

MEETING NOTES

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

**SCE&G Training Center
August 22, 2006**

Final ACG 9-20-06

ATTENDEES:

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates
Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates
Tommy Boozer, SCE&G
David Hancock, SCE&G
Ron Ahle, SCDNR
Steve Bell, LW
Roy Parker, LMA
Randy Mahan, SCANA Services
Bob Keener, LMA, LMSCA
Tom Bowles, SCE&G
Don Tyler, LMA, LMHOC
Tom Ruple, LMA
Trisha Priester, Lexington County
Teresa Powers, Newberry County
Jennifer O'Rourke, SCWF

Phil Hamby, Landowner
Bill Argentieri, SCE&G
Tony Bebber, SCPRT
Rhett Bickley – Lexington County
Van Hoffman – SCE&G
Amanda Hill, USFWS
Dick Christie, SCDNR
Bill Mathias, LMA, LMPS
Mike Murrell, LMA
Bertina Floyd, LMHOC
Bill Marshall, SCDNR, LSSRAC
Regis Parsons, Landowner
Joy Downs, LMA

DATE: August 22, 2006

HOMEWORK ITEMS:

- RCG members to make recommendations for what they would like to see in regards to public outreach to the TWC
- Alan and Tommy to contact individuals at Alabama Power and Georgia Power to see how their public outreach programs are being accepted
- TWC to take field trip to review the ESAs.
- Ron Ahle to put together some information on the biological benefits of a periodic drawdown for TWC discussion

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. (Tentative)
Located at the Lake Murray Training Center

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INTRODUCTIONS AND DISCUSSION

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.

Alan Stuart opened the meeting and welcomed the group. It was noted that the first item of the agenda was for Alison Guth to give a presentation on public outreach for shoreline management plans at hydropower projects. After the presentation the floor was opened for group discussion on this topic.

The group discussed a variety of public outreach options that included newsletters at kiosks, notices on bill stuffers, and quarterly newsletters. Tommy Boozer noted that the website could be used as an information portal and have links with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Lake Murray Association (LMA), and Lake Murray Power Squadron (LMPS) websites. There was also discussion on publishing a quarterly or annual newsletter similar to the example from Alabama Power Company given in Alison's presentation. Ron Ahle noted that he believed that the newsletter would allow for the development of incentive and recognition programs for shoreline improvement. The group generally liked the idea of a recognition program for shoreline improvements. Tommy noted that it may also be beneficial if Steve Bell wrote about some of the shoreline management issues in his articles in the Lake Murray News.

Don Tyler asked how a property owner would obtain a copy of the SMP if they did not apply for a dock permit. Tommy replied that they are currently working on ways to tie it into title transfers.

The group continued to discuss public outreach options. It was noted that one important item to have in a newsletter would be a section including standard information on lake management contacts and regulations. There was the suggestion of having the newsletter as a pdf that would be available on the website. The group noted pro's and con's of having a solely electronic newsletter. It was noted that although the electronic version may be the way things are progressing, many people would not think to look it up. Overall, the group noted that if a newsletter was chosen as a form of public outreach it would need to be diverse and cover many issues on Lake Murray, not solely lake and land management issues. The group decided that a homework item would be for the group members to make recommendations for what they would like to see in regards to public outreach to the TWC.

Alan noted that he would work with Tommy to contact individuals at Alabama Power and Georgia Power to see how their public outreach programs are being accepted. The group also noted public outreach would be addressed in the license in a brief manner, and the nuts and bolts of the public

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outreach program would not be included as a part of the license. This would allow for modification of a public outreach program without having to change the license.

The next item for discussion was the issues matrix. As the group interactively reviewed the issues matrix for Lake and Land, they made comments and asked question on the issues. Alan noted that the goal of the issues matrix is to make sure that everyone's issue has been addressed or is being addressed.

Joy Downs asked if the RCG would see the newly drafted SMP section by section or as a whole. Alan noted that he would leave that up to the group to decide. After some discussion the group decided that the RCG would see the SMP as a whole, although they could track each issue through the issues matrix and through the notes.

