

**MEETING NOTES**

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY  
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING  
RECREATION RESOURCE GROUP**

**LAKE MURRAY TRAINING CENTER  
January 11, 2006**

*final dka 02-22-06*

**ATTENDEES:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Bill Argentieri	SCE&G	Norm Ferris	TU
Alison Guth	Kleinschmidt Associates	Bill Marshall	SCDNR/LSSRAC
Randy Mahan	SCANA	Patrick Moore	CCL/American Rivers
Charles Rentz	Resident	David Hancock	SCE&G
Steve Bell	Lake Watch	Dave Anderson	Kleinschmidt Associates
Karen Kustafik	Columbia Parks and Recreation	Lee Barber	LMA
George Duke	LMHOC	Guy Jones	River Runner Outdoor Center
Tim Vinson	SCDNR	Alan Stuart	Kleinschmidt Associates
Tony Bebber	SCPRT	Tommy Boozer	SCE&G
Jim Devereaux	SCE&G		

**HOMEWORK ITEMS:**

- Dave Anderson – send updated list of sites and amenities to group

**PARKING LOT ITEMS:**

- None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**February 15, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.  
Located at the Lake Murray Training Center**

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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.*

Tommy B. began the meeting by giving an update on recreational access around the reservoir. He showed maps of SCE&G owned access, public marinas, and private marinas, and noted that there is recreational access around the entire lake. Tommy also noted that Billy Dreher State Park and Saluda Shoals Park are two large recreation areas on the Chapin side and Lower Saluda River, respectively. Tommy also pointed out the tract of land leased to the Lexington County Sheriffs Department. Tommy noted that they had some property set aside on the upstream part of the river such as Kempsons Bridge and Higgins Bridge for future recreation areas. He further noted that all of the boat ramps at public access areas on the lake were extended when the lake was down for the dam remediation project so that boats can launch from 345'. He also pointed out that SCE&G has 10 sites set aside for future development and are looking at additional sites. Tommy also explained that all of the islands on the lake are owned by SCE&G and are open to the public for recreation. Steve B. noted that all of the project lands that SCE&G owns below the 360' is open to the public. The group discussed that if it was private property you could not walk on it, even if it is below the 360'. The group discussed that SCE&G is only required by FERC to purchase land that is necessary to the operation of the project and that it was an unusual project since it has so much property. It was mentioned that the high water mark is the project boundary on Lake Norman in Charlotte, NC. It was discussed that the FERC has the option of requiring a licensee to buy a piece of property for operation of the project.

Tommy B. continued that the five year review resulted in a commitment to some improvements, including building a fishing platform at Sunset Point, paving at Hilton Park, and enlarging the parking lot at River Bend. Tommy also talked about Park Site 1 on the Lexington side of the dam and noted when the highway was redesigned for the dam remediation, it took the main entrance to the site. A new entrance is being designed at the intersection near Corley Mill Road that will have a stoplight. He further noted that the new bridge would change some of the aesthetics at the park site. He also noted that many utilities have a drop box for user fees, but SCE&G has no plans of doing this so that they can continue to use the user fees for traffic control. The other issue SCE&G looked at in relation to the dam remediation and the new highway was the site on the Irmo side of the dam, which may have some issues when the new highway is complete. Tommy mentioned that all of their parks have some sort of parking lot with a boat ramp and courtesy dock and at some sites they have rest rooms or Port-a-johns. He noted that any future park sites will have to be buffered away from neighborhoods. Another issue Tommy talked about is public marinas and wet storage around the lake and the possibility of these facilities closing.

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George D. asked about a couple of marinas that went out of business when the water went down, which led to a discussion of the service these marinas provide. It is hard for them to compete with private marinas since most of them do not provide gas and food, so many public marinas are going private to remain in business. However, Tommy noted that losing these public marinas affects public access so SCE&G is working on getting a clause in new permits that says that a public marina will have to remain a public marina unless they get a new permit. Tommy noted that Lake Murray Tourism has a brochure with all the information about public and private marinas, but he doesn't think this information is on the web. The group noted that maybe this was something they can look into. Lee B. mentioned that the conversion of marinas from public to private was one thing that interests his group, especially the loss of space for larger boats. Steve B. mentioned that small access points encourage development around the lake. Tommy B. and David H. agreed and noted they try to get new neighborhoods to put in community access points.

Tommy continued his presentation and moved to the LSR and noted three recreation areas on the river (Saluda Shoals, Metz Landing, and Gardendale) and that they are looking for property for another take out above the rapids.

Bill M. presented an update on the Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan and provided a brief history of the plan. The plan was written in the late 1980s and published in 1990 when the river received scenic river status (about a 10 mile stretch of the river). The 1990 plan identifies eight potential and existing park/access sites along the river. Currently, five park/access sites are established: Saluda Shoals Park, Hope Ferry (Metts) Landing, Gardendale Landing, Riverbanks Zoo, and Riverbanks Garden. Bill M. noted that many of the current facilities on the river (Saluda Shoals, Riverbanks Zoo) were originally leased by SCE&G. Bill M. talked about the plan update in 2000 and the vision for a greenway trail going down the entire river linking existing parks and access sites on the north bank and linking with the Three Rivers Greenway. Bill M. told the group what he knows about the Three Rivers Greenway. There were some concerns about Rocky-shoal spider lilies below the Greenway and Bill A. noted that SCE&G is working with the Zoo and SC Native Plants Society for spider lily enhancement associated with the Columbia project.

