

MEETING NOTES

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

**SCE&G Training Center
March 20, 2008**

final JSH 3-24-08

ATTENDEES:

Bill Argentieri, SCE&G	Tony Bebber, SCPRT
Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates	Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates
Dave Anderson, Kleinschmidt Associates	Vivianne Vejdani, SCDNR
Dick Christie, SCDNR	Tim Vinson, SCDNR
Bill Marshall, SCDNR	Steve Bell, Lake Watch
Jim Cumberland, CCL	Joy Downs, Lake Murray Association
Tommy Boozer, SCE&G	Randy Mahan, SCE&G
Malcolm Leaphart, Trout Unlimited	

DATE: *March 20, 2008*

ACTION ITEMS

- Seek additional sites nearby as well as the additional parking for Larry Koon Landing
SCE&G
- Develop a list of agency proposals and cost estimates to be included in the Recreation Plan
Dave Anderson
- Send Dave Anderson proposals on buffer zones
Steve Bell and Jim Cumberland

INTRODUCTIONS AND DISCUSSION

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 Anderson of Kleinschmidt Associates opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He noted that the purpose of today's meeting was to have a true working meeting to discuss and address comments on the draft recreation plan. He explained that he wanted to go through each recreation site in the plan to discuss individual comments.

SCE&G's Public Recreation Sites

Larry Koon Landing

The group began discussing issues with SCE&G's Larry Koon Landing recreation site. It was noted that people would park at the Shull Island site if there were no available parking spaces at

Larry Koon Landing. There was discussion on the need to figure out how to alleviate congestion at Larry Koon Landing. Tommy noted that there was a lot of opposition to development of this site and explained that they could implement a buffer zone. Tommy noted that there is a pine beetle problem at this site, which means that there would be very few trees. Steve Bell asked if the county or the residents in that area would come into agreement about developing it into a park. Tommy noted about 15 years ago the county wanted to put tennis courts in this area and there was so much opposition to it that they did not build them. Steve noted that maybe the homeowners could come into an agreement about putting in some sort of walking paths. Steve asked how many additional parking spaces would be needed for Larry Koon. Tim Vinson noted that overflow parking will work. Tony Bebbler suggested making an action item for Larry Koon to seek additional sites nearby as well as the additional parking for this recreation area. Steve noted that if Larry Koon is getting crowded, then SCE&G may want to look at developing Bundrick Island. Tony noted that Shealy Tract and Shealy Point would be the next closest recreation site. Dick Christie noted that five acres should be set aside as future recreation, even though it may not be high in priority for development at this point. Dave asked the group if this was an immediate need. Jim Cumberland noted that it is something that needs to be looked at fairly quickly.

There was discussion about widening the entrance/exit to the recreation area. Tommy noted that SCE&G could discuss options with the county and go from there.

Dave noted that the other issue was whether or not to put in a fishing pier. Tommy noted that there is not a lot of room for a pier and that people currently fish off the bank. He further explained that it probably would not be feasible because of the amount of activity at that site.

Shull Island

For the Shull Island recreation site, SCE&G is proposing to add picnic tables. The SCDNR is suggesting to pave and delineate the parking area. Jim and Joy Downs suggested incorporating impervious parking. Dave asked if overflow parking was provided offsite at Larry Koon, would it be more beneficial to take the parking away and make it just a boat ramp. Tommy noted that it is a good facility and the ramp does need to be widened a little bit.

Murray Shores

The group moved the discussion to Murray Shores recreation site and Dave listed SCE&G's proposal. Tommy noted that he looked into this proposal but the area is solid rock and there is no sewer nearby. Tim noted that if an ADA accessible fishing pier is built at this recreation site, then you will need access to get to it.

River Bend

Dave reviewed SCE&G's proposal for River Bend. SCDNR requested paving the overflow parking lot for that site. Tommy noted that this is one of the parks that camping is permitted in and SCE&G would like to have the overflow parking paved because it is typically used on the weekends.

Sunset

The group discussed suggestions and proposals for Sunset recreation site. It was noted that it was a well used site. Tony pointed out that there may be areas behind the site that could be used for overflow parking. Dave suggested that if the parking lot is paved and striped, then more spaces may be attained.

Hilton

The group then discussed the Hilton recreation site. Tony recommended making the ADA restrooms for this site a low priority. He explained that improvement or installation of ADA restrooms at other recreation sites should be a higher priority. Tommy noted that ADA restrooms will be included in any new parks that are built as long as there is a sewer near the site. Dick mentioned that he thought there was some kind of ditch that catches runoff from this site and directs it into Lake Murray.

Dam Site

The group discussed the Dam Site recreation area. Dave asked if this recreation area received most of its use from people using the boat ramp and picnic area. Tommy noted people will use the boat ramp and will come back later that day to picnic at this site. Tommy explained that after looking at the expansion, they have created a wide enough space for people to get out of this area. Tommy noted that starting April 1st people will have to pay a fee to use this site. Tommy explained that if they get there before 10 am or after 8 pm they won't have to pay. Dave noted that the other recommendation for this site is providing a paved path to the restrooms. There was a brief discussion on rehabilitating the floating courtesy dock and fishing pier to allow deep water access down to 345'. Tommy noted that this may not be possible. Tommy explained that there is 8-10 ft of water right now and SCE&G is not able to put a floating dock out there at this time. He added that the dock needs to be repaired.

Higgins Bridge

Dave briefly explained the proposals for Higgins Bridge. Dave asked if paving the access drive to this recreation area was something that SCE&G could do. Tommy noted that SCE&G does not own it, it is a private road. Dave asked if the agencies wanted to designate this site as a canoe portage. Dick noted that SCDNR is not set on designating it as a canoe portage, but that area could be emphasized for paddling. He added that they are not proposing to eliminate outboard motor boats. Dick further proposed to restrict upstream development for boat access. He explained that if any upstream access is made, it should be designated as canoe portage.