While the group continued to discuss the matrix, Steve Bell noted that he believed the TWC would need to go out on the Lake to review the ESAs. The TWC members generally agreed that a field trip to review the ESAs may be beneficial. Although, David Hancock added that USFWS and DNR had already been out with the consultant to map the ESAs. Tommy also noted that they were in the process of putting together a map that included the ESAs and where they were within each land classification.

There was some discussion on whether or not there should be a periodic drawdown for vegetation control. The group briefly discussed the positives and negatives of a drawdown and Ron Ahle noted he would put together some information on the biological benefits of a periodic drawdown that will be discussed in more detail in the TWC.

The group continued to review the issues matrix and the group discussed the issues regarding Two-Bird cove. SCE&G explained that they had had no choice but to act on the FERC order to designate Two-Bird Cove as a special recreation area. Bill Argentieri explained that they first received this order in October of 2004, which SCE&G appealed stating that they recommended against it. However, in December of 2004 the FERC rejected their appeal and required SCE&G to designate the areas. Several of the group members who live in Two-Bird Cove expressed their concern. Phil Hamby expressed his concern that there may be public facilities placed in the cove on SCE&G owned property. Tommy noted that SCE&G had no plans of doing that and the FERC order required no facilities be placed there. He also noted that a good deal of the property in the cove is classified as ESA. Ron noted that when they reviewed the FERC order it was originally concerning sailboats, which he was not as apprehensive about because they would not be able to go far back in the shallow cove. Ron noted that he was concerned that it included all boats because the area is a significant in regards to habitat. For clarification purposes, Alan asked SCE&G what they were planning on doing as part of the designation. Tommy noted that they had no plans or

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intentions of doing anything as part of the designation. Tommy further noted that the only thing they may have to do is identify the areas on Exhibit R maps. Ron suggested that the TWC come up with a few alternative coves to present to the FERC that the sailboat groups would agree to. Regis Parsons noted that he thought the landowners would be happy with that alternative if it was also coupled with the de-designation of Two-Bird Cove.

Alan noted that there would be continued dialogue on this topic in future discussions on Fringelands and Land Classifications. Amanda Hill and Ron both noted that they would like to revisit this topic because they were not anticipating the level of high intensity use of this cove by all boats, not just sailboats.

The group concluded the meeting and noted that the next RCG meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 14th, 2006.

Issue/Request	Requested by:	TWC Assignment/ Category Assignment*	Description	Status/Date Discussed	Current Action Items	Resolutions
Map of Intermittent and Perennial Streams	DNR	Buffer Zone Restoration and Management	Parts of the SMP that have not been resolved include a map identifying intermittent and perennial streams and their associated 75' buffer		Include maps in SMP	Tentatively Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC (August 2005??)
Existing Studies	USFWS, Newberry County	Information Needs/Study Requests				Tentatively Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC
Federal and State Regulations Technical Committee	Lake Watch	Information Needs/Study Requests	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. The committee should also meet with FERC and discuss and clarify all FERC regulations/ requirements.	April 20, 2006 - Allan Creamer (FERC Rep for the Saluda Project) attended a question and answer session at the Quarterly Public Meeting to answer the groups relicensing questions	Continue to review regulations as issues are identified/addressed	Tentatively Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC
Updated Shoreline Classification	USFWS, DNR, Newberry County	Shoreline Classification	Updated classification that describes the existing use of the property, acreage and mileage of shoreline for Lake Murray and Lower Saluda River. Including information on how many acres, within the PBL are associated with environmental, forest and game and vegetated land classifications, as well as wetlands	March 28, 2006 - Tommy presented this information to the TWC. Maps are also currently being updated to include all information	Include in SMP	Tentatively Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC
LUSMP Technical Committee	Lake Watch	Shoreline Permitting sub-committee (General Shoreline Management)	The technical committee would review the existing LUSMP and make changes after discussion with the larger group. One outcome would be to put together in one document the entire LUSMP			Tentatively Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC - This is being accomplished through the Lake and Land Management Technical Working Committee

