

MEETING NOTES

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

**SCE&G Training Center
February 9, 2006**

Final ACG 3-17-06

ATTENDEES:

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates
Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates
Tommy Boozer, SCE&G
David Hancock, SCE&G
Ron Ahle, SCDNR
Randy Mahan, SCANA Services
George Duke, LMHC
Chris Page, SCDNR
Dan Tufford, USC
Dick Christie, SCDNR
Bertina Floyd, LMHOC
Joy Downs, LMA
Richard Kidder - LMA
Mike Summer – SCE&G
Tom Ruple- LMA

Mike Murrell, LMA
Tom Brooks, Newberry County
Don Tyler, LMA & LMHC
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 Bebbler, SCPRT
Rhett Bickley – Lexington County
Ronald Scott – Lexington County
Bill Mathias, LMA & Lake Murray Power
Squadron

DATE: February 9, 2006

HOMEWORK ITEMS:

- Develop SMP StrawMan – SCE&G
- Read SMP and Highlight Items of Interest or Concern for Discussion – Everyone
- Contact FERC Representative, Allan Creamer, to Arrange a Visit to the Next Quarterly Public Meeting – Bill Argentieri
- Discuss with Orbis the Potential for Developing Aerial Survey Photography Above the 360 to Satisfy LIDAR Request – Tommy Boozer
- Send SCE&G MOU with Santee Cooper on Aquatic Plants – DNR (Chris Page, Ron Ahle or Dick Christie)

AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- To be determined by TWC

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Final ACG 3-17-06

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: **April 26, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.**
Located at the Lake Murray Training Center

INTRODUCTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Alan opened the meeting and noted that the first order of business was to discuss the status of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. He noted that he would like to finalize these notes and asked if anyone from the group had something that they would like to add or change. The group agreed that the notes could be finalized and the group read the mission statement together.

During the first quarter of the meeting David Hancock briefly went through the Shoreline Management Booklet prompting discussion on various topics referenced therein. Alan indicated the booklet would likely change significantly as a new SMP was prepared.

The group discussed the general makeup of what they felt should be contained in the new SMP. It was pointed out that it would be important to have general guidelines with some flexibility for implementation.

It was noted that one homework item for the group would be to go through the Shoreline Management Booklet. Alan proposed that one of the missions of the Technical Working Committee would be to develop the components of the Shoreline Management Booklet, discussing the objectives with the RCG. The group decided that it would be beneficial if SCE&G first provided a strawman of the Shoreline Management Booklet that the TWC could add onto and change as they see fit. The group agreed that this would be beneficial.

The group began to discuss the buffer zone management. Alan noted that a buffer zone management plan has been sent to the FERC. Rhett Bickley asked SCE&G what percent of shoreline on the Lower Saluda River was managed by SCE&G. It was noted that it was approximately 50 percent. Tony Bebbler added that it may be beneficial to consider a type of voluntary program for those properties that are not under SCE&G ownership. Tommy Boozer agreed that it could be incorporated as a part of public outreach and public education.

Ron Ahle noted that he believed that the group should meet on an annual basis to discuss how the plan was or was not working and make suggested changes to the next plan. Tommy noted that public response and communication was also important and helped to keep down the number of violations. The group also decided that it would be beneficial for the FERC Representative for the Saluda Project to visit the next Quarterly Public Meeting in order to answer relicensing questions.

MEETING NOTES

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

SCE&G Training Center
February 9, 2006

Final ACG 3-17-06

The group began an interactive discussion on issues and TWCs. Amanda Hill noted that the Woody Debris Management was not included in the list of issues. Alan pointed out that a Woody Debris Management Plan was developed and accepted by the agencies and would subsequently be included into the ESA. The issues are attached below and filed underneath their appropriate subsection as agreed upon by the group.

