

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
RECREATION MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEE**

**CONFERENCE CALL
March 24, 2006**

final dka 03-28-06

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Malcolm Leaphart	Trout Unlimited	Tim Vinson	SCDNR
Tommy Boozer	SCE&G	Steve Bell	Lake Murray Watch
Van Hoffman	SCE&G	Tony Bebbler	SCPRT
David Hancock	SCE&G	Dave Anderson	Kleinschmidt Associates
Lee Barber	LMA	Marty Phillips	Kleinschmidt Associates
Kelly Maloney	Kleinschmidt Associates	George Duke	LMHC
Patrick Moore	AR/CCL		

HOMEWORK ITEMS:

- Tommy B. – review lease agreements for Dreher Island and Saluda Shoals
- Tim V. – provide group with number and location of regatta permits and regatta form
- Dave A. – email Malcolm recreation site spreadsheets
- Dave A. – locate and distribute recreation site maps and future recreation properties
- Dave A. – distribute revised lake questionnaire and river questionnaire
- Dave A. – distribute draft study plan

PARKING LOT ITEMS:

- Discussion of project lands open to the public

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

**April 7, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Call**

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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.

Dave A. opened the meeting by conducting a “roll call” to see who was on the conference call. After establishing who was on the call, Dave introduced Marty and Kelly, who are helping write the study plan for estimating use at SCE&G owned recreation sites. After the introductions, Dave pointed the group to the draft inventory form (attached) he sent for final review. There were very few comments on the form and Dave will finalize the form for inclusion in the study plan. George D. asked if the inventory will include commercial sites. Someone replied that the group had agreed to not include the commercial sites in the inventory, but we will retain the information we have already collected on these commercial sites.

Malcolm commented that we need to list out the objectives of the TWC and asked about the purpose of the surveys being proposed. The group agreed this would be a useful exercise. Steve B. agreed that we need to review the issues that are supposed to be dealt with in the TWC and make sure we have not forgotten anything. The group discussed when this could take place and agreed it is something they could do before or after the next RCG meeting on April 17.

Malcolm asked about the sites where we are conducting the inventory. Tommy explained that they had passed out a spreadsheet with SCE&G Public Sites, Public Landings and Marinas, and Private Marinas listed on them. Malcolm had not received a copy of that and requested a copy. Dave will send him the spreadsheet. Malcolm also asked about designated future sites and how he could find out where these are located. Someone pointed out that Tommy B. had brought these to a previous meeting. Malcolm requested a copy of these maps; Dave agreed to locate better copies and distribute them.

Dave A. introduced the second version of the user questionnaire, pointing out that the questionnaire has been changed to be more conducive to an interview type format. Dave told the group that he had received comments on the previous version from SCPRT and SCE&G. The current questionnaire (attached) takes into account these comments, but also is much shorter to accommodate user interviews. Dave also noted that there will be two versions of the questionnaire—for the lake and river. The version the group discussed is for the lake; a version for the river will be distributed next week. The group then proceeded to go over the questionnaire.

There were no comments on the first two questions—these are necessary for estimating use. The group talked about why Question Three had gone from listing all activities (along with primary activity) to just listing the primary activity. Someone commented that not asking about all activities

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was for time consideration and did not provide useful information for management of the recreation sites. The group then discussed the benefits of knowing all activities participated in, including recognizing there are “secondary” activities that take place. The group agreed to reword the question to include responses for additional activities. The group also agreed to take out “stream fishing” from the list since the questionnaire is dealing with lake users.

There was some discussion on Question 5A. Tommy and David H. want to keep the question in, but the group decided that asking about mileage on the water would lead to bad information. The group decided to explore using a handout for respondents to point to their boating destination. Someone also mentioned it would be nice to know motivations for going to specific places on the lake (i.e., less crowded). The group agreed to consider this, but Dave is not willing to add additional questions in consideration of the interview length. Once a final version of the questionnaire is available, the group can decide if knowing these motivations is more important than any of the questions on the questionnaire. There was also some discussion on asking about how far people traveled to get to a particular recreation site. Someone mentioned that we are asking for ZIP codes and could estimate distance with that information. Someone also mentioned that we could add “Location” to Question 6B to gauge whether there were any problem with the location of the sites. There was also some discussion on Question 5B; someone mentioned that responses to that are very subjective. Kelly M. acknowledged that it is subjective, but this question is necessary for dealing with issues of boat densities.