Buffer Zone Restoration Technical Committee	Lake Watch	Buffer Zone Restoration and Management	A technical committee should be formed to assess all buffer zones on the lake for compliance with current and past guidelines and restriction. Cause of excessive clearing should be determined, restoration plan should be re-evaluated and updated if necessary	March 16, 2006 - TWC discussed the Buffer Zone Management Plan and agreed on a monitoring and compliance section that would include the submittal of a revegetation plan by the land owner and that the landowner provide photo documentation of replanted area for a period of 5 years	TWC discussed these issues and arrived at consensus regarding the Monitoring and Compliance section of the Plan. It would include items such as the submittal of a revegetation plan by the land owner and that the landowner must provide photo documentation of replanted area for a period of 5 years	Tentatively Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC
Communications/ Procedural Technical Committee	Lake Watch	Other	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	November 1, 2005 - Group discussed this issue and it was concluded that if increased communication between group was needed then joint group meetings would be held	Steve Bell to develop recommendations	
Excavation Policy	Newberry County, USFWS	Shoreline Permitting sub-committee (Excavation)	review the current excavation policy	June 15, 2006 - TWC reviewed and made group consensus changes to Excavation Policy. SCE&G to incorporate changes		1st Draft Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC

Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan	DNR	Erosion and Sedimentation	Parts of the plan (SMP) that have not been resolved include: an erosion and sedimentation control plan	May 8, 2006 - TWC reviewed DNR drafted shoreline stabilization plan that details the criteria for shoreline stabilization permits and consequences for violators. May 26, 2006 - TWC continued to review strawman shoreline stabilization criteria developed by SCDNR. Incorporated group consensus changes	1st Draft Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC
FERC Lake Murray Shoreline Management Plan Update	Newberry County	Shoreline Permitting sub-committee (General Shoreline Management)	General Outline to be developed by SCE&G	April 26, 2005 - RCG reviewed and made changes to the new SMP general outline. Group consensus changes to be incorporated	1st Draft Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC
Limited Brushing Criteria	DNR	Shoreline Permitting	It was requested that a limited brushing permit be implemented to cut back growth of invasive plants and to educate the landowner.	April 25, 2006 - TWC agreed on limited brushing guidelines and created a document that details, among other items, species that can and cannot be cleared.	1st Draft Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC
Woody Debris and Stump Management Plan	DNR	ESA Identification and Management	Parts of the SMP that have not been resolved include a woody debris and stump management plan	March 28, 2006 - The TWC agreed to make the Woody Debris Management Plan a component of the SMP. TWC reviewed plan and comments were incorporated	1st Draft Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC

Completion of a Buffer Zone Management Plan	USFWS, DNR, Newberry County	Buffer Zone Restoration and Management	Complete a Buffer Zone and Management Plan that includes Restoration Measures for buffer zone areas that have been improperly cleared by landowners. Newberry county requests that the buffer zone property be mapped and posted with the applicable restrictions in order to be made available through local government offices	March 16, 2006 - TWC progressed through Buffer Zone and Riparian Management Plan and incorporated changes based on group consensus. SCE&G to incorporate changes into document		1st Draft Complete to the Satisfaction of the TWC
Restriction Guidelines in Buffer Surrounding ESA's	DNR	ESA Identification and Management	Parts of the SMP that have not been resolved include guidelines for restrictions within the 50' buffer surrounding the ESA's	March 28, 2006 - TWC discussed the implementation of a 15ft buffer around continuous ESA's.	SCE&G to consider implementation of 15ft buffer on either side adjacent to continuous ESA on easement and future development property. DNR noted that this would be acceptable	Proposal under consideration by SCE&G
Map Showing ESA's for Easement Properties	DNR	ESA Identification and Management	Parts of the SMP that have not been resolved include a map showing ESA's in front of all easement properties	March 28, 2006 - SCE&G is in the process of developing updated map including these items	SCE&G developing map Combined with Item 1 SCE&G still needs to place all ESA locations in one viewing tool TWC ground-truth verification of ESA Map	Completed
ESA Management Policy	DNR, USFWS, Newberry County	ESA Identification and Management	Development and incorporation of specific management restrictions into the SMP to control encroachments into ESA's, conservation areas, and other areas	March 28, 2006 - TWC discussed the permitting of docks in ESA's on easement property and the establishment of a buffer around continuous ESA's.	SCE&G tasked with developing general criteria regarding the permitting of docks on ESAs on easement property	Ongoing

