

**Meeting Notes Summary: January 16, 2003**

Coosa River Projects

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**Meeting Attendees:**

***IAG Members***

Jack Blackburn	Neely Henry Lake Association	<a href="mailto:jaandja@gateway.com">jaandja@gateway.com</a>
Bill Campbell	EPRO	<a href="mailto:wcampbell@eproconsulting.com">wcampbell@eproconsulting.com</a>
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***Other Meeting Attendees***

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**Action Items**

The following action items were agreed upon by the Upper Coosa River meeting attendees:

- Barry Lovett: Present the Lake Clean-Up and Woody Debris recommendations to the CCRT at next week's meeting.
- Marine Police: Contact Neely Henry Lake stakeholders in regards to buoy placement.
- Barry Lovett: Add Hap Bryant to the Ecological distribution list.

**Meeting Notes**

*These notes summarize the major discussion items and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.*

**Introduction and Review**

## **Issue Action Group: Upper Coosa River**

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The goal of this meeting was to update the IAGs regarding on-going and future work; discuss the recommendations on lake clean-up and woody debris and attempt to reach consensus on the recommendations.

#### *Ongoing Work*

Barry Lovett indicated that work has and will continue to be conducted to address issues raised in the Recreation IAGs, even if the groups are not meeting. Much of the work from September 2002 to date has included mapping, preparing concept design and gathering information to address stakeholder questions and issues. Barry also highlighted that emails have been distributed regarding specific issues and recommendations to certain IAGs, as needed.

Bill Campbell briefly discussed concept designs, aerial photography and shoreline management mapping. The development of the concept designs is extremely time intensive due to the quantity of sites being investigated and the quality of the concept designs being prepared. Bill noted that several potential sites have been ruled out and the reasoning behind the decisions will be discussed at future IAG meetings. The IAGs will be presented with the concept designs for each reservoir this spring.

Barry stated that other issues raised by the IAGs, including, but not limited to sedimentation, lake level fluctuations and public safety, will be discussed at future IAG meetings.

#### *2003 Work*

This year's schedule includes numerous relicensing meetings and activities and will be the most intensive and challenging year of this process.

At this time, Bill O'Brien stated to the group that the ACOE is considering raising winter lake levels on Altoona Lake. He suggested that the group remain aware of this proposal because any changes may affect the Coosa River and should be factored into recommendations and modeling. Though a final decision may be a few years away it is good to be aware of this situation.

### **Recommendations**

The Upper Coosa IAGs have on several occasions discussed the woody debris and lake clean-up issues. Based on those discussions, Bruce DiGennaro developed recommendations (in a format consistent with what the ecological group) that he believed captured the essence of the discussions, comments, and recommendations of IAG members. Bruce utilized the Coalitions' comments regarding these issues, specifically utilizing language that was provided to revise the recommendations. At this time, Bill O'Brien and Joe Young stated that they are both linked with the Coalition.

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#### *Lake Clean Up*

“The Recreation IAGs proposes the following recommendation to the WCRT and the CCRT.

A general statement will be put in the project recreation plans that states that Alabama Power Company will continue to help promote and assist lake reservoir groups and other stakeholders in their efforts to remove trash and litter from APC reservoirs, as long as volunteer interest remains high.”

Meeting attendees had no comments, questions or concerns regarding the lake clean-up recommendation. Meeting attendees agreed with the recommendation as written. Therefore, the facilitator acknowledged this unanimous agreement and stated that the recommendation will be put forth at next week’s joint WCRT and CCRT meeting.

#### *Woody Debris*

“The Recreation IAGs propose the following recommendation to the WCRT and the CCRT.

A general statement will be put in the project recreation plans that states that Alabama Power Company in coordination with Lake Associations, and the Marine Police Division will periodically monitor and review the amount, location and origin of woody debris on APC reservoirs. Should an inspection lead the Marine Police Division to conclude that a significant public safety issue might exist because of APC’s practice of releasing woody debris and trash accumulations from its dam trash racks downstream, APC will, at the request of the Marine Police Division, reopen this issue for discussion and resolution. Similarly, should the Alabama Department of Environmental Management conclude that a significant water quality issue might exist for the abovementioned reason, APC will, at the request of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, reopen this issue for discussion and resolution.”

