

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
TERRESTRIAL RESOURCE TWC**

**Carolina Research Park
May 3, 2006**

Final csb 6-2-06

ATTENDEES:

Bill Argentieri, SCE&G	Tom Eppink, SCANA Services
Shane Boring, Kleinschmidt Associates	Bob Seibels, River Banks Zoo
Jeni Summerlin, Kleinschmidt Associates	Amanda Hill, USFWS
Ron Ahle, SCDNR	Buddy Baker, SCDNR
Sam Drake, LMA	Dick Christie, SCDNR

ACTION ITEMS:

- Prepare study plan for waterfowl surveys on L. Murray during period of late-October through January

Shane Boring

- Contact Columbia Audubon for additional bird data

Ron Ahle

- Contact Saluda Shoals for additional bird data

Shane Boring

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

July 26, 2006 at 9:30 AM

**Location: SCE&G Offices at Carolina Research Park
111 Research Drive
Columbia, SC 29203**

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
TERRESTRIAL RESOURCE TWC**

**Carolina Research Park
May 3, 2006**

Final csb 6-2-06

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.

Shane Boring opened the meeting at approximately 2:30 PM and noted that the focus of the meeting would be to discuss: (1) action items from previous meeting minutes, (2) SCDNR's Lake Murray waterfowl survey data, (3) River Banks Zoo/Columbia Audubon/other migratory and resident songbird data, and (4) the need for any additional surveys for songbirds.

Review of Action Items

Shane briefly discussed action items listed in previous meeting minutes. Shane noted that he obtained the River Banks Zoo bird observation data from Bob Seibels, which was distributed to all committee members by email. Shane also mentioned that he received the Lake Murray waterfowl data from Buddy Baker, which was also emailed to all TWC members.

SCDNR's Lake Murray Waterfowl Survey Data

A copy of the waterfowl data (Attachment A) was distributed to everyone and the group immediately began discussing the decline in species over the years. Shane asked Buddy B. to briefly describe the data to the group. Buddy B. explained that Lake Murray waterfowl peaked in the mid 70's and has considerably declined in recent years. He indicated that the survey was conducted on the lower 2/3 of Lake Murray. He explained that the decreasing waterfowl populations may be correlated with decreasing aquatic vegetation. For an example, he noted that as submerged aquatic vegetation declined, diving duck populations also declined. The group briefly discussed grass carp populations and their effect on aquatic vegetation in Lake Murray. Amanda Hill noted that Santee-Cooper had a problem balancing grass carp populations.

Buddy B. mentioned that the group should not draw any drastic conclusions from this data. Amanda H. suggested that additional survey likely are in order and suggested a survey schedule similar to what was done at Santee-Cooper. Buddy B. noted that an adequate survey would consist of a series of aerial surveys. He specifically noted that five to six flights that correspond to winter migration (late Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan.) would provide a sufficient amount of data. He also indicated that these species need heavily vegetated shorelines for habitat, food, and shelter, which have ultimately declined over time. Bill A. agreed that Kleinschmidt should begin drafting a study plan to conduct five to six waterfowl surveys during winter months on Lake Murray.

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
TERRESTRIAL RESOURCE TWC**

**Carolina Research Park
May 3, 2006**

Final csb 6-2-06

River Banks Zoo/Columbia Audubon/Other Migratory and Resident Bird Data

The group examined and discussed the River Banks Zoo bird observation data¹, as well as the data posted on the Columbia Audubon website for Dreher Island State Park on Lake Murray¹. Bill A. enquired how the bird data being requested will be used in the relicensing process. Amanda H. explained that this information will be used to describe the avifauna occurring in the project area in exhibit E of the license application. She added that this information will ultimately be used to make recommendations to the shoreline management plan. Shane noted that if the objective of the group is to compile a comprehensive species list to include in the exhibit E, this can probably be accomplished using existing data. The group agreed that an attempt should be made to acquire any additional existing data, after which a final species list can be constructed for the exhibit E. Ron Ahle was tasked with contacting Columbia Audubon to determine if data are available that are more up-to-date than what is posted on the website. Shane noted that there may also be a dataset available for Saluda Shoals Park.

Date/Location of Next Meeting

The group decided to meet again on July 26, 2006, at Carolina Research Park, with August 14th, 15th, or 16th as alternates if committee members are not able to attend. Shane Boring agreed to send out an electronic meeting announcement and directions to the meeting location.

¹ Data not attached due to file size; please contact Saluda Relicensing staff for access to data.

Attachment A

SCDNR Lake Murray Waterfowl Survey Data

Winter Waterfowl Surveys – SC Midlands Piedmont

	Lake Murray 2003	Lake Murray 2004	Lake Murray 2005	Lake Murray 2006	Total
Mallard	26	19	2	44	91
Black Duck	4				4
Mot. Duck					0
Gadwall					0
Am. Wigeon					0
G.W. Teal					0
B.W. Teal					0
N. Shoveler	3				3
N. Pintail					0
Wood Duck					0
Total Dabblers	33	19	2	44	98
					0
Redhead			1		1
Canvasback					0
Scaup	2610	1718	2	4	4334
Ringneck	200	1353	34		1587
Goldeneye	3				3
Bufflehead	80	40		139	259
Ruddy Duck	7				7
Total Divers	2900	3111	37	143	6191
					0
Mergansers			5	4	9
Unidentified		4		4	8
					0
TOTAL DUCKS	2933	3134	44	195	6306
					0
Snow Goose					0
Can. Goose	394	86	12	56	548
White-Fronted Goose					0
TOTAL GEESE	394	86	12	56	548
					0
Tundra Swan					0
Am. Coot	19500	9000	753	125	29378
TOTAL WATERFOWL	22827	12220	809	376	36232