Reservoir Level Study	CCL/American Rivers, City of Columbia PRT, LSSRAC, LMA		Lake level fluctuation as it pertains to aquatic habitat, downstream flows, and recreation. More specifically the effects of drawdown on recreational boating, the ability to release downstream flows using a hydrologic/operations a model including effects of inundation patterns on the Congaree. A look at the effects of yearly lake level fluctuations on the Saluda and Congaree as well as the Congaree National Park. Also, to evaluate potential seasonal target elevations for Lake Murray that attempt to balance all related interest, including lakeside homeowners, municipal water users, environmental interests, power production capabilities, and downstream river users			Ongoing: Operations TWC is in the process of developing a Hydraulic Operations Model that will answer many of these questions.
Posting of Drawdown Dates/ Periodic Drawdowns	Newberry County		Newberry County requests the posting of draw-down dates due to safety concerns for lake users.		Ron Ahle will prepare a presentation on the WQ and F&W benefits of periodic drawdowns.	Ongoing: SCE&G in the process of developing Web-based information system that includes information on planned releases
Review of TVA and USACE Shoreline Management Policies	Lake Watch	Shoreline Permitting	It is recommended that studies on Shoreline Development Impacts on TVA Rivers and Lakes and US Army Corps studies associated with shoreline management updates be used as part of the information available to address issues in this committee	May 8, 2006 - TWC reviewed TVA and Corps guidelines for bank stabilization while discussing what guidelines on Lake Murray should entail.		Ongoing

Total Build-Out Study	SCPRT, Newberry County, USFWS, LMHC	Land Reclassification	A "build-out" scenario should be used to identify areas to avoid or target for new recreational access and identify areas in SMP that need to be amended	July 12, 2006 - TWC discussed this item, SCE&G to estimate the maximum number of docks possible on the lake at the request of Lake Watch July 19, 2006 - Recreation Management TWC in process of developing Boat Density Study Plan which will provide information on what areas of the lake are most used and where areas for improvement would be	SCE&G to provide number for maximum number of docks possible. Rec Management TWC to finalize and provide data from Boat Density Study	Ongoing: AWS been working with Bill Mathias and AWS to develop a study/work plan
Residential, Commercial, and Common Docks	USFWS, Newberry County, Lake Watch	Shoreline Permitting sub-committee (Residential, Commercial, Public, Private, and Multi-Slip Dock Permitting)	It was requested that the group review the Residential, Commercial, Public, Private and Multi-Slip dock policies	June 15, 2006 - Group reviewed and made changes to General requirements for Private Docks and Common Docks. Lake Watch noted that they needed until the July 12, 2006 meeting to review the General Requirements document. July 12, 2006 Lake Watch noted that in order to agree with criteria on Private and Common docks they would need information on the maximum number of docks possible on Lake Murray. SCE&G to calculate number	SCE&G to calculate maximum possible number of docks on Lake Murray	TBD: Meeting on August 24

Rebalancing of Shoreline Classifications	DNR, SCPRT	Land Reclassification	Rebalancing of shoreline classifications in order to provide sufficient recreation and nature-based tourism opportunities for the growing regional population throughout the license period. Acreage should be added to all small recreation sites to allow for future expansion as recreational needs change and to provide options for shore based recreation.			TBD
Future Fringeland Sale Policy	USFWS, Newberry County	Land Reclassification sub-committee (Lake Murray Land Sales)	Review the current policies on the sale of fringeland			TBD
Two-Bird Cove Hurricane Hole Cove	Landowners	Land Reclassification	Would like the de-designation of Two Bird Cove as a special recreation area		Explore alternatives to recreation in the Two Bird Cove area and remove "Special Recreation" designation.	TBD
Activities in the Fringeland						TBD
Obtain dock without purchase of fringeland						TBD