Meeting attendees had no comments, questions or concerns regarding the woody debris recommendation. Bruce explained to this group that the Smith IAG stated that woody debris, as outlined in this recommendation, was not an issue and therefore recommended that all references to the Warrior River and the Smith Lake be removed from the document. Meeting attendees agreed with the recommendation with the deletion of all references to the Warrior River and Smith Lake. Therefore, the facilitator acknowledged this unanimous agreement and stated that the recommendation will be put forth at next week’s joint WCRT and CCRT meeting.

#### **January 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

A joint meeting of the WCRT and the CCRT will be held on January 22, 2003 at APC headquarters in Birmingham. Meeting attendees were encouraged to provide information to the CCRT and WCRT regarding the recommendations and previous discussion and verbally support both the woody debris and lake clean-up recommendations. The WCRT and CCRT will attempt to reach a consensus on these issues based decision on the IAGs’ recommendations.

## **Issue Action Group: Upper Coosa River**

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This joint meeting will be divided into three parts: 1) a presentation by Kelly Schaeffer – Decision Making Processes and Reaching Consensus, followed by the presentation of ecological and recreation IAG recommendations; 2) review of the Shoreline Management Plan outline; and 3) a workshop led by Walter Ramey – The APC Permitting Process. No recreation IAGs will be meeting on this date.

#### **Next Steps**

All CR1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 IAG and Upper Coosa River materials will be distributed to IAG members prior to meetings and posted on the Internet at [www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro](http://www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro).

The next CR1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 meetings will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. APC will contact the IAGs once the meeting specifics have been determined. During the February meetings, Keith Bryant and Bob Huffaker will present a proposal to address public safety issues. Since the Marine Police are experts on public safety, APC would like to complement the Marine Police's existing resources in order to better respond to public safety issues. APC is considering a program to provide annual funds to the Marine Police to assist them with the management of APC's twelve reservoirs.

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Coosa River Projects

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**Meeting Attendees**

***IAG Members***

Jack Blackburn	Neely Henry Lake Association	<a href="mailto:jaandja@gateway.com">jaandja@gateway.com</a>
Bill Campbell	EPRO	<a href="mailto:wcampbell@eproconsulting.com">wcampbell@eproconsulting.com</a>
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***Other Meeting Attendees***

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**Action Items**

The following action items were agreed upon by the IAG meeting attendees:

- APC and EPRO: Revise the concept designs and present this information in a future meeting.
- APC and EPRO: Further investigate Ten Islands Park to determine the potential for bank fishing improvements and locating an additional bank fishing area on the adjacent peninsula.
- APC and EPRO: Investigate the potential for improving the boat launch at Ten Islands Park.
- Barry Lovett: Develop a list of all outstanding recreation issues for the Henry IAG.

## **Issue Action Group: Henry IAG**

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- Bill Campbell: Follow-up with the DOT to answer ownership and timing questions for several of the sites.
- APC: Investigate the option for improving the boat ramp and perform an on-site survey (to determine the boundaries of the County right-of-way) at Site 3A.
- APC and EPRO: Contact the local municipalities, State and County regarding potential improvements at several sites.
- APC: Consult with the County regarding their plans for the potential development of a boat ramp in the City of Gadsden.
- IAG Members: Obtain information from the Weiss IAG regarding the potential development/use of the Old Davis Ferry site.
- IAG Members: Provide comments on the August 6, 2002 Meeting Summary to Barry Lovett by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Meeting Notes**

*These notes summarize the major discussion items and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.*

#### *Introduction*

The meeting began with participant introductions, review of the meeting goal, and review of the IAGs progress to date.

