

SALUDA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RELICENSING

FERC PROJECT NO. 516

Joint Agency & Public Meeting

QUARTERLY PUBLIC MEETING

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PUBLIC MEETING:

MR. ALAN STUART: Welcome. I see a lot of familiar faces that I typically see here, and appreciate y'all coming out. This is our Second Quarterly Public Meeting for this year. On the Agenda, we had just wrapped up the recreation study that was conducted this past Spring and Fall. So, we would like to have Dave kind of give you a presentation on some of the results, and go through and let you know what some of the some next steps are. There will be an Addendum that the Technical Working Committee has been working on that will supplement some of the information in this study. So, that's basically going to be the gist of our Quarterly Public Meeting. I will give an update on some of the major milestones that are going to occur between now and the next Quarterly Public Meeting. But, one housekeeping item, don't forget if you have questions or something, Alison is going to be walking around with the, quote, "dead" mike; it's the one that patches through to George so he can get your comments. You know, please state your name and who you are with. And with that, I am going to bring Dave up.

MR. DAVE ANDERSON: Good morning. I usually don't use microphones because my voice is loud enough as it is. Is that loud enough up there? My name is Dave Anderson, I am with Kleinschmidt. Allan asked me to come in today and speak a little bit about the Recreation Assessment Study that we conducted last year. You have been to these Quarterly Public Meetings, you have seen me talk about this from a study plan perspective; but now

that the study is completed, I am happy to come up here and tell you a little bit about what we found out.

Just kind of a refresher, the purpose of the study was to characterize existing recreational use of SCE&G's recreation sites. This was accomplished by a number of tasks, including identification of recreation points; an inventory of the services and facilities offered at each site; and a general assessment of the condition of the site. Then we also identified patterns of use at the site.

The second goal was to identify future recreational needs relating to the public sites at the project. This was done through an estimation of future recreational use, and identification of user needs and preferences including perceptions of crowding, and identification of any future needs that may need to occur around the project.

We did, I believe, this is 15 sites on Lake Murray from the Dam site and Park site right at the base of the Saluda Dam all the way up to Kempson and Higgins Bridge. Just to give you an idea of where these sites are located in case you are not aware. The Dam is obviously there on the right side of the image there; and Higgins Bridge is well up the Saluda River. Pretty good spatial pattern. You know, the sites are fairly well spread out across the Lake. So, I think we got a good picture of what's happening.

On the Lower Saluda River, there were 5 sites. Only 2 of these are managed by SCE&G; that would be Metts Landing and Gardendale. Saluda Shoals Park is leased to the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission. And then, Mill Race A and B, I want to

point out, are outside of the project boundary; and that's kind of important from a FERC perspective. Usually when you talk to FERC about recreation, its project related recreation; so, since these sites are outside of the project boundary, we kind of separated them out a little bit. But, in most of my results today they are combined into like a total estimate of use. Here is where the sites are located on the River. We are obviously at Saluda Shoals Park right there. Metts Landing is right across the River. Gardendale is right in this area. And then Mill Race A and B, for those of you who are not aware, are accessed through the Zoo parking lot. Mill Race A is right here, and then Mill Race B is right in here.

Like I mentioned, our methods included a recreation site inventory, vehicle counts at these sites, recreation site surveys, a Water Fowl Hunter focus group, and other secondary data sources.

The inventories were completed in May of 2006. The inventory included types of activity supported, parking capacity at each site, and the type, number and size of facility such as picnic tables, grills, things like that. The vehicle counts were conducted on 30 days per site from May 27th, which was Memorial Day in 2006, to September 30th, 2006. This included 13 week days, 14 weekend days, and 3 holidays. Each day was divided into an A.M. or a P.M. shift; and the shifts lasted 6 1/2 hours long. So, basically we had somebody out there for 6 1/2 hours per day for 30 days at each site counting the number of cars entering the site.

As part of this, we also conducted exit interviews; when somebody was leaving the site, they may have been stopped by our

recreation clerk. And we had developed a questionnaire, and they were asked the questions on the questionnaire. We targeted 100 completed surveys per site; which would have meant about 2,000 in total. After all was said and done, we ended up with 1,611 useable surveys. Some of the reasons we didn't hit our target include weather. If the weather was too bad that day, for safety reasons we told our clerks not to stay in the field. Some of the sites did not receive enough use to get to 100 completed surveys for that site. And then we also had 4 surveys where the person did not speak English; 12 surveys where the persons were minor, which is under 18; and then 125 refusals. The questionnaires they asked were designed to collect user characteristics, type of recreation activity participated in, the length of stay at the site, and any perceptions of crowdedness which also included what they thought the site needed, improvements to the site.