Buffer Zone Restoration/Management

1. ***Lake Watch 2nd Priority : Buffer Zone restoration-*** *A technical committee should be formed to assess all buffer zones on the lake for compliance with current and past guidelines and restrictions etc. The cause of excessive clearing should be determined, the existing restoration plan should be re-evaluated and updated if necessary.*
2. ***USFWS 4th Priority: Buffer Zone Management***
3. ***Newberry County 6th Priority: Buffer Zone Management***
4. ***DNR Priority: Parts of the plan [SMP] that have not been resolved include a buffer zone management plan that includes restoration measures for buffer zone areas that have been improperly cleared by landowners***
5. ***DNR Priority: Parts of the plan [SMP] that have not been resolved include a map identifying intermittent and perennial streams and their associated 75' buffer***

ESA Identification and Management

6. ***DNR Priority: We also request that specific management restrictions be developed and incorporated into the SMP that would control encroachments into ESA's, conservation areas, and other natural areas.***
7. ***USFWS 5th Priority: ESA management policy***
8. ***Newberry County 11th Priority: ESA Management***
9. ***DNR Priority: Parts of the plan [SMP] that have not been resolved include guidelines for restrictions within the 50' buffer surrounding the ESA's***
10. ***DNR Priority: Parts of the plan [SMP] that have not been resolved include a map showing ESA's in front of all easement properties***
11. ***DNR Priority: Parts of the plan [SMP] that have not been resolved include a woody debris and stump management plan***

Land Reclassification

12. ***USFWS 2nd Priority: Updated Shoreline Classification for Lake Murray and Lower Saluda River***
13. ***Newberry County 4th Priority: Updated Shoreline Classification***

MEETING NOTES

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

SCE&G Training Center
February 9, 2006

Final ACG 3-17-06

14. **DNR Priority:** SCE&G is in the process of revising land classifications, and we request an updated classification that clearly describes the existing use of the property, acreage and mileage of shoreline associated with each classification.
15. **DNR Priority:** Our primary concern with the SMP plan continues to be rebalancing of shoreline classifications. In a 2004 order, FERC recognized that the shoreline classifications are weighted heavily towards development and stated that rebalancing is needed. We, along with other resource agencies and stakeholders, have repeatedly asked for and continue to recommend that rebalancing be completed.
16. **DNR Priority:** Project lands associated with the Lower Saluda River have been less developed, and the riparian buffers and natural features associated with most of these lands are still intact. We request a summary of project lands and their current classifications, to include acreage and mileage of shoreline.
17. **Lake Watch 7th Priority:** Social-economic- a technical committee should be formed to evaluate the socia-economic impacts associated with LUSMP including development and ecotourism – **Land Reclassification**
18. **SCPRT 1st Priority:** Ensure that recreational facilities and opportunities are protected and enhanced for current and future users, on and near the lake and river. - **(To be considered under Land Reclassification Discussion)**
19. **SCPRT 2nd Priority:** Provide sufficient recreation and nature-based tourism opportunities to support the growing population of the region throughout the license period. - **(To be considered in the Land Reclassification Discussion)**
20. **SCPRT 3rd Priority:** Provide safe and enjoyable recreation experiences for the boating and non-boating public including state residents and visitors. - **(To be considered in the Land Reclassification Discussion)**
21. **SCPRT 4th Priority:** Conserve natural, cultural, and recreational resources for future generations to enjoy. - **(To be considered in the Land Reclassification Discussion)**
22. **SCPRT 5th Priority:** Include enough land in the project boundary to assure optimum development of recreational resources afforded by the project. - **Recreation RCG and to be considered in the Land Reclassification Discussion)**
23. **SCPRT Priority:** The Saluda project (lake and regulated river) offers tremendous opportunities for parks, recreation, and tourism now and in the future. We are concerned that insufficient project shoreline has been set aside for public recreation, especially shore-oriented recreation such as bank/pier fishing, picnicking, camping, wildlife watching, and hiking/walking. As the population of this area grows and as this resource becomes more attractive to potential visitors from other areas, more shoreline and adjacent properties will be needed to serve the recreational and natural resource needs of the public. In the current Shoreline Management Plan

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

SCE&G Training Center
February 9, 2006

Final ACG 3-17-06

(SMP), very little of the shoreline on the lake has been set aside for current or future public recreation. Some of this recreational shoreline includes the islands which are generally inaccessible except by boat. Approximately 75 percent of the shoreline is developed or planned for future development. We believe that this development has impacted recreation use, visual aesthetics (**a value to be considered in all TWC**), fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality. We request that SCE&G review the current allocation for the project in consultation with resource agencies and stakeholders and identify a more balanced allocation that will meet the public recreation and natural resource needs over the life of the license. To accomplish this, an updated classification of the existing use of the property, acreage, and shoreline mileage associated with each classification should be completed and the shoreline management plan should be updated. - **(To be considered in the Land Reclassification Discussion)**