The IAG agreed that the goal for this meeting was to review and comment on the draft concept designs specific to Henry Lake. APC noted that the concept designs are draft and some sites reviewed may not come to fruition. APC also pointed out that the IAG's discussions regarding the preliminary draft concept designs are relatively sensitive and all IAG members should be aware of and follow the communications protocol when sharing this information with the public.

At this time, Bruce DiGennaro reviewed the IAG's progress to date and future IAG tasks. For this review, Bruce revisited the IAG's standard process diagram, indicated that this IAG has had seven meetings, and stated that all meeting materials to date are available on APC's relicensing website. The following summarizes the discussion of the standard process:

- Step 1 – Determine Desired Future Condition – The IAG has completed this step. Tasks for this step included the work plan and the Henry Vision Statement.
- Step 2 – Establish Baseline Conditions – This task has been completed, with the exception of a few minor outstanding tasks. Tasks for this step included EPRO's

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recreation information and completion of questions in the standard process tracking document.

- Step 3 – Determine What is Needed and When – The IAG is currently working on this step. The primary task for this step is the development and review of the concept plans. Other recreation issues (i.e., lake level fluctuations, sedimentation, etc.) will also be discussed and recommendations regarding these issues will be addressed.
- Step 4 – Decide How Needs Will Be Met and Who is Responsible – The IAG will begin work on this step after completion of Step 3.

### ***Concept Designs***

APC noted that concept designs have not been developed for all sites on Henry Lake. The reasoning for this is that 1) the concept design has not yet been developed or 2) the enhancements/improvements to the site do not require a drawing.

#### ***Ten Islands Park***

Ten Islands Park is a multiple use site that includes a boat launch, a swimming area and a bankfishing area. The issue at this site is single cars are parking in the trailer parking spaces, thus reducing the capacity for trailer parking.

To address this issue, APC developed a concept design that includes additional designated spaces for single car and trailer parking. APC explained that specifics regarding the parking will be determined during an on-site survey and the concept design will be revised to reflect this information (and IAG member's comments). APC will then discuss the final concept design with the IAG

APC explained that the improvements to parking would occur in a phased approach.

Phase I improvements include the creation of additional parking spaces and realignment of the existing space. During this phase, APC will develop a separate area designated for single car parking and reconfigure the current trailer parking area. The reconfiguration will allow more trailers to park efficiently/orderly at this site. In order for this design to be effective, parking enforcement will occur. APC believes that the improvement will reduce user conflict and expand the current trailer parking area by 3 to 5 parking spaces.

Phase II outlines an area of this park that will be set aside to accommodate additional trailer parking, if deemed necessary. APC will conduct monitoring of the improved site during high use periods to determine the number of single car and trailer parking occurring at the site. This information will be utilized to determine if Phase II improvements are needed.

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The IAG agreed that improvements to this site are a high priority for Henry Lake. The following summarizes IAG member comments and the remainder of the discussion of the Ten Islands Park.

- There has been discussion, during previous meetings, of a boat launching facility across the lake from this site. APC explained that this facility was placed in the “parking lot” because Ten Islands Park has potential for expansion and reduction of user conflict. Therefore, the Ten Islands Park will be monitored to determine the effectiveness of the improvements.
- Several meeting participants expressed their concerns for and ideas on how to improve bank fishing at this site. Some of these comments included selective cutting and bank stabilization at the sites and piers. Bill Campbell will further investigate this site to determine the potential for bank fishing improvements and development of an additional bank fishing area on the adjacent peninsula.
- Dan Thompson suggested that the boat launch be expanded to a “proper” double lane ramp. Bill Campbell will investigate the potential for this improvement.

#### *Site 3A Shoal Creek*

There are parking problems at this site due to the lack of directional parking. Therefore, to address this issue, APC developed a concept design that would expand the parking lot and develop directional (lined) parking. “No parking” signs will be placed near the ramp to reduce conflict and establish a turn-around area for trailers. APC has also considered and will further investigate the potential for improving the ramp at this site. APC needs to perform an on-site survey to determine the County right-of-way and specifics of parking and ramp improvements.

Before any action is taken at this site, the IAG will consult with the County to determine it’s plans for this site.