On Lake Murray, we also asked about on the water crowdedness. They were presented with a map of different segments of Lake Murray; asked them to indicate where they went on the water that day; and then asked, "On a scale from 1 to 5 how crowded did you think the water was?"

On the River, we also asked a series of questions about knowledge of the warning system in place. There are a number of sirens; they were located on that map I showed you that are meant to warn users of rising water in the River.

We conducted a focus group of water fowl hunters because that's an activity that typically takes place outside of the sampling period we had. Do you remember it was May 27th to

September 30th? Most water fowl hunting, I believe, takes place in the winter. And also because it's a dangerous activity, we don't like our recreation clerks to approach people with guns and start asking them questions. The purpose of the group was the same as the questionnaires. We got a group of hunters together and kind of ran them through the questionnaire, and asked the same opinions and types of use that they participate in.

Other literature we consulted includes the South Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; the Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan; the Three Rivers Greenway Plan. We were provided with a copy of results from the Lake Murray Association survey. And I think that's about it as far as secondary data. We used some population projections, and things like that that were provided by the State.

Kind of briefly go over how we estimate current use. As I said, we had people out there counting the number of cars that were coming into the sites; so, we know the number of vehicles that were entering the sites per shift. Through the questionnaire we also know the number of people that were in the car; when they were stopped we asked, "How many people are in your party?" We also know the number of day types throughout our sampling period from May 27th to September 30th, I believe there were 31 weekend days, which is kind of the example I will show you. So, for a particular site on average, and this is just hypothetical, there would have been 200 cars on average entering that site on that type of day, say a weekend day, with an average of 2 people per car. You would multiply that by 2 because there were 2 shifts per

day. And then 31 weekend days throughout the sampling period. So, 200×2 is 400×2 is 800×31 is 2,400 and some change. And again, that's just a hypothetical. I just kind of want to explain how that estimation of use goes.

As part of the inventory, or the results of the inventory, remember these are just SCE&G owned sites. Just to kind of run through it, on the Lake as a whole there is about 130 private, commercial and public sites available. This does include 23 informal sites, 20 sites were included in our inventory. In total, the sites had 2 swimming areas available, 15 boat launches, 6 fishing piers, and 1 campground. There were 9 restroom facilities available at all the sites. And there were picnic tables at 12 of the sites. A couple of the larger sites there, Dreher Island State Park you can see has available boat launch, picnic tables, camp sites, restrooms, swimming area. That's one of the more developed sites. And then like at Macedonia Church, simply we called it a picnic area; has picnic tables available; there was also some bank fishing at that site.

And then on the River, obviously Saluda Shoals is the largest park available, 240 acres. Significantly the most developed site, had a boat launch, fishing docks and piers, picnic tables, restrooms available. And then Mill Race A and B, like I said, those are informal sites, that's just people go through the Zoo parking lot and access the River and the rocks there, and kind of hang out. And there is really no developed facilities at those sites.

From the results of the survey, we know that Lake Murray users are about 85% male, average age was 45, 79% of the users at these public recreation sites did not own shoreline property, which is expected. This is the general public mostly coming to these sites to use the boat launches, or access the Lake in some way. 54% responded that they chose the site they went to because it was close to their house. People don't want to go that far, so they chose the site closest to their house. Other reasons they chose a site included word of mouth, the site was less crowded, and available facilities such as a swimming area; like you saw there was only a couple of swimming areas available on the Lake, so if you want to go swimming you are supposed to go to those sites.

As far as on the Lake use, people tend to go on the water close to the site where they launched. The most popular area of the Lake was the western portion around Sunset, River Bend, and Murray Shores. And the main reason, or the most given reason, why people went to a particular area, because it had good fishing is what they told us.

For Lower Saluda River users, again mostly male, about 74% male, average age was about 38. People were slightly younger at the Mill Race sites. 98% of the users did not own shoreline property. And only 30% chose the site because of the location; not necessarily because it was close to their house. Most of the reasons we heard were familiarity with the sites, curiosity about the site, event attendance, and that's mainly driven by Saluda Shoals Park because Saluda Shoals Park hosts a number of events

throughout the year. Facilities in some cases, and lack of facilities in some cases. We heard a lot at Mill Race that people like the informal nature of it, that it wasn't developed. And then, also, we heard a lot about whitewater opportunities at Mill Race A, that's where the Mill Race rapids are.

UNKNOWN: Excuse me, would you identify what Mill Race B is?

