

MEETING NOTES

**SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALUDA HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING
RECREATION MANAGEMENT TWC**

**Lake Murray Training Center
January 28, 2009**

final ACG 3-19-09

ATTENDEES:

Alan Stuart, Kleinschmidt Associates
Alison Guth, Kleinschmidt Associates
Tommy Boozer, SCE&G
Ron Ahle, SCDNR
Bill Argentieri, SCE&G
Bill Marshall, LSSRAC
Charlene Coleman, American Whitewater
Joy Downs, LMA

Mike Waddell, TU
Vivianne Vejdani, SCDNR
Dave Landis, LMA
Tanjenique Paulin, SCDNR
Tim Vinson, SCDNR
Tony Bebbler – SCPRT
Dave Anderson, Kleinschmidt Associates
Karen Kustafik – COC Parks and Rec
Dick Christie, SCDNR

DATE: *January 28, 2009*

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 began the meeting by progressing through the agenda. The first item for discussion was a presentation on the recreation plan. Dave explained that the original recreation plan straw-man was provided to the group in July of 2006, with the initial draft being distributed in March of 2008. He further pointed out that the final TWC draft was distributed and is what would be presented. Dave reviewed the different sections of the draft plan, as well as the proposed improvements to the various recreation sites on the Lake and the River. As the group reviewed the proposed improvements, Bill Marshall noted that they had suggested the need for a restroom at Mett's Landing and was curious as to why it was not included. Tommy explained that there were activities occurring there that made them reconsider placing a structure in that area. It was further reiterated that these were just what was proposed for the first 10 years and may be possible for the future if conditions improved.

Next, Dave reviewed the proposed sites for future recreation. He explained that, at this time, they will not see any formal facilities on the reserved property until it is decided that development is needed. Dave continued to review through document outline, and as Dave completed the presentation he reviewed back through the sites to take any comments. It was pointed out that Two-bird Cove and Hurricane Hole are identified as existing recreation, and in the license application

SCE&G proposed removal of the special designation for these two coves. It was asked if these two sites would be then taken off of the table in the Plan, to which Dave replied he will add a footnote to the table or towards the back of the plan that SCE&G is proposing to remove the classification on these sites. Tony also suggested adding that that land is proposed for the forest management classification.

The group also made a few other proposed changes:

- Columns on the table should be widened so that all numbers appear on one line
- Bill Marshall suggested having a table with the existing use of the sites
- Tony suggested adding a sentence to the proposed existing recreation sites noting the addition of 14 tracts on the LSR consisting of 320 acres to the recreation classification
- Dick Christie made suggestions regarding Table 6-1, including the discussion of ADA compliant paths under the appropriate facilities. He also noted that there was a site missing from the table. He added that it was important to capture the fact that the maintenance would be increased from 14 to 18 sites.
- Tony commented on section 6.2 and suggested the addition of a sentence that noted that at the 10 year review of the SMP, reviewing the possibility of another recreation study prior to the end of the second 10 year update.
- Dave Landis suggested that under section 7.1, updating the minimum lake level to 354'. Bill added that he may want to discuss both current and proposed lake levels. Dick Christie suggested adding in the proposed guide curve.
- The group discussed that under section 7-2, there is a need for clarification on current vs. proposed classifications.
- The group discussed that on page 7-6, the placement of shoal markers, add a paragraph that the form is available on the SCE&G website
- The group discussed that the section on minimum flows needs to be updated with the proposed minimum flows.

Tony also suggested including a schedule for the development of existing future sites. Tommy replied that if a schedule was developed, then they would not have the flexibility to develop them as needed. Dave explained that they could add a section that notes the improvements recommended by the TWC after the first 10 year period. An action item for the group would be for everyone to take a look at the proposed future recreation sites and develop a prioritization schedule for years 11 through 20. Bill Marshall asked the group how they should give guidance to Lexington County in order to control what activities occur on leased land. He suggested the possibility of adding in something that required activities to be consistent to the Lower Saluda River Corridor Plan. Tommy noted that the Saluda Shoals park developed a master plan that was proposed to the agencies, however this was not a requirement. The group recommended that it would be a good idea to require the development of a master plan in consultation with the agencies for all leased sites.

After lunch Dave asked the group if there were any more recommendations. Tim Vinson asked why the courtesy dock at Lake Murray estates was not being rehabilitated with ADA access. Dave replied that this may be one of the items that is included as a priority after the current 10 year schedule due to the fact that there are also many improvements occurring to the Riverbend site which is in the vicinity. Tommy also noted that if something happened to the docks during a storm or other natural event, then they would be built back ADA.

After the group completed comments, Dave discussed the next steps with the group and noted that there was not the need for additional meetings with the TWC, as they would move forward with the process with the RCG. Dave noted that he would send a clean copy back out to the RCG, and the TWC would further have another opportunity to comment on the RCG review version. Dave further noted the RCG meeting will likely take place in March.

Alan briefly discussed the Settlement Agreement process with the group. He noted that the intent of the Settlement Agreement meetings would be to develop the language by resource area. He noted that if individuals were not interested in a particular resource area they did not have to attend that particular meeting. Alan noted that they would be sending out a draft schedule and the kick off meeting was scheduled for March 11th.

The group then gave Malcolm Leaphart the floor to discuss a proposal on recreation flows. Dave provided some background information on the flows posted in the recreation plan and noted that they were currently considering this as final. Dave further explained that there were a few issues relating to low inflows as well as some additional flow requests from DNR for striped bass during the months of April and May. Bill A. explained the striped bass flows to the group and it was noted that they could range from 1000 cfs, or higher, depending on whether or not the low inflow protocol (LIP) was in effect. Malcolm's proposal, originally presented to the Instream Flow group, for recreation flows included the possibility of having a 700 cfs flow for wade fishing on two weekend days a month for a total of 4 weekend days during the April and May time period. The instream flow group noted that they could agree to four partial flow days. These four days would be changed from the 1000 cfs flow to 700 cfs.

Malcolm further explained that Trout Unlimited saw that there would not be flows under 1000 cfs for a two month period in April and May and they would like to have the opportunity for a few lower flow days. Charlene Coleman noted that from a striper fisherman perspective, those days would be essentially removed from their season. Bill Marshall pointed out that there were 51 total recreation days on the table, 26 of which were wade fishing and 25 are higher flows. The group continued to discuss the pros and cons of changing the flows, and it was explained that there will not likely be a large change in water levels during a 5 hour period of time. The group discussed that the recedeance of water in the river is a very slow occurrence, so it would take a very long period of time for the river levels to drop. Karen Kustafik suggested combining the two 5 hour periods into one 10 hour period. There was some discussion of possibly altering/lowering minimum flows after May 10 from the currently proposed 1000 cfs to 700 cfs during the last week or two of May; however, this idea was not accepted by the group because members were reluctant to consider reducing flow recommendations of the Instream Flows TWC. After more discussion, it was decided that one general recreation day of 1000 cfs, previously proposed during May, will change to a wade fishing day of 700 cfs, and Memorial Day will stay at a 1000 cfs recreation day. It was recommended that this information would be taken back to the Instream Flows group for discussion between the TWC members and TU representatives. Dick Christie added that the minimum flow should be an adaptive management process, possibly reviewed on a five year basis. With this, the group concluded discussions and adjourned.