#### *Site 4 Beaver Creek*

This site (located on a County right-of-way) is a submerged county road that is currently being utilized for bankfishing and carry-in boat launching. Improvements to this site would include establishing a single car parking area, stabilizing the county road, blocking the road at the water’s edge, and providing opportunities for passive recreation activities. APC noted that this site provides excellent potential for day use recreation.

During this discussion, one stakeholder noted that there is a commercial site in close proximity. The stakeholder suggested that the commercial site owner and the County may oppose any development at this site. Therefore, before any additional action is taken at this site, the IAG will consult with the County. Once this consultation has occurred, the IAG would like to further investigate and pursue improvements to this site.

## **Issue Action Group: Henry IAG**

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#### *Site 12A Highway 77*

This is a high use existing site with no directional parking. This site is owned by Rainbow City and includes a DOT right-of-way. However, the boat ramp is located on the DOT right-of-way and is leased to ADCNR. In turn, ADCNR has a routine maintenance agreement with Rainbow City to keep the area clean and in good working order. Normally in such situations, if any major repairs are needed (i.e., re-paving the parking lot, repairs to the boat ramp, stream bank stabilization, etc.), ADCNR takes care of those items.

Potential improvements for this site include adding fill, increasing single car and trailer parking, establishing a larger turn-around area and potentially developing an additional exit (to improve the flow of traffic). APC noted that an optional exit would eliminate some of the trailer parking, but will look into this option.

Many IAG members consider this site a high priority because it is an existing boat launching site in an urban area which could be easily improved. In addition to the discussion of this site, one IAG member stated that the bridge replacement may provide an excellent area across the river to develop a new launching facility. It could be possible to include the construction of a new ramp into the pre-planning of the new highway bridge (which is currently not in the state's two year plan). The DOT right-of-way on this side of the river may provide property that could be utilized to accommodate future use demands. The IAG will consult with the DOT to determine ownership, potential schedule/location of a new bridge, and if the improvements are feasible.

One stakeholder suggested that the IAG collect information from the DOT regarding the property across the river before proceeding on the development of improvements/enhancements of the existing site.

#### *Site 37*

This causeway/roadway site was visited by the IAG and is currently utilized for bankfishing. Modifications to this site could include improving the roadway and formalizing the bankfishing area. The IAG needs to consult with the local municipality to determine ownership of the property before proceeding with a concept design.

#### *Site 38*

This site (just north of the bridge) was visited by the IAG and currently is utilized for bankfishing. IAG members stated that there is deep water directly off-shore of this site which provides good potential for bankfishing. Potential improvements include adding picnicking and bank fishing opportunities. The IAG needs to determine property ownership and consult the City of Gadsden before proceeding.

#### ***Other Discussion***

## **Issue Action Group: Henry IAG**

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The following provides a summary of additional items discussed during this meeting.

- The City of Gadsden has plans for the development of a new boat launch. This launch would be located on the east side of river, just south of Rt. 278. If this site is developed then Site 15 may be closed to boat launching and devoted to bank fishing and picnicking. APC will continue to consult with the City on this issue.
- Site 33 - This site is currently utilized for bank fishing. APC indicated that the County may be interested in providing a small (off-road) parking area to improve the safety at this site. APC will continue to consult with the County regarding this site.
- Site 10 - This site is just upstream from Site 33 and is another area where bridge relocation may occur. The County is interested in keeping portions of the abutments in place and parking on both ends of this site. The IAG will consult with the County during pre-planning to determine the potential for this site.
- Site 40 - This old Ferry site includes the remains of a submerged County road. This site contains a boat ramp, but needs a small parking lot and turn around area. There are no concept designs for this site to date. APC will look into abutting property ownership and determine if improvements to this site are feasible.
- The commercial facility across the river from Site 40 was briefly discussed. An IAG member stated that the ramp at this site is in poor condition and does not accommodate launching during periods of shallow water.
- The Old Davis Ferry was noted as a potential site for Henry Lake. However, this site is currently being considered in the Weiss IAG and will be potentially developed primarily to access the Weiss tailrace.
- The bankfishing sites 26, 28, 32 have been investigated. The issue at these sites is that there is no safe parking. APC needs to consult with the state and county to determine if formalized parking is wanted, safe and effective. These sites are located along a high speed road. If these sites are improved, then safety crosswalks and reduced speeds zones would have to be implemented and enforced.
- IAG members are comfortable with the aerial photos, recreation maps and draft concept designs.