MR. ANDERSON: Mill Race B is below the Zoo. Shandon Rapids, that area. All right. In FERC language, use is estimated by something called a recreation day. And that's to find each visit by a person to a development for recreational purposes during any portion of a 24 hour period. So, we might call these just visits to a site. So, when I talk about total use, I am talking number of visits made to a site, or made to the project, over our sampling period. You have to remember that we were only out there from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., so there is likely some use that occurs outside of that range, which means that these numbers might go up a little bit, or would go up a little bit. And also, remember that we only sampled 3 days in May; so even though we are showing this as May use, this really only represents 3 days.

In total there were 443,000, roughly, recreation days within the project boundary. The reason I say that, again, is remember the Mill Race sites are outside the project boundary. Those sites were about 45,000 recreation days, the Mill Race sites. Use was, mostly occurs on holidays; about 17% of all use occurred during the week days. 38% on weekends. And then 45% on holidays. Remember, we did 3 holidays - Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day.

One of the reasons it may seem so high, again, is because of this May timeframe; 3 days in May, and I believe all 3 days we considered holiday days if I remember, I would have to go back and look. So, a lot of use on holidays. And most of that use contributes to the total use at the project. When you look at it by sites the most used sites were Dreher Island State Park, had about 78,750 recreation days; and Bundrick Island, which had about 64,000 recreation days. For those of you that aren't aware of Bundrick Island, Bundrick Island is only accessible by the water. There is an access road but it is gated. We estimated use there through the use of aerial photographs, and came up with about 65,000 days; and that's pretty impressive considering that's really not a formal access site.

The least used sites showed up as these smaller pieces of the pie here. Rocky Point, which had about 230 recreation days in our sampling period. Higgins Bridge and Kempson Bridge, show those two sites up the Saluda River. Higgins had about 2,000 recreation days and Kempson had about 3,800 recreation days.

As far as activities, I am just showing water based activities right here. I will show the land based activities on the next slide. But I want to point out that water based activities accounted for 80% of all use on Lake Murray. So even though this is 100% pie, this is 80% of all use represented here. Fishing was by far the most popular activity; it accounts for 51% of all use at Lake Murray. And this use varies by site according to the facilities. At Macedonia Church where there is no boat launch, on the water activities are obviously not popular there

except for bank fishing. And then at the Dam site, or Park site, especially at Park site where swimming area is available, boat activities are not as popular at Park site, but swimming was a big activity there.

As far as land based activities, again remember this is just 20% of all use, but again it shows up as 100% pie here because that's the way Microsoft works. Camping, picnicking and sight seeing accounted for about 4% of total use. And also this other category accounted for about 4% of all use. And mostly that was attributed to people that said they were socializing, or for rest and relaxation.

On the River, the River supported 172,000 recreation days in total, and that includes the Mill Race sites. Most use sites by far was Saluda Shoals, scoring about 100,000 recreation days. And Mill Race B, which was the second most use site supported almost 28,000 recreation days. The least use site was Gardendale, it had about 8,700 recreation days. But you can see that Saluda Shoals really, really drives the use at the River down here. On the River the proportion of water based versus land based activities was nearly equal; water based activities was about 51% of all use, land based activities was about 49% of all use. Within the water based category, bank and boat fishing were most popular; they accounted for about 21% of all use. That was followed by flat water canoeing or kayaking. Whitewater canoeing or kayaking as a water based activity, but the whitewater canoeing and kicking was less popular than the most popular land based activity. And the most popular land based activity is this category of sight seeing.

That's probably attributable to the popularity of the activity at Saluda Shoals; most people that came here said they came here to sight see, and whatever that may entail was really --- sight seeing was a category on our questionnaire so I doubt many people said they came here to sight see; maybe that includes bird watching, things of that nature. Most the water based activities on the River occur on weekends and holidays.

As we move into the future, 4 Counties around the project are projected to grow by about 24% over the next, I guess, almost 30 years, up to the year 2030, which was the most recent data available when this report was written. Which means that total project use could almost get to or be about 605,000 recreation days by the year 2030. That would be an increase in visits to Lake Murray by 75,000 recreation days, and increase in use on the Lower Saluda River by about 30,000 recreation days. The reason I say "could" is, as with any projections into the future, there is a number of unknowns. The Three Rivers Greenway is getting, or is supposed to be getting built; I read some articles but something has happened. But that could increase use at the River as well as change the types of use at the River. The Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan, if that's ever fully implemented that could change the numbers and types of use on the River. On the Lake, if you build additional facilities, it would obviously probably attract more people. And, technology may change; there may be things out there that we just don't know about yet that may become the next great thing, which means that more people might potentially use the project.