24. **SCPRT Priority:** The ICD reports that only 404 acres are provided for public recreation on Lake Murray which includes the 348 acre Dreher Island State Park. The access areas listed are small - from 1.1 acre to 17.9 acres - with most under 10 acres (excluding the state park and three sites that did not list acreage). On the Saluda River, Saluda Shoals Park is 240 acres and the other three access areas are small (Gardendale acreage not identified). We suggest acreage be added to all small sites to the extent possible to allow for future expansion as recreational needs change and to provide options for shore based recreation. **Recreation RCG and Land Reclassification Discussions**
25. **DNR Priority:** The access areas listed are small with most under 10 acres (excluding the state park) and we are concerned that adequate shore based recreational activities are not available for public use. Information regarding future plans to develop shore based recreational access is needed - **Recreation RCG and Land Reclassification TWC Discussion**
26. **SCPRT Priority:** A "build out" scenario should be used to identify the volume of use based on future development proposed in the shoreline management plan. This should help identify areas to avoid or target for new recreational access and may also identify areas that should be addressed for amendments to the shoreline management plan. Information is needed on how the "build out" will affect boating carrying capacity, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. - **Land Reclassification Discussion**
27. **Newberry County 2nd Priority:** Total Build-Out Study - **Land Reclassification Discussion**
28. **USFWS 6th Priority:** Total Build-Out - **Land Reclassification Discussion**
29. Permanent protection of a new state park property with significant shoreline on the Lexington/Saluda side of the lake. - **Land Reclassification Discussion**

MEETING NOTES

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

**SCE&G Training Center
February 9, 2006**

Final ACG 3-17-06

30. *Conservation of areas identified as important during interagency review of shoreline management maps. - **Land Reclassification Discussion***

Lake Murray Land Sales – (Include as subcommittee to Land Reclassification)

31. *USFWS 3rd Priority: Future Fringeland Sale Policy*
32. *Newberry County 5th Priority: Future Fringeland Sale*

Shoreline Permitting

33. *Lake Watch 8th Priority: We recommend that recent studies on Shoreline Development Impacts on TVA Rivers and Lakes and recent US Army Corps studies associated with shoreline management updates be used as part of the information available to address issues in this committee. A sub-committee under #5 [Land Use and Shoreline Plan] could be formed to retrieve this information along with any other request. – **Shoreline Permitting***
34. *Newberry County 14th Priority: Review current Shoreline permitting fees - **Shoreline Permitting Discussion***

Residential, Commercial, Public, Private, and Multi-Slip Dock Permitting – All Docks (subcommittee of Shoreline Permitting)

35. *USFWS 7th Priority: Residential, Commercial, and Common Docks*
36. *Newberry County 13th Priority: Residential Docks*
37. *Newberry County 15th Priority: Commercial Multi-use Dock procedure*
38. *Newberry County 16th Priority: Common Dock Regs*
39. *Lake Watch 4th Priority: Marina construction- A technical committee should be formed to review and update the current guidelines and policies regarding the permitting of private and commercial marinas*

General Shoreline Management

40. *Newberry County 9th Priority: FERC Lake Murray Shoreline Management Plan Update – **General Outline to be developed by SCE&G***
41. *Lake Watch 5th Priority: Land Use and Shoreline Plan- A technical committee should be formed to review the existing LUSMP line by line to discuss the need for making changes with the goal of submitting recommendations back to the larger group for discussion. One outcome would be to put together in one document the*

MEETING NOTES

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

SCE&G Training Center
February 9, 2006

Final ACG 3-17-06

*entire LUSMP. The entire plan now can only be found as bits and pieces of the past record. - **General Outline to be developed by SCE&G***

*42. **Newberry County 8th Priority: General Permits – Shoreline Permitting***

*43. **Newberry County 7th Priority: General Shoreline Activities – Shoreline Permitting***

Excavation -

*44. **USFWS 9th Priority: General Shoreline Activities/Excavation policy - Shoreline Permitting***

*45. **Newberry County 12th Priority: Excavation policy - Shoreline Permitting***

Erosion and Sedimentation

*46. **Lake Watch 6th Priority-Erosion-** A technical committee should be formed to determine the extent of erosion problems on the project's shoreline and submit recommendations back to the overall group for review and discussion.*

*47. **DNR Priority:** Parts of the plan [SMP] that have not been resolved include: an erosion and sedimentation control plan*