### ***August 6, 2002 Meeting Summary***

The IAG was asked to provide comments on the August 6, 2002 Meeting Summary to Barry Lovett by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The summary will be revised to reflect IAG members comments and then posted on the relicensing website as final.

### **Next Steps**

Similar to today's meeting, the other IAGs will meet to review and discuss the preliminary concept designs. APC will continue to consult with the State regarding all of the concept designs. After all the meetings are completed and stakeholder input is incorporated into the reservoir specific concept designs, APC and stakeholders will perform a comprehensive review of all the sites within the Coosa system. This review will take place at future meetings

## **Issue Action Group: Henry IAG**

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and a proposal for a complete recreation package will be developed. Once an overall proposal has been put forward, stakeholders will begin to consider costs/impacts in more details.

APC stated that there are no scheduled meetings in April and the IAG will be contacted by email to schedule another Henry IAG meeting in April or May.

**Meeting Notes Summary: May 7, 2003**

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**Meeting Attendees**

***LAG Members***

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***Other Meeting Attendees***

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**Action Items**

The following action items were agreed upon by Jordan and Henry IAG meeting attendees:

- APC: Check the Henry IAG email distribution list to determine if Jack Blackburn is on the list and if his email is correct.
- APC: Email Dan Thompson a copy of the Henry IAG March Meeting Summary.
- IAG Members: Review handouts and send comments to Barry Lovett by June 15, 2003.
- Barry Lovett: Help coordinate a meeting between Marine Police and the HOB0s.

## **Issue Action Group: Jordan and Henry IAGs**

**Meeting Notes Summary: May 7, 2003**

### **Meeting Notes**

*These notes summarize the major discussion items and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.*

#### ***Introduction***

The meeting began with participant introductions and review of the agenda. The following agenda was agreed upon for this meeting:

- Public Service Announcement
- IAG Updates / Old Business
- Public Safety Proposal Discussion
- Fluctuation / Drawdown requests
- Next Steps

At this time, Joe Young requested that APC email out the agendas for all IAG meetings to the larger stakeholder group. APC agreed to more widely distribute the agendas prior to the IAG meetings.

#### ***Public Service Announcement***

Shelia Smith explained APC's experimental trash barrel policy and provided the IAGs with an update on trash clean-up and maintenance at recreation sites. Sheila stated that illegal dumping continues to be a problem at some recreation sites. As a result of the illegal dumping and other misuse of the trash barrels, APC has started removing trash barrels on a trial basis. APC, at specific locations, are asking users to pack their trash out.

APC will make a determination at the end of this recreation season on the success of this trial program and will deal with trash barrels accordingly. APC stated that if these management actions prove unsuccessful then APC will replace the trash barrels, but so far the effort appears to be working. Any questions or comments regarding this issue should be directed to Sheila.

#### ***Updates / Old Business***

IAG updates included:

- Lake Cleanup - Consensus has been reached on the lake clean up issues.
- Woody Debris - APC is revising the woody debris recommendation to incorporate Jim McHugh's (ADCNR) comments on this issue that were discussed at the last meeting. Once the document is revised, APC will distribute a draft to the IAG for review.
- R6 – Shoreline Management – APC stated that there may be a R6 meeting held in Birmingham this June. APC is currently revising and preparing additional materials

## **Issue Action Group: Jordan and Henry IAGs**

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- for this meeting and to address this issue. Of note, APC is incorporating Jim Howard's comments on the R6 - Shoreline Management issue into the R6 documents.
- Meeting Summaries - The IAG did not provide any comments on the Henry or the Jordan March 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Summaries. Several IAG members stated that they did not receive the summaries. Therefore, APC will redistribute the notes to IAG members. These meeting summaries will be finalized during the next IAG meetings.
  - Concept Plans - Work is ongoing on the concept plans.