As far as the condition of the sites, overall mostly people were happy with them. We did ask them to rate the crowdedness of the site on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 was a light rating, and 5 was a heavy rating, heavy crowdedness. We also calculated what we call the carrying capacity of each site, which is simply the number of parking spaces available per site. And then compared that to the number of cars that entered the sites in, I believe, a 2 1/2 hour window; 2 1/2 hours was about the average length of stay. 4 sites were used regularly within their designed capacities, which means less than 75% of the parking spaces were full. These were the Dam site, Park site, Rocky Point, and Dreher Island State Park. 3 sites were approaching capacity, meaning they were used somewhere between 75% to 99%; these were River Bend, Higgins Bridge, and Kempson Bridge. And then the other 7 sites regularly met or exceeded their designed capacity, which means they had greater than 99% use at their peak times. Some possible reasons for this besides the fact that there weren't enough parking spaces is that we estimated not the number of spaces available in a gravel parking area. We had a civil engineer, we gave him the dimensions of the parking area in square feet; and through whatever engineers do, he calculated the number of spaces that would be available at that site if the entire area was used at its maximum. There probably is some parking in areas that we did not consider parking areas; you know, people parking on the grass or on the side of the road. And we would also have counted drive-throughs; like at Park site, or Dam site, or any of the other sites, people cruising through just to take a look, or

things like that. We would have counted that even though they had no intention to park.

The crowdedness ratings were fairly light when people were asked how crowded they thought the site was that day. Larry Koon Boat Landing and Shull Island were consistently rated at moderate to heavy regardless of the day type. And those are the kind of the peaks you see right there, those are Larry Koon and Shull Island. The Dam site, Murray Shores, River Bend, Kempson Bridge, and Sunset were rated moderate to heavy on holidays. And what I am calling moderate to heavy is above an average rating of 3. So, on holidays, those sites, people felt they were more crowded than during a regular weekend or week day.

On the Lake we also asked people to rate the crowdedness of the water on the day that they were on the Lake. Like I mentioned previously, they were shown this map of 12 Segments of Lake Murray, asked to indicate which Segment that they recreated the most at that day and then to rate the crowdedness again on that same scale where 1 was light and 5 was heavy. On the week days, there was light crowding reported with the exception of Segment 5. And that's probably attributable to Larry Koon Boat Landing which was one of the most used boat landings on the reservoir; also, Shull Island is a heavily used boat landing; and then you have Dreher Island State Park also near that Segment, which probably contributes to at least a perception that this area is crowded. And that's on week days. On weekend days, Segments 11 and 12, the Riverene sections is up here, were still rated at a light crowding rating. Segments 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9 were reported light to

moderate, which over here on this scale would be about a 2 to a 2.9. And then 1, 5, 6, and 7 were rated at a at least moderate to heavy crowding rating. And again, 5, 6, and 7 are kind of this Segment around Larry Koon, Shull Island, Dreher Island. And then Segment 1 around the Dam site, Park site is also two heavily used sites on the Lake. Finally, on holidays Segment 12 still has a light rating of crowding, as well as Segment 2 over here. Segments 3, 6, 7, 9 and 11 had a light to moderate crowding rating. And then Segments 1, 4, 5, 8, and 10 were moderate to heavy. Got a number of access sites here in Segment 10. And then a cool trick I like to do, and Alan you will have to do it, is can you go back to the first map? Is really take a look at how the colors change as you go from weekdays, to weekends, to holidays. So you can kind of get some kind of spacial perspective on probably where people are going on the Lake between day types, between weekends, and holidays. At the Lower Saluda River site, only Saluda Shoals is regularly used within its designed capacity. The other sites were used at or above capacity on weekends. And then Metts Landing and Mill Race A were approaching capacity on holidays. There is reported low levels of crowding on week days generally below 2. There is some increase when you get into weekends and holidays but it's still light to moderate. Really on the River people didn't feel as crowded as they did at some of the Lake Murray sites.

Overall people rated the sites as having excellent conditions. These were rated on a scale where 1 was poor, 5 was excellent. Simply asked, "What is the condition of the site that

you recreated at today?" Park site was the only site related below the median there of 3, and that was only on week days. So, generally people felt the sites were in good condition. Even though they felt they were in good condition, over half of all respondents indicated the need for additional facilities at the sites. The main facility the people recommended were restrooms, that was indicated about 30% of the time. And then picnic facilities, lighting and parking lot improvements, as well as trash cans were also popular choices of what people thought the sites needed.