Kempson Bridge

Tommy noted that it would cost more in comparison to other recreation sites to make Kempson Bridge ADA compliant because of the slope. Tommy explained that he would rather pick another recreation site and concentrate on that because this area is too challenging. Dick asked if a courtesy dock would be feasible. Tommy noted that because of the slope at this site, it would be too difficult to make the dock ADA compliant.

Clouds Creek

Tony noted that his only comment was to make sure parking was sufficient so canoe trailers could turn around in this site.

Little Saluda Point

It was noted that more acres would be added into the property, which is to be completed in the first five years.

Shealy Point

Steve suggested adding public access around this area. It was noted that back property will be added into the project, and public access is something that can be evaluated .

It was noted that all of the formal improvements will take place within the first 10 years of the new license as proposed by SCE&G.

Other Sites on Lake Murray

The group discussed future recreation lands, which include Shealy Recreation Area, Craynes Bridge, etc. It was noted that there are existing sites with no plans. The group discussed these sites in reference to comments by SCPRT. It was noted that there is a possibility of designating a spot near Dreher Island as mooring for sailboats. Steve suggested getting away from any sort of designation. Tony noted that because of the congested area at the upper end of the lake, it seems that Bundrick Island may need to be developed into some sort of a recreation area. Tommy recommended leaving Bundrick Island undeveloped, so boaters are able to enjoy it. Randy Mahan noted that SCE&G may have to put some sort of restroom facilities out there. Tony suggested not putting in a boat ramp at this site.

Mett's Landing

Tim noted that for Mett's Landing, SCDNR suggests incorporating some sort of designated fishing area away from the ramp. Bill M. noted that this site receives a lot more use than Kempson's Bridge and suggested restroom facilities at this site. Dave suggested costing out the addition of a bathroom to this site, take it to Lexington County, and let them know we have identified the need.

Gardendale

The group began discussing SCE&G's Gardendale recreation site, and it was noted that SCE&G would like to lease this site to the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission. Jim asked if enhancements to this site would be paid for by SCE&G. Dave noted that it would be negotiated and that there would be cost sharing opportunities. Malcolm noted that if the ramp was widened, then it would be easier to carry in a canoe. Randy noted that the only problem is if it is in the scenic river easement, it would have to have a 100 ft setback. Bill M. noted that if recreational flows were provided by SCE&G, the use numbers will go up for this site.

Twelvemile Creek

It was noted that this site is proposed to be a riverside park, but at the moment it will be placed in recreation and developed later.

Candy Lane

Dave discussed the proposal for this site and noted that there would be a takeout area provided for this recreation site.

It was recommended by SCDNR to add another bank access area for deep water fishing upstream around Sandy Beach. They would also like to add an ADA accessible fishing pier downstream of existing ADA fishing pier at Saluda Shoals. Malcolm noted that there doesn't seem to be a need for another ADA fishing pier. Dave noted that realistically, if a handicapped individual parks in the parking lot, they will probably not want to go very far to get to a fishing pier.

Malcolm asked about opening up the area by the spillway and Randy noted that they would not be able to open up Project works property.

Dave asked the group if there were any more items to discuss on the areas inside the Project Boundary Line. Jim asked if there were any other company owned lands on the LSR. Dave explained that in the focus group proposal, they suggest reclassifying all project lands on the LSR as recreation and wanted to know if there is any benefit to classifying it as such. Dick noted that SCDNR recommends widening the buffer zone.

Malcolm noted that he feared development around the LSR and would like to put the lands around the LSR in a protected status. Randy noted that for the most part it is in a protected status and 90 plus percent of what SCE&G owns is in the State Scenic River classification.

Steve recommended putting a 200 ft buffer zone on the river. Malcolm noted that he agreed with Steve, because he does not want what happened on the lake to happen on the river. Randy explained that with the scenic easement, property owners must take care of the shoreline. Dick noted that SCE&G could possibly classify all the properties on the LSR as recreation. The group discussed classifying the lands according to the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) classifications. Dick noted that by formally classifying the lands around LSR, SCE&G would gain credit and also protect the lands. The group continued discussing classification of LSR shorelines and it was agreed that verbiage on land classification should be added to the SMP. It was also agreed that the lands would be dealt with in the recreation plan as properties.

Steve noted that this group has looked at formal recreation sites, but have not looked at other project lands and their values as far as recreation. Steve noted that this committee needs to discuss and evaluate the need to do more with these informal recreation sites. Steve noted that this committee needs to evaluate whether these areas are important, whatever is necessary to ensure that the public has use of the shorelines, and can enjoy it without too many private amenities. He recommended setting up a time and agenda for having a meeting to discuss these issues. Dave noted that these issues should have been discussed under the Lake and Land Management Technical Working Committee. Steve noted that he thinks this committee should be dedicated to looking at recreation. He explained that he thinks there are a lot of recreation areas that have not been looked at, so the group needs to evaluate them and the access to shoreline. Tommy noted that SCE&G is coming up with a plan that is significant to recreation. Steve noted that he has concerns about buffer zones and widening the buffer zones and spacing of docks. Dave noted that the mission statement of the group does not include these issues. Dave noted that if there are specific properties that a group member is concerned about then they should identify those and bring them forward. Dave noted that an action item for Steve and Jim is to go through the issues and make a proposal to SCE&G. Dave noted that he would like to see these issues as soon as possible, as they will be putting together costs in the near future.