Other

*48. **Newberry County 1st Priority:** LIDAR up to at least the PBL (Project Boundary Line) – **not scheduled for Newberry and Saluda counties, Richland (2003) and Lexington (2004) counties have it. (Parking lot)***

*49. **Lake Watch 1st Priority:** Communication between SCE&G and stakeholders - A technical committee should be formed to study how SCE&G and stakeholders can better communicate and work together to achieve the goals and objectives implemented in the new license plan. - **General Outline to be developed by SCE&G***

Information Needs/Study Requests

*50. **USFWS 1st Priority:** Existing Studies - **Complete***

*51. **Newberry County 3rd Priority:** Existing Studies - **Complete***

*52. **Lake Watch 3rd Priority:** Federal and state regulations and/or requirements- A technical committee should be formed to determine and review all Federal and State regulations that relate to or have impact on the management of the reservoir, the lower Saluda and lands within the project boundaries. This committee should arrange to meet with FERC staff and discuss and clarify all FERC regulations or*

MEETING NOTES

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

**SCE&G Training Center
February 9, 2006**

Final ACG 3-17-06

*requirements associated with lake and land management – FERC Relicensing
Contact to talk at public meeting*

**FOR CONSIDERATION TO BE HANDLED BY THE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL – (parking lot), one suggestion is to develop MOU with SCDNR to address this**

Newberry County 10th Priority: Aquatic Plant Management Program

USFWS 10th Priority: Aquatic Plant Management

*DNR Priority: Information such as species composition, location, and acreage of
aquatic plants in the project is needed to develop an aquatic plant management plan.*

FOR CONSIDERATION TO BE HANDLED IN THE CULTURAL RESOURCE RCG

*SCPRT Priority: There are many known and unknown cultural resources located within
the project boundary. A plan should be developed in coordination with appropriate
resource agencies to identify and protect these valuable resources*

FOR CONSIDERATION TO BE HANDLED IN THE FISH AND WILDLIFE RCG

*SCPRT Priority: Due to state laws affecting Lake Murray, each new building or marina
on the lake further restricts waterfowl hunting. An estimate of remaining legal
waterfowl hunting areas should be mapped for consideration of designated waterfowl
hunting areas*

USFWS 11th Priority: Waterfowl Hunting Areas

Newberry County 17th Priority: Waterfowl Hunting

*DNR Priority: Parts of the plan [SMP] that have not been resolved include the
designation of new waterfowl hunting areas to compensate for those lost to land sales
and development*

FOR CONSIDERATION TO BE HANDLED IN THE RECREATION RCG –

MEETING NOTES

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LAKE AND LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE GROUP**

**SCE&G Training Center
February 9, 2006**

Final ACG 3-17-06

DNR Priority: In the lower Saluda River, flows are needed to support wade fishing and paddling. Information is needed regarding the flows that provide optimal recreational opportunity and when they should be provided. – Operations RCG

Access Points

DNR Priority: the location and property for a large, multi-lane boating event site should be explored. - Recreation RCG

DNR Priority: Ensuring the public has adequate access to the project is a high interest of the agency. A description of public recreation sites is provided in the ICD (Table E-15). However, no indication of capacity or handicapped accessibility is provided, and we request that information be included. – Recreation RCG

Total Build-Out Scenarios

SCPRT Priority: A boat carrying capacity study should be performed for Lake Murray to identify concerns with current or future over-crowding and safety. As part of the process, include an inventory of current and future residential docks, public and private marinas, dry storage, and other boat access opportunities. Project related accidents during the current license period should be identified for use in addressing safety needs. This study will identify areas to target or avoid for new boating facilities. – The study will be done by Recreation RCG, results made available to Lake and Land Management TWC

DNR Priority: Information regarding recreational use and needs, projected for at least 10 years, is needed to plan for future recreational enhancements. – Recreation RCG

Specific Priorities From SCPRT That Could be Handled in the Recreation RCG

Permanent protection for Dreher Island State Recreation Area. - Recreation RCG

Continuation of existing recreational resources on Lake Murray and new/expanded resources where possible and appropriate. – Recreation RCG

Continued implementation of the Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan & Update, including additional recreational access at “Sandy Beach”, I-20, I-26, take out above

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LAKE AND LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE GROUP**

**SCE&G Training Center
February 9, 2006**

Final ACG 3-17-06

*Mill Race Rapids, and development of the Saluda River greenway and Three Rivers Greenway. – **Recreation RCG***