On the River, again, overall average to above average conditions, people generally liked what they saw. Saluda Shoals and Metts Landing were consistently rated higher than the other sites on the River. And again, that's expected, those are the two most developed facilities on the River. If you have ever been to Gardendale, Gardendale has a throw-in canoe/small boat launch, and a fairly small parking lot. And that's about the only facilities available there. So, it's not surprising that Saluda Shoals, which is obviously gorgeous, and Metts Landing were rated with the best condition rating.

Also, Mill Race A and B kind of stayed the same regardless of day type. And that's kind of somewhat surprising since these are informal sites. There's really no facilities that are available there. But, when our clerks were talking to people, that's kind of what people enjoyed about those sites. Like I mentioned, they enjoyed, I guess, kind of maybe a back to nature aspect of it all.

On the River, 40% of people indicated the need for additional facilities at the sites, and again restrooms were the most identified facilities needed. And that was about 33%. And then trash cans was second on the River.

Also, on the questionnaires we fielded on the River, we asked about the warning system that is located mainly around the Mill Race sites, and there is also a siren and a strobe light over at Metts Landing. The majority of people are aware of the warning system, at least they are aware of the sirens and/or the warning lights. The exception here, it's still a majority slightly over 50% with Saluda Shoals, you can kind of see that drop off right there. We are thinking that the reason for that is a lot of people that come to Saluda Shoals probably never approach the River. There is plenty to do here besides go to the River. You know, you have got trails up and down, environmental center, the River center over there, a number of picnic facilities away from the River at Splash Park. So, at least that is what we are thinking is happening there. Out of the people that knew about the warning lights and sirens, almost all understood its purpose, which is it is meant to warn people of rising water in the River.

Most of the people had not heard the siren at the site they were at, except at Mill Race A. And again, that's kind of a white water area down there. And I believe there is at least two sirens, that's right, two sirens at Mill Race A. So, that's not surprising, that's from what we have heard in some of our RCG Meetings where rising water surprises people the most; and whether that's because of the activities that take place there, or other

reasons, we don't know. Surprisingly enough, and I was looking at this last night, only about 60% of the people that had heard the sirens reacted to the sirens appropriately; and that meant they got out of the water. Now, whether that means that we need to do a better job of educating the public on what the sirens mean, or if that's just a general disregard for their own safety, we are going to have to discuss that. But I thought that was surprising that only 60% actually heeded the warnings.

I know I kind of breezed through those results, there are a lot of results here, a lot of numbers. The report will be available on the website probably by next week. There is also a number of appendices, you can look at the questionnaires that we used; you could look at the specific results from the Water Fowl focus group. And then we have a number of data tables that kind of breaks some of this down in finer detail; but, I didn't want to do that for a presentation.

It kind of gets me into where are we going from here? You heard Alan mention that we are in the process of conducting what we are calling a Spring Addendum. It's part of the process with this recreation report, we gave it to the Recreation Management Technical Working Committee. A number of them submitted comments on the report and a lot of the comments that we heard were that we missed a lot of use in the Springtime, especially by college students, trout anglers, and whitewater interests. So, to deal with those concerns from the TWC members, we put together a study plan where we are going to estimate year round use as well as conduct a number of focus groups with those interests that people

felt that we missed; and that includes Trout Unlimited, representing Trout Anglers, or Wading Anglers; Whitewater Club; and also we are trying to get together a meeting with University of South Carolina students. We have been told that a lot of students use the Mill Race sites, especially during the Spring, so we are going to talk to them and see if their preferences are any different than what we found during our sampling period, which was May through September.

There is a number of other studies that we are conducting right now with the goal of getting to a draft recreation plan by the end of the year. We have the recreation assessment report; that's a piece of the information that we needed in order to get to a recreation plan. A draft boat density report has been submitted to the Technical Working Committee. There was about two weeks left on the comment period there, so we are looking for their comments there. We are going to conduct a Spring Use Addendum, which should be wrapped up in the June to July timeframe. We can go back and use the initial consultation document which includes a lot of information on regional recreation participation; talks a lot about the number of facilities offered at the private and commercial sites around the Lake. And then I kind of have this other over here, and what I mean by that is that all along we have said that the Recreation Management TWC is also going to act as kind of a focus group. We have representatives from the Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the homeowners groups - Lake Murray Association, Lake Watch, and then Trout

Unlimited and a number of River user groups. So, this other is kind of going to be their opinions and their feelings as to what needs to take place. We will take those into consideration along with all of this information. We have got all these numbers, if you will. This is kind of a processing those numbers. TWCs will meet fairly frequently over the next year as we get towards this draft recreation plan. What this will do is kind of spell out the improvements that need to take place at the project over the term of the new license. So, it is going to include a schedule of when the improvements will take place, specific improvements, whether we are adding restrooms to a site or improving the boat launch. Through out inventory we found out that most of the sites, with the exception of Dreher Island and Saluda Shoals, are not fully ADA compliant. So that is something we will probably deal with in this recreation plan. And then any new facilities that need to be built, we have heard; there was a number of requests from people that commented on the initial consultation document that already have ideas where new facilities need to be in place. And then you have like the Lower Saluda Corridor Plan, which was about a 5 to 10 year process of the number of stakeholders on the River getting together and designing this trail system on the River. We are going to take that into account and see if we can support that through this relicensing process.

