

MEETING NOTES

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

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

Final ACG 3-27-06

ATTENDEES:

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates
Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates
Tommy Boozer, SCE&G
David Hancock, SCE&G
Ron Ahle, SCDNR
Dick Christie, SCDNR
Joy Downs, LMA

Steve Bell, LW
Amanda Hill, USFWS
Bill Argentieri, SCE&G
Tony Bebber, SCPRT
Ronald Scott – Lexington County
Van Hoffman – SCE&G

DATE: February 9, 2006

HOMEWORK ITEMS:

- SCE&G to provide a list of changes in classifications that have occurred since the last map was completed - *Not needed until Land Reclassification Discussion*
- SCE&G to provide description of land classifications and how they are managed – *Not needed until Land Reclassification Discussion*
- Alan to locate Randy Mahan’s letter to Lake property owners on setback implementation and clearing policies
- Ron Scott to ask Rhett Bickley to attend next week’s TWC meeting
- Alan to check status of NWI maps
- SCE&G to send the original ’94, ’02 and ’04 studies on ESAs to the group – *Not needed until ESA Identification and Management Discussion*
- SCE&G to distribute dock permitting sheet to the group – *Not needed until Shoreline Permitting Discussion*
- Alan to send out the Revegetation, Sediment and Erosion and Woody Debris plans to the group for review before the Buffer Zone Management discussion next Thursday

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AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Interactive Review of Buffer Zone Management Plans
- Discussion on Additional Criteria for Future Buffer Zone Enhancements and Potential Restoration

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 16, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.
Located at the Lake Murray Training Center**

INTRODUCTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Alan opened the meeting and noted that the first item for discussion on the agenda was an update of the shoreline classifications on Lake Murray. Tommy Boozer and David Hancock handed out and began discussions on the 2002 and 2005 Lake Murray mileage sheets separated out by management prescription. Tommy pointed out that although the mileage was not survey grade, it was as close as could be attained using GIS. Tommy continued to expound on this issue, and explained that in 1994 they had compiled their plats to provide a good baseline and the 2002 update provided a lot more accurate photography. Subsequently, in 2005 the accuracy again increased due to the LIDAR that was performed around the Lake.

The group continued to discuss the mileage sheets. In reference to Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)s, Tommy pointed out that there was almost 40 miles of ESAs on Easement property and 41.61 miles of ESAs on Future Development lands. David noted that this mileage does not include the ESA land in front of forest and game management areas. Ron Ahle asked the group what percentage of total easement land was ESA land. It was noted that it was 6.8%. Ron added that ESA habitat would be lost when development occurs down to the 360. Tommy replied that with the new regulations, hopefully no clearing would occur below the 360 and all of the ESAs are located below the 360.

Ron Ahle noted that it was standard procedure to go back in relicensing and update the SMP, however, in this case there have been very few changes that have occurred since the map was completed. Therefore, Ron presented the idea of developing a list of changes that have occurred since the map was last completed. He clarified that he was referring to actual changes to classifications on the shoreline that have occurred. SCE&G agreed that they could provide this list. Tommy and David additionally noted that the only changes that have occurred are the new additions on easement property and land sales.

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The group decided that this meeting was not the appropriate time to evaluate rebalancing and it should be further discussed at a later date. To aid in this discussion, SCE&G agreed to develop a brief description of each classification and give a presentation on the classifications at a future meeting. Tommy noted that there has been some discussion with DNR and PRT about rebalancing. He added that at some point it would be brought back to the committee.

The group decided that the agenda item for the next TWC meeting should be a review of the Buffer Zone Management Plan and an interactive session to go through the items in this plan.

The group began to briefly discuss the history of the buffer zone. Van Hoffman explained that in 1973 or 74 Santee Cooper received its new license and was subsequently required by FERC to put in place a 50 foot easement. Shortly thereafter, SCE&G filed for a new license which was received in '84. However, the FERC required SCE&G to retain a 75 foot setback. Van continued to explain that Randy Mahan had prepared a letter to landowners informing them of the setback and noting that they would be allowed to clear vegetation excluding large trees. Van continued to explain the progression toward a prescription that allowed clearing of vegetation less than 3 ½ inches in diameter and subsequently toward non-disturbance. The group noted that they would like to view a little bit of the history behind this and Alan agreed to locate Randy's letter.

The group continued to discuss buffer zone management but agreed to hold this discussion until next meeting and go through the plan line by line. Tommy asked Ron Scott if he could ask Rhett Bickley to attend next week's meeting. Ron said that he would ask him to come.

Alan then noted that they would use the rest of the time to go through the prioritized issues and identify what information was needed for the future discussion of these topics. In reference to the ESA Identification and Management Issues, Ron Ahle suggested that we have a presentation as well as a boat trip. The group agreed but noted that they did not necessarily have to wait for the boat trip before they made recommendations on this issue back to the RCG, because the boat trip would need to be scheduled during warmer weather. A presentation on the history of ESA and classifications would be needed. Tommy noted that they would send the original '94, '02 and '04 studies on ESAs to the group.

Ron Ahle noted that he would like to view a map of where the wetlands were located. Alan noted that he believes that the NWI maps have been generated and would check on the status of those. The group began to discuss the issues under Shoreline Permitting and Tommy noted that he had a permitting sheet that he would distribute to the group. There was some discussion on permitting fees and Tommy noted that the Project license requires them to manage the shoreline and also allows them to recoup their management expenses by charging fees. Joy Downs asked what was

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done in regards to commercial multi-slips when charging for slips. Tommy replied that commercial facilities pay per slip. Dick noted that since not all of the public commercial landings provide pump-out facilities, SCE&G may want to consider providing a reduced slip fee for those who do have pump-out facilities as an incentive. The group agreed that this was a good idea to be considered.

Alan asked the group what additional information was needed to discuss Docks issues. Ron Noted that it may be beneficial to look at some of the commercial docks that have been permitted recently that have been controversial in order to identify some of the reasons why they have been controversial. The group decided that that would be beneficial. David Hancock noted that they would also provide the group with aerial photography and also another layer on the large map for purpose of identifying its general vicinity.

The group began to discuss excavations and a few people expressed concern on this issue. Ron Ahle noted that in the past they have allowed the excavation of a boat channel and a place for the individual to turn the boat around at the dock. He added that if there was a plan in place things would progress smoother. David Hancock noted that this was a hard issue to deal with in a plan because conditions varied from case to case. The group decided that they need to discuss at a future date whether or not docks should not be allowed after a certain elevation or whether there excavation should not be allowed completely.

The group concluded its discussion and Alan noted that he would send out the Revegetation, Sediment and Erosion and Woody Debris plans to the group for review before the Buffer Zone Management discussion next Thursday.