*Continuation of existing recreational resources on the Saluda River. - **Recreation RCG***

*Maintenance/enhancement of the scenic integrity of Lake Murray and the Saluda River. – **All TWC and RCG***

*Identification and enhancement of paddling opportunities in the tributaries and tributary arms of the lake. - **Recreation RCG***

FOR CONSIDERATION TO BE HANDLED IN THE SAFETY RCG

*DNR Priority: we are interested in identifying ways to reduce the number of water related deaths and accidents associated with the project. We request that a list of all project related accidents that occurred during the existing license period be provided, as well as any accommodations in project operations or facilities by the licensee to address these accidents. – **Safety RCG***

There was a brief discussion on LIDAR. Chris Page explained that it was basically a form of radar that could give you good digital elevations among other things. He noted that it had been performed in Lexington in 2004 and Richland in 2003. He further explained that LIDAR has not been performed in Newberry or Saluda Counties. Tom Brooks noted that they were looking for contours up to the PBL and if SCE&G worked with Newberry and Saluda counties that the LIDAR could be completed in a more cost effective manner. There was some discussion among the group on this topic. Tommy noted that they had aerial photography from the 360 to the 355 and they would ask Orbis for information on what the capabilities are for developing more information above the 360.

There was some discussion among the group on the issue of aquatic plants. Alan noted that in discussions with Chris Page and Tommy Boozer these issues would be addressed by the Aquatic Plant Management Council. Bill Argentieri noted that the dates of Aquatic Plant Management Council meetings would be posted to the website as SCE&G is made aware of the meetings. Alan asked if it would be okay if a Memorandum of Understanding could be worked out with DNR addressing this issue and shared with the group and the group agreed that that would be acceptable. DNR noted that they would send a copy of the MOU they had with Santee Cooper to SCE&G as an example.

MEETING NOTES

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February 9, 2006**

Final ACG 3-17-06

After the group finished going through the issues, they then began to develop the list of members for the TWC. Dick Christie noted that in his experience with Duke the TWC was relatively small, less than 10 people, and consisted mainly of people who were recognized for their technical knowledge and also of a few stakeholders. He added that he believed it was important to include a few stakeholders that may not have all of the technical expertise but were able to provide a “real world” view.

The group agreed that there would be one core TWC that would address all of the issues. Everyone agreed that the TWC would consist of the members listed below and would discuss the following major topics and the items included therein (see pages 3-10 for a list of all of the items):

Lake & Land Management TWC Participants

Dick Christie - SCDNR
Amanda Hill - USFWS
Tony Bebbler - SCPRT
Ron Ahle - SCDNR
Tommy Boozer – SCE&G
David Hancock – SCE&G
Van Hoffman – SCE&G
Andy Miller – SCDHEC
Alan Stuart – Kleinschmidt
Steve Bell – Lake Watch
Joy Downs – LMA

- **Buffer Zone Management**
Limited Brushing Below 360 El.
- **ESA Identification and Management**
Woody Debris & Stump Management
- **Land Reclassification**
Land Sales
- **Erosion and Sedimentation**
- **Shoreline Permitting**
Commercial, residential, public, private, multi-slip docks

MEETING NOTES

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LAKE AND LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE GROUP**

**SCE&G Training Center
February 9, 2006**

Final ACG 3-17-06

Excavation

- **Shoreline Management Plan Outline**
SCE&G to take lead in developing strawman

The dates for the next TWC meetings would be March 9th, March 16th, March 21st and March 30th.
The RCG decided to meet on the 26th of April.

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
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LAKE AND LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE GROUP**

**SCE&G Training Center
February 9, 2006**

Final ACG 3-17-06

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

Meeting Agenda

February 9, 2006

9:00 AM

Lake Murray Training Center

- **9:00 to 9:30** Review of Meeting Notes from 12-8-05
 - **9:30 to 9:35** Review of Mission Statement
 - **9:35 to 11:45** Begin Discussion of Priority Issues
 - **11:45 to 12:15** Lunch
 - **12:15 to 2:30** Continued Discussion of Priority Issues
 - **2:30 to 2:45** Discussion of Presentations Needed to Address Priority Issues
 - **2:45 to 3:00** Develop List of Homework Assignments, Agenda and Date for
 Next Meeting
- Adjourn