Bill M. also showed the planned path for the Saluda River corridor that would link up the park sites at the top of the dam with the proposed river side trail, which starts at Saluda Shoals Park. Bill M. doubted this trail would be completed given that the trail would have to be routed along Bush River Road to avoid security concerns around the dam. Steve B. asked about SCE&G owned property along the river and Tommy B. said it is very fragmented now. There was some discussion about how to control development along the river and the impact that the proposed Corridor Plan may have on visitation. Bill M. noted it will increase but he has no information to discern how much, other than what anecdotal evidence suggests on existing sections of the Three Rivers Greenway.

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Bill M. talked about a particular section between the I-20 and I-26 bridges that will be difficult to complete because of existing land uses.

Tony B. presented information about the last Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) done for South Carolina in 2002. The SCORP is in the process of being updated and may be of use during the Relicensing process. SCPRP has conducted a phone survey for the new SCORP. Tony B. noted the SCORP is the official plan used by state agencies for recreation planning and is listed as a FERC-approved comprehensive plan. The SCORP considers outdoor recreation related to citizen participation and analyzes demand for recreational opportunities. It also identifies funding opportunities and is used as a tool to distribute monies in the state. Tony B. talked a little bit about the process of writing the plan and that the final plan is approved the National Park Service. Tony B. then gave a brief overview of results from the latest SCORP, highlights of which are: state is in a region of unprecedented growth; steady population growth and trend toward an older population and high minority population; tourism accounts for \$9 billion of gross state product; and nature based and cultural tourism are expected to grow. After presenting some basic results about participation trends in various activities, Tony identified the following issues that were raised in the SCORP process: protecting significant lands for public recreation; manage and expand trail resources; maintain/improve existing parks and recreation facilities; increase funding for variety of park facilities; acquire public open space; provide more multi-use athletic complexes; create partnerships; implement existing plans; increase ongoing education about recreational opportunities and avoid user conflicts; and increase public beach access.

Tommy B. asked about visitation to Billy Dreher State Park and if it operates profitably. Tony B. thinks it is getting close to breaking even and that use is increasing. George D. pointed out that we need to concentrate on facilities close to the population base.

The group then discussed the mission statement and decided to finalize the statement and post it to the website. Afterwards, the group started listing recreation issues associated with Lake Murray and the Lower Saluda River. Among the group, the issues were public access, conservation of lands, instream flows, dependable water levels on the lake, safety as it relates to flows, river access/egress, canoe portages; provide for sufficient nature based recreational activities, permanent protection for Dreher Island, protection of property for a state park on the south side of the reservoir, implementation of the Lower Saluda Scenic River Corridor Plan, and water quality as it relates to primary contact activities. Bill A. also mentioned having a ten year review cycle for recreation activities. Bill A. asked for clarification of nature based activities and wondered if this meant SCE&G sponsoring fishing tournaments. Tony B. replied that fishing, hunting, hiking, canoeing, and bird watching are typical activities and that tournaments are not usually considered nature-based tourism. He envisions SCE&G providing the places for tournaments, not necessarily sponsorship.

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The group had a discussion about adaptive management and how any sort of recreation plan would be based on this principle. Steve B. noted that we don't need to put anything off that we can do now. Dave said that adaptive management is a way of correcting things that change with time. The group also briefly discussed the American Whitewater request for using the spillway as a recreational resource; Bill A. said that SCE&G has a severe liability issue with this request.

The group further discussed lake levels and it was suggested that a survey be done to see what is acceptable to lake users. Randy M. mentioned that there is difference between what is convenient and what they can use.

The group then began to identify information that they might need to address some of the issues raised. Tim Vinson noted completing a Boating Needs Assessment. George D. mentioned looking at industry figures of boating participation. The group also talked about a carrying capacity study like was done on the Duke Power projects. Dave mentioned completing an inventory of existing sites and amenities available at each one. Tommy B. agreed to update the table provided in the ICD and see if the group thinks any other information will be necessary.

The discussion then switched to the river and the need for Mike Dawson to update the group on the Three Rivers Greenway. The group is interested in hearing about access, facilities plan, projected timeframe, safety issues, parking and ADA compliance, and an instream flow analysis at the confluence. Jim D. agreed to talk to Mike about giving the group a presentation.

Below is a table of issues as recorded by Dave A.

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<b>LSR</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Lake</b>
public access/portage	scenic integrity	aquatic weeds – <b>covered under lake and land management</b>
conservation of land	future growth	access
safety as it has to do with security at the recreational facilities, and safety related to flows	adaptive management	facilities/adequacy
facilities/adequacy	water quality - <b>covered under water quality group</b>	new state park in Lexington County
communication	fishing	expansion of facilities
recreation Flows/instream flows	non-boating access	conservation of land – <b>management prescriptions identified in land use group and specifics for recreation will be developed in this group, will make recommendations</b>
		paddling access
		large multi-lane facility
		lake level reliability – <b>will be carried over between this group and the other group</b>

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The agenda for this meeting is attached below.

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**Saluda Hydro Relicensing  
Recreation Resource Conservation Group**

**Meeting Agenda**

**January 11, 2005**

**9:00 AM**

**Lake Murray Training Center**

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- **9:00 to 10:45** Update on Recreation around Lake Murray and Associated Issues – Tommy Boozer, SCE&G
- **10:45 to 11:00** Break
- **11:00 to 11:30** Discussion on the SCORP – Tony Bebber, SCPRT
- **11:30 to 12:00** Lunch
- **12:00 to 12:15** Group Discussion of Mission Statement for Finalization Purposes
- **12:15 to 3:00** Group Discussion of Recreation Interests

