MEETING NOTES

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING LAKE AND LAND MANAGEMENT and RECREATION RCGs MEETING

SCE&G Lake Murray Training Center February 7, 2007

Final acg 3-7-07

ATTENDEES:

Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates
Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates
Lee Barber, LMA
Bill Argentieri, SCE&G
Tony Bebber, SCPRT
Joy Downs, LMA

Stan Jones, CALM John Altenberg, Sea Tow, CALM

Tammy Wright, CALM Archie Trawick Jr., CALM, Jakes Landing

Bill Brebner, Yacht Cove Owners George Duke, LMHOC John Frick, landowner Bill Shipley, CALM

Joe Agnew, CALM Charlie Higgins, CALM, Holland's Marina
Jon Dukes, Lake Murray Boat Club, CALM Edie Beaver, CALM, Lake Murray Vacation
Angie Walston, CALM, Lake Murray Vac. Randy Walston, Acapulco, Lake Murray Vacation.

Donnie LeJohn, Spinners Marina Suzanne Rhodes, SC Wildlife Fed.

Steve Bell, Lake Murray Watch
Dave Anderson, Kleinschmidt Associates
David Hancock, SCE&G

Kim Westbury, Saluda County

Teresa Powers, Newberry County Jenn O'Rourke, SC Wildlife Federation

Carl Sundias, CALM, South Shore Marina Bill Mathias – LMPS

HOMEWORK:

- Dave Anderson

 To issue recreation assessment to Recreation Management TWC
- Dave Anderson- Provide examples of recreation plans from other projects to the RCG.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBA

Review of Recreation Assessment in Quarterly Public Meeting on April 19th at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm

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.

Presentation by the Commerce Association of Lake Murray:

Dave Anderson of Kleinschmidt Associates opened the meeting and the group began with introductions. Dave noted that the first item on the agenda included a presentation from the Commerce Association of Lake Murray (CALM) (link to presentation at http://www.saludahydrorelicense.com/documents/SCEGpresentation4_000.ppt). Carl Sundias of South Shore Marina, and a member of CALM, began the presentation. He proceeded to describe the membership of the organization and noted that it not only consisted of marina operators, but other local businesses affected by the lake. Carl explained that the group had collectively developed a mission statement and he proceeded to review the mission statement with the group. After Carl had reviewed the mission of the CALM, Stan Jones of Lighthouse Marina reviewed some of the goals of the group. Stan explained that they were working with the Grow Boating Initiative which would provide boating infrastructure grants. He also reviewed how marinas help to improve the economy and meet the needs of the community. In conclusion, the CALM made a formal request of the Recreation RCG that the moratorium on multi slip dock permits be amended to allow permit applications at existing commercial marinas.

After the presentation, the floor was opened for questions. Dave asked about the Grow Boating Initiative and if it was related to the national "Take Me Fishing" campaign. Carl and Stan indicated that they do not believe that the two are related and they explained that much of the funding for this initiative comes from portions of boat sales. Lee Barber asked how the work of the CALM aligned with the work of other agencies. Stan explained that they were willing to work with other groups to provide boats or facilities for smart boating courses and such.

The group had a brief discussion on boating safety and David Hancock of SCE&G asked if any of the marina operators have licensed captains that offer basic training on boat operation. A few of the marina operators indicated that they were licensed captains or knew of licensed captains that could assist their patrons. Many of the marina operators noted that they helped individuals who appeared to be having trouble or were inexperienced. Tommy Boozer noted that this may be an important item to note in the Safety RCG.

Tommy asked Stan for a little background on the requirements by DHEC in order to receive the clean marina certification. Stan noted that DHEC has just begun to fully develop the criteria; however, he anticipates that Lighthouse Marina will receive its certification this month. He explained that once a marina is certified, DHEC will do testing to make sure that water quality is maintained. Stan further noted that the Commerce Association has also received grants for new pump out facilities, many of which will be pump out boats.

Dave noted that a concern of the Recreation RCG was regarding recreational access to the reservoir and asked the Commerce Association for their opinion regarding current public access to the lake. Carl noted that the marinas have a difficult time competing with the free ramps, which has, in turn, started to put some of the smaller marinas out of business. Carl noted that they do feel the public needs more access, however once more free public access is put in place, the commercial marinas struggle to compete. Dave noted that the RCG's and TWC's do consider the impacts to commercial operators in their discussions. Tommy pointed out that FERC requires SCE&G to fulfill certain needs regarding recreational access, to which SCE&G must comply in order to protect their license. However, Tommy further noted that any access SCE&G provides is basic and does not include the amenities that the marinas provide, such as fuel or food.

The group briefly discussed the CALM's request for an amendment to the moratorium on multi-slip dock permits. Carl noted that the existing commercial marinas would like to perform upgrades and safety improvements that would require the lifting of the moratorium for existing facilities. Tommy noted that this was something that they would consider.

Lake and Land Management Group Update:

The group reconvened after a short break and Alan provided the group with an update on Lake and Land Management. Alan explained that the TWC had been meeting quite frequently and building on the existing Shoreline Management Plan section by section. Alan noted that the draft SMP would progress from the TWC to the RCG to SCE&G management for approval. From that point, Alan explained, the SMP would go out for public comment. Alan asked the CALM to submit any comments that they had so far on the SMP documents as soon as they could. The CALM noted that they could have any comments on the draft documents submitted to the Alison Guth by the end of March. Alan noted that the TWC has thus far attempted to introduce the needs of the commercial marinas; however, it will be very helpful if the commercial marinas can provide the group with specific needs.

Alan continued to explain what the Lake and Land Management group has been discussing. Dave noted that one item that overlapped both Recreation and Lake and Land groups was the issue of the designation of Two-Bird Cove and Hurricane Hole Cove as special recreation areas. This issue, however, was specifically being dealt with under the Lake and Land group.

Adaptive Management in FERC Licenses:

After lunch, Dave provided the group with a presentation on Adaptive Management in the context of FERC licenses. The presentation can be viewed at http://www.saludahydrorelicense.com/documents/2007-02-07AdaptiveManagement.ppt. Dave noted that adaptive management is a relatively new principle in ecological fields, and the first example of adaptive management being used in a FERC license occurred around 10 years ago. As Dave proceeded through the presentation, he pointed out where the Recreation RCG stood within the adaptive management procedures (in the Planning Stage).

Update on Recreation RCG and TWC's:

There was group discussion on Recreation Plans, and Dave noted that he would send out an example of a recreation plan to the group. In regards to the drafting of a Recreation Plan for Lake Murray, Dave suggested that the Recreation Management TWC take the lead on this. The group agreed that that was acceptable. Dave explained that the Recreation Plan for Lake Murray would need to be drafted by the end of 2007 and finalized by early 2008. Dave explained that the results of the recreation assessment study would be needed for the drafting of the recreation plan. The results of the recreation assessment study would be presented at the April 19th Quarterly Public Meeting. Dave also mentioned that the Recreation RCG would convene in April to view the results of the boating density study and the recreation assessment. He explained that the Recreation Management TWC should anticipate bi-weekly conference calls/meetings during the next several months. Dave noted that the Downstream Flows TWC would probably meet sometime in the fall and the Lake Levels TWC would convene in the next couple weeks.

The group concluded discussions noting that the Lake and Land and Recreation group would be working close together during the land rebalancing process. The group adjourned.