For those of you that have seen my previous presentations, this diagram may seem familiar. This is kind of the process we are using to get to the recreation plan. We are almost completed here with Step 2, which was establishing the baseline conditions.

We kind of know what's out there right now. We are still with the Spring use Addendum once that is completed, Step 2 will be done. Step 3 gets into to determine what is needed and when? And that is looking at what we need to do, the cost and the priorities. And the Recreation Management TWC with the approval of the RCG will set the priorities for what sites and what improvements need to take place first.

And finally we get to the Recreation Plan. Like I said, we hope to have a draft of that available by the end of the year.

Some of the questions are kind of my and our guiding document here, is we are going to deal with each of these questions. Ideas for better or different access; we can use the TWC to come up with this and use the results from our studies for what are the ideas where better or different access is needed? And some of the things we have already heard from the TWC, or through the RCG, or through the comments to the ICD was for SCE&G to work towards completion of the Lower Saluda Corridor Plan. I believe the DNR also requested --- or the PRT, one of the two, requested a State Park on the south side of the reservoir. I know this was DNR has requested a multi-lane boating facility that can accommodate large fishing tournaments. We have been asked to consider a boat ramp for small boats at Gardendale to improve the launch there, to make it useable for trailer boats. And then we have also been asked to look at a site above Mill Race rapids for safety reasons; if somebody is canoeing down the River and gets to Mill Race, and doesn't want to go through there, there is really no publicly available take-out. I have heard that there is a (inaudible) but

it's through private property. So, we are going to look at that. You know, if there is a site down there where we can put a publicly available take-out, we certainly will look into it.

Then we have potential facility enhancements or upgrades. Like I said, a lot of people thought that restrooms were needed at a number of the facilities. ADA compliance is lacking at a number of the facilities. So, we will get our heads together and kind of work towards with the existing facilities, what do we need to do to them to make them better and able to accommodate this increase in recreation that we are going to see for the next 30 years, up to the year 2030.

Potential new facilities or other management actions, that could include trying to get operation and maintenance of some of the sites away from SCE&G to the Counties, increasing security at the sites through some method, increasing the maintenance of the sites, cutting the grass more often, picking up the trash.

And then what are the priorities? What do the TWC members feel needs to be done first? Some of that kind of shows up through this Recreation Assessment Report. There is definitely some sites where, like I said, they are already exceeding their designed capacity on a regular basis. How do we alleviate that? If there is no room to expand the parking, is it putting another boat launch somewhere in that area? But then you have to deal with this whole on the water crowdedness. So, there is a number of factors that we are all going to have to take into consideration as we move forward with the Recreation Plan.

With that, I will open it up to questions. I know I went over an awful lot. This presentation should be available on the web possibly by tomorrow. I can send it to Alison this afternoon, and it doesn't take long to put it on the website. And like I said, the report will be available on the website probably sometime next week. So, be looking for that. Steve.

MR. STEVE BELL: I am Steve Bell with Lake Murray Watch. One of the things I think we need to understand here is that this report, or survey, only deals with the SCE&G sites, and what's going on there, and what people do; and that we haven't surveyed the homeowners, we haven't surveyed the people that go to the commercial sites. And I think that when you say that, you know, "This is what Lake Murray users do," I think you need to specify that this is what Lake Murray users who come to the sites do, and not necessarily what everybody else does. Thank you.

MR. ANDERSON: Since we did surveys at public recreation sites, more than likely a lot of shoreline homeowners were not included. But we do have the results from the Lake Murray Association which, I think, is a great percentage of your membership or shoreline property owners, we do have the information out of the initial consultation document. And then we have people on the TWC that are representing the interests of the general public as well as shoreline property owners. So, it's something we have talked about a lot.

MR. BELL: One of the things, I think, with Steve really is that when you talk about recreation data on Lake Murray, you are only talking about recreation days on the sites. And that could be

double or triple considering the amount that homeowners use the Lake and the commercial facilities, and all of that. The recreation sites, I think, only gets a small part of recreation -- - represents recreation use on Lake Murray.