There was considerable discussion on Question 6B. Tommy and David H. had suggested this question be removed. They felt that one bad experience with a dirty restroom (when several people before that had experienced a clean restroom) could skew the results. The group agreed that this is useful information to have when considering site expansion or new facilities. The group decided to look at this question again, perhaps rewording it to an open-ended format (e.g., What additional amenities are needed at this site? What is your favorite part about this site? What is your least favorite part?). There was also some discussion on turning Question 7B into an open-ended question.

There were a few comments on Questions 8-12. Someone suggested asking for ZIP codes for both the permanent home and the seasonal home; the group agreed this would be better than the current version. We also need to look at changing this question to say “waterfront” or something like that. Someone also suggested adding “about this recreation facility” to the end of Question 11. There was some discussion about recording race of the respondent. Dave commented that he could not trust an interviewer to accurately record race without asking the question. The group talked about adding questions on race, which we will explore. Someone commented that we may need bilingual signs at the facilities; other comments talked about having bilingual interviewers because of the large Hispanic population. There was also some discussion about providing incentives for

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completing the survey; Marty agreed to look at how much something like this would cost—specifically cold water bottles. Marty commented that incentives work in other types of surveys but she was not aware of any research using incentives for interviews.

The group then discussed the schedule for the study. Dave told the group that considering everything we have to accomplish before the survey starts (inventory, pre-test, training) that is impossible to start on April 1. He proposed that we conduct the interviews and counts from Memorial Day to Labor Day to capture peak recreation use. Someone commented that the recreation season is defined as April 1 to late September. Someone mentioned that peak fishing times are in March, April, and the fall months and that waterfowl hunting takes place in the winter. The group was concerned that we will miss these activities if we just survey the summer months. When revising the study plan, Kleinschmidt will consider how we could address some of the off season activities.

Dave told everyone that they will be getting a revised draft lake questionnaire, a draft river questionnaire, and a draft study plan the following week. The group set April 7, 2006 at 9:30 am for their next meeting.

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**Saluda Hydro Relicensing
Recreation Management Technical Working Committee**

Meeting Agenda

March 24, 2006

9:30 AM

Conference Call

- **9:30 to 10:00** Review and Finalize SCE&G Public Site Inventory Form
- **10:00 to 10:30** Review Public Access Site Questionnaire
- **10:30 to 11:00** Discussion of Recreation Site Assessment Schedule
- **11:00 to 11:15** Schedule Next Meeting and Moving Forward



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Additional Comments Received

Patrick Moore: I listened in on my first rec management TWC this morning and was surprised to hear we are not dealing with Mill Race.

Doesn't SCE&G own the access areas? While it may be outside the project boundary and thus outside our inventory and rec user study, project impacts are present and at their most dangerous to users at Mill Race. This more than a safety issue, it is a rec issue and we should be able to report to the rec RCG on user demographics. How do ya'll plan to address this within recreation RCG? This is ongoing recreation on SCE&G land that is impacted by the project. It seems like we need to address it considering it is where such a large portion of the rec on the LSR takes place.

Karen Kustafik: I am curious about how locations will be selected for the survey, because many of those activities are location dependent.

I assume both official and unofficial access sites will be surveyed? Tony--is this your effort? I had to depart yesterday's meeting and meant to catch up with you when we resumed after break. Was there further discussion about the survey, and possible integration of safety concerns?

It may be informative to note whether the participant had alcoholic beverages with them. Randy mentioned the possibility of pushing for legislative change re PFDs, and data collected on the percentage of river users using PFDs may be useful to make that case.

