason for this change? (Please fill in blank.)

12a. Do you ever go boating (including boat fishing) on **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River**? (Please check one box.)

- Yes
- No → (If no, skip to Question 13.)

12b. When you are boating and/or boat fishing on **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River**, what is the average amount of time you spend on the water during an average day, not including time spent launching or trailering your boat? (Please fill in blanks, as appropriate.)

Boating: _____ average hours/day Boat Fishing: _____ average hours/day

12c. When you are boating and/or boat fishing on **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River**, what is the average number of people in your party, including yourself? (Please fill in blanks, as appropriate.)

Boating: _____ average group size Boat Fishing: _____ average group size

12d. What is the name of the launch site or access area that you typically use for boating and/or boat fishing on **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River**? (If you use your own pier/dock as the typical access site, please write 'own dock' under name of launch site.)

Boating launch site/access area: _____

Boat Fishing launch site/access area: _____

13a. Overall, are the number and types of existing recreational facilities and activities at **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River** adequate to meet your needs? (Please check one box.)

- Yes → (If yes, skip to Question 14a.)
- No

13b. If no, please write in the name of the **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River recreation sites** where additional facilities are needed and check the types of facilities needed at each site. *(Please check all that apply.)*

(1) Name of Site:	(2) Name of Site:	(3) Name of Site:
<input type="checkbox"/> restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/> restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/> restrooms
<input type="checkbox"/> swimming area	<input type="checkbox"/> swimming area	<input type="checkbox"/> swimming area
<input type="checkbox"/> fishing pier/dock	<input type="checkbox"/> fishing pier/dock	<input type="checkbox"/> fishing pier/dock
<input type="checkbox"/> picnic shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> picnic shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> picnic shelter
<input type="checkbox"/> boat launch	<input type="checkbox"/> boat launch	<input type="checkbox"/> boat launch
<input type="checkbox"/> boat dock	<input type="checkbox"/> boat dock	<input type="checkbox"/> boat dock
<input type="checkbox"/> better lake/river access	<input type="checkbox"/> better lake/river access	<input type="checkbox"/> better lake/river access
<input type="checkbox"/> paving/grading	<input type="checkbox"/> paving/grading	<input type="checkbox"/> paving/grading
<input type="checkbox"/> trash cans	<input type="checkbox"/> trash cans	<input type="checkbox"/> trash cans
<input type="checkbox"/> lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> lighting
<input type="checkbox"/> camping area	<input type="checkbox"/> camping area	<input type="checkbox"/> camping area
<input type="checkbox"/> signs	<input type="checkbox"/> signs	<input type="checkbox"/> signs
<input type="checkbox"/> other – <i>(please describe</i> _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> other – <i>(please describe</i> _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> other – <i>(please describe</i> _____)

14a. Have you had any negative experiences while participating in recreational activities at **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River**? *(Please check one box.)*

- Yes
 No → *(If no, skip to Question 15.)*

14b. If yes, please indicate the types of issues experienced while participating in recreational activities at **Lake Murray/Lower Saluda River**. *(Please check all that apply.)*

- too much litter/trash reckless boaters boats too noisy
 too crowded boating hazards people too noisy
 water levels too high water levels too low poor site conditions
 poor weather water temperature difficult access
 other - *(please describe* _____)

IN QUESTIONS 15 THROUGH 19, WE'D LIKE TO LEARN A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOU:

15. Do you have a seasonal or permanent home in either Richland, Lexington, Saluda, and Newberry Counties, South Carolina? *(Please check one box.)*

- Yes
 No

16. What is your zip code? If you are a seasonal resident, please provide the zip code of your seasonal home? *(Please fill in the blank.)*

_____ zip code

17. Are you . . . ? *(Please check one.)*

- male
 female

18. In what year were you born? *(Please fill in blank.)* _____

19. Do you have any additional comments? *(Please be as specific as possible.)* _____

Thank you for your help with this important study! We appreciate your time today.