MR. ANDERSON: Any other questions?

MR. ROCK GARICK: I am Rock Garick, I am President of the Palmetto Paddlers Club in Columbia, canoe and kayak. My question is you mentioned that you had gotten some maybe hearsay on what the Three Rivers, or the River Alliance is planning. Have you been in touch with those folks to get some direct input on what their future plans are?

MR. ANDERSON: Yes. Mike Dawson came to our RCG meeting and has given his presentation on the whole Three Rivers Greenway plan, what has been built already in Cayce and West Columbia, as well as the Granby Park that runs up Columbia Canal --- is that what it is called? Am I wrong now? As well as what they were planning with kind of the Mill Race area, as well as the Bridge, crossing over at I-26 over into West Columbia. So, yeah, we were aware of all of that. We got the presentation. I want to say his presentation is on the website, and I know their website has all the maps and drawings available. We talk a little bit about it in the report, but it is kind of hard to --- since Mike told us he really didn't have any projections of how much use will increase as a result of the Three Rivers Greenway; he estimated that up to 450 people per hour could go through there once it's built. But given the uncertainty and --- as we were writing the report and he was giving his presentation, at least it was my understanding that

it was fully funded, it was on the books, it was getting through. And then as I was going through and editing the report, I was looking at some newspaper articles where somebody has backed out now, or something; so, some of the funding is not available. So, it is kind of hard. We are taking it into account. We know what he wants to do, what the River Alliance wants to do, but we are not certainly going to depend on what he is doing to influence completely what we are doing.

MR. GARICK: Thank you. And I would also comment that I am sure you are aware that paddlers are kind of an elusive breed, and they hit the River and they are gone. So, when you are doing your surveys they are an elusive bunch.

MR. ANDERSON: Yes. The focus group we are going to conduct sometime within the next month, Charlene --- you know Charlene, has indicated to me that she can get a group of them together for us. I would certainly like to talk to you and see if we can get some of your club members to join us, as well. Any other questions?

MR. BOB KEENER: I don't think I will need the microphone.

MR. ANDERSON: He needs it up there.

MR. KEENER: Okay. Bob Keener with the Lake Murray Association. You mentioned the Kempson Bridge site as one of the sites that was surveyed and indicated it was crowded and had problems. Was that before the renovation of last year? During renovation? Or, since? It's a great place now. It had problems before. When was your data collected regarding Kempson Bridge?

MR. ANDERSON: Kempson Bridge was the same time period. So, it would have started on May 27th.

MR. TOMMY BOOZER: The facilities were already improved then.

MR. KEENER: Was finished?

MR. ANDERSON: Right.

MR. KEENER: The facilities were completed by the time that --

MR. BOOZER: Not completely but it had --- we started in ---

MR. ANDERSON: Do you need a microphone for him?

MR. BOOZER: We started in June, the facilities were there.

MR. KEENER: Okay.

MR. ANDERSON: But based on our results, you know, possibly that what took place maybe we can improve on it. Again, one of the least used sites though.

MR. KEENER: It's popular.

MR. ANDERSON: It's popular with --- actually we saw a lot of canoeing up there. A lot of condo passive recreation at those sites. Any other questions?

(No response)

MR. ANDERSON: All right. I will turn it back over to Alan.

MR. STUART: Well, I anticipated a lot more questions for Dave. He must have done a very good job. What I wanted to do is just touch on briefly some of the activities, major activities, that are going to occur between now and the next Quarterly Public Meeting, which will be sometime around July or August. We are going to be conducting the Lower Saluda River IFIM Study; for those that don't know what IFIM stands for, it stands for Instream

Flow Incremental Methodology. It's a standard fisheries based habitat assessment to potentially establish some flows to enhance fisheries in the Lower Saluda River. This study is going to be conducted the first week of June. For those that typically use the River, I want to go ahead and get this out there. We will be stretching across the River at points transects, and there will be Kevlar lines that go across the River. You need to be very careful during this week. We are going to advertise it at a lot of the boat launches. We don't want anybody to get hurt, but we have to take incremental measurements of flow velocity, or flow and depth measurements, and substrate. So this is the only way for us to get out there to do that. We will take the lines down once the transect is finished, but there will be potentially 20 transects along the whole stretch of the River. So those that typically use the River, please be careful. And we would appreciate you alerting like the Paddler Clubs, and getting that out for us. If you have questions, please get in touch with us. Do you have a questions?