SCE&G Public Site Inventory Form

Inspected by: _____

Date: _____

Site Name: _____

Site Code: _____

Site Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Facility Type:

____ Primitive Camp

____ Picnic Area

____ Day Use

____ Overlook Site

____ Informal Site

____ Launch Ramp

Road Access:

____ Paved access..... # of lanes

____ Unpaved access..... # of lanes

Operations:

____ Manned

____ Seasonal (From ____ To ____)

____ Unmanned

____ Year Round

____ Fee (\$)..... (Site ____; Parking; ____)

Site Amenities:

#	Type	#	Type
____	Picnic Tables	____	Potable Water
____	Grills	____	Boat Fuel
____	Firepit/ring	____	Trash Cans
____	Boat Pump Out	____	Docks
____	Trails (specify use _____: Miles _____)	____	Playground
____	Shelter	____	Showers
____	Designated Swim Area	____	Concession
____	Store	____	Marina (# of slips _____)
____	Dumping Station		

Parking Lots:

Type	Estimated # Paved	Estimated # Gravel	
ADA Spaces	_____	_____	_____ Spaces delineated?
Regular Spaces	_____	_____	_____ Curbs?
Vehicle & trailer spaces	_____	_____	

Sanitation Facilities:

	Flush	(ADA?)	Portable	(ADA?)	Showers	(ADA?)
Unisex	_____	(____)	_____	(____)	_____	(____)
Women	_____	(____)	_____	(____)	_____	(____)
Men	_____	(____)	_____	(____)	_____	(____)

Campground/Campsite:

	RV sites	Cabins	Tent sites	Primitive sites
# of sites	_____	_____	_____	_____
On site parking	_____	_____	_____	_____
Water front	_____	_____	_____	_____
ADA compliant	_____	_____	_____	_____

Boat Launch Facilities:

_____ Hard surface	_____ Unimproved	_____ # of Lanes
_____ Gravel	_____ Carry In	_____ Boat Prep Area?

Courtesy/Fishing Docks:

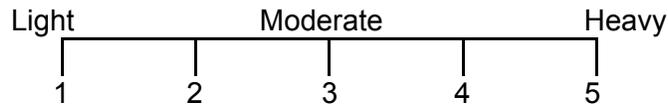
Courtesy/Fishing	Dimensions	ADA Compliant
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Notes: _____

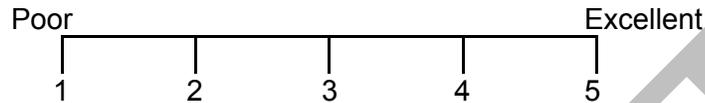
Picture Number From _____ To _____

DRAFT

5C. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being light, 3 being moderate, and 5 being heavy, how would you rate the crowdedness **at this recreation site** you are at today? *(Please circle one number.)*



6A. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the overall condition **at this recreation site** today? *(Please circle one number.)*



6B. Using the same scale, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, please rate the condition of the facilities **at this recreation site** today. *(Please circle all that apply. If a facility is not available at this site, please indicate whether or not it is needed.)*

						Is Facility Needed at this Site?	
	Poor			Excellent		Yes	No
restrooms	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
swimming area	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
fishing pier/dock	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
picnic tables/shelter	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
trash cans	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
boat launch	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
boat dock	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
camping area	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
signs	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
lighting	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
fish cleaning station	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
access road	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
parking lot	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
lighting	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
boat fueling	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
pump outs	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No
trails	1	2	3	4	5	Yes	No

7A. Are there any additional facilities or improvements needed at this recreation site? *(Please fill in the blank.)*

- YES
 NO *(If no, skip to Question 8.)*

7B. Please indicate which additional improvements are needed at the particular recreation site you are at today. *(Please check all that apply.)*

- better access road
- better lake access at low water
- paving/grading of parking area
- navigation aids
- paving/grading of access road
- better maintenance *(emptying trash cans, cleaning restrooms, etc.)*
- increased security/patrolling
- ADA compliant facilities
- other – *(please describe _____)*

WE'D LIKE TO LEARN A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOU:

8. Do you own a permanent or seasonal home on Lake Murray? *(Please check one box.)*

- YES – Permanent Home
- YES – Seasonal Home
- NO

9. What is your zip code? If you are a seasonal resident, please provide the zip code of your seasonal home. *(Please fill in the blank.)*

_____ ZIP CODE

10. In what year were you born? *(Please fill in blank.)*

_____ YEAR

11. Do you have any additional comments? Please be as specific as possible.

Thank you for your help with this important study! We appreciate your time today.

12. *Please record gender of respondent. (Please check one box.)*

- MALE
- FEMALE