UNIDENTIFIED: And it will be in the newspaper and ---

MR. STUART: Yes. We are planning --- Robert Yanity, who I saw somewhere in here, is going to put out a press release. And we hope that Tim Flach with The State can help us out with some of that just to get the word out. Again, we are planning for the first week of June to conduct this study. We will also be conducting a recreational flow assessment. It was part of the TWC group. Basically what it is, it's a modified bogsar. For those that don't know what a bog sar is, it's a bunch of guys standing around a River. They are going to do some floating at various

flows to kind of get a feel for the River; look at areas that are conducive for swimming and boating, and other activities at certain flows. So, I think it is going to involve people from like the PRT, South Carolina Coastal Conservation League; Charlene, I think is going to be involved in this. And so that will be one study that comes along. That one is schedule for --- is it May, Dave?

MR. ANDERSON: Right now, May.

MR. STUART: It may be pushed back because Charlene has a conflict. It may be there around the first two weeks of June, also. We will also be recalibrating the operations model that we had a request from South Carolina DNR, Bud Badr, to evaluate the potential to extend the water record we were using. We had existing gage data for 16 years, but Dr. Badr hopefully could extend that record to something along 50 years. And we have contracted USGS to pro-rate some of that data that was for the most engaged stations. So that is what we are in the process of doing now in the next three months. We will conduct a scope of the recreational study addendum that Dave pointed out, the focus groups. And we will be developing the draft application pretty heavily here in the next three months. We hope, again, to get that out this Fall. And it will basically summarize the studies that we are doing, present some results for those that have been completed, and kind of give an update on the others. That's basically what will occur in the next three months. So, with that I wanted to leave plenty of opportunity for questions on the relicensing or questions of any of the studies, if you have been

keeping up on the website. Please feel free to ask now, and we will do what we can to keep you informed here. Questions?

(No response)

MR. STUART: Y'all are an easy group. The night time group is pretty razomous (phonetic). I don't know if it's just I get through dinner, or what.

MR. STEVE BELL: (inaudible) --- know what we are doing as far as reviewing in line, shoreline landing --- fringe lands, and things like that, real quick.

MR. STUART: What Steve is referring to, the Lake and Land Management Technical Working Committee has been very, very busy in evaluating the procedures and protocols that pertain to shoreline management around the Lake. We are developing some draft criteria on sighting of docks, marinas, vegetation in the buffer zone management. Basically what we are doing are preparing the components of the SMP, or at least the draft SMP for comment. We also went through an exercise just recently where we evaluated the existing future development properties around the Lake. There was a Natural Resource Sub-Committee that was established and an Economic Sub-Committee. The Natural Resource Sub-Committee was comprised of primarily the Department of Natural Resources, Lake Watch, Fish and Wildlife Service, those that have the best feel -- - SCE&G, their Lake Management Group. Those individuals that we felt had the technical knowledge to provide or evaluate those from a natural resource perspective. They had considered thing like fish habitat potential, the size of the tract, what natural resource value it could provide. And then we also went through as

an Economics Group, we had the Saluda County, Newberry County, SCE&G, we had someone from Lake Murray Homeowners Association. I think Roy was part of it. And what they did is based on their knowledge --- and we also had somebody from the Real Estate Department, Van Hoffman. And each one of those was evaluated in terms of what they felt was the economic value of that piece of property. We established criteria, and we swapped it back and forth between the two groups to let each group know how they were going to evaluate those properties. And the goal of that was to begin evaluating or re-balancing for properties that need to be set aside for natural resource, and try to get some type of narrowing it down to, "Are there significant properties that have a high natural resource value, but may have a lower economic value?" Things like that. So, that was the goal of that exercise. And we hope to continue that process. We have not gotten the two groups back together yet. We hope to do that sometime either the late Summer, hopefully no later than by the Fall. So, that is kind of what Steve was alluding to, what the Lake and Land Management TWC has been up to. They have been very, very busy. From what I have seen so far, the potential improvements, or modifications, that you will see in the Shoreline Management Plan, I think will have a positive benefit to the Lake and the natural resources. And provide SCE&G an opportunity to better manage, much easier manage their property.

We are doing a good job now.

MR. STUART: Exactly. The whole goal that Tommy wanted to try

to get out this is to prepare a Shoreline Management Plan that he and his successors can implement. And that's the biggest thing that he needs to do is something that gives SCE&G some control where they can make some decisions without having to ask everybody. And that same trend, I think, will continue based on the discussions that have been had. Other questions?

(No response)

MR. STUART: Well, we appreciate everybody coming out. We will have the same meeting tonight. Dave will basically repeat this exercise, for those who have interest come on out.

PUBLIC MEETING ADJOURNED.