### ***Public Safety Proposal***

APC distributed several documents via email to the Jordan and Henry IAG for discussion at this meeting. The revised draft of the Proposal to Enhance Public Safety on APC Reservoirs (5-02-03) was discussed during this portion of the meeting.

Bruce briefly reviewed the background of the R2 Public Safety issue. He noted that stakeholders, including the HOBOS, have expressed a desire to improve public safety on APC lakes during the issue identification workshops, relicensing meetings and other consultation. The R2 issue has been tracked in the issue sheets, meeting summaries and standard process tracking documents for each of the reservoirs in the Coosa and Warrior River relicensing process.

Bruce stated that in order to address public safety on all of APC's lakes, a draft proposal was prepared in cooperation with the Marine Police. The draft proposal was distributed to the CCRT and R1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 IAG members and discussed at the February 19<sup>th</sup> Upper and Lower Coosa meetings. During this meeting and in subsequent discussions, stakeholders have provided comments on and input to the proposal. As a result of the comments, APC and the Marine Police revised the proposal to address stakeholder comments and redistributed talking points to the IAGs. These talking points summarize the proposal and were reviewed in detail during this relicensing meeting. After this meeting, APC and the Marine Police will incorporate additional comments, if necessary, and finalize the proposal.

At this time, the IAG reviewed and discussed recent changes to the proposal. The following summarizes this discussion:

- The document was reformatted to be consistent with other relicensing documents.
- The sequential order of several items was changed.
- APC incorporated language in the proposal that addressed stakeholder concerns and comments. APC noted that these changes are highlighted on the May 2, 2003 revised draft document.
- Bruce DiGennaro pointed out that this proposal indicates that the program would start in 2003, which is several years before the issuance of a new operating license.
- An IAG member raised the issue of watercraft speeding on the lakes. The IAG has previously discussed this issue and several members stated that they are working to address speed limits outside of the relicensing process. These meeting attendees will discuss speed limits at another time. In addition to this discussion Joe Young mentioned

## **Issue Action Group: Jordan and Henry IAGs**

### **Meeting Notes Summary: May 7, 2003**

that he obtained the proximity laws for the State of Georgia and will distribute this information to any interested parties.

- APC reiterated that it is committed to maintaining existing public safety programs and agreements.
- Stakeholders also discussed several issues related to this proposal including public input, accountability, channel and hazard markers, and the relationship between lake level fluctuations and hazards.
  - *Public Input* - HOBOS members would like to work with the Marine Police and others to help establish public safety priorities on their respective lakes. One stakeholder suggested that public safety committees be formed on each reservoir to work on the public safety issue with the Marine Police. These committees would be comprised of HOBOS members that would appoint one contact person from the committee to represent the HOBOS with the Marine Police. APC stated that this proposal would not preclude the HOBOS from setting up such a committee.

Bob Huffaker informed the meeting attendees that public input is always welcome and that there are continual opportunities to provide comments, including, but not limited to the annual meeting outlined in this proposal. Barry Lovett will work with the Marine Police and the HOBOS to make progress on this issue. ]

- *Accountability* - HOBOS stakeholders expressed some concern on how program funds will be allocated. Specifically they were concerned that the funds might not be spent where they are “most needed” (*i.e.*, markers). APC will revise the proposal so that the annual report will be distributed to the HOBOS and will specify actions performed under the fund.
- *Channel and Hazard Markers* - Meeting participants discussed the purpose and need of channel markers, including associated navigation and public safety concerns. Bob explained that the Marine Police are not obligated to mark channels. Channel marking is the responsibility of the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE).

At this time, Bob briefly reviewed the application process for placing hazard markers on lakes in Alabama. Bob clarified that the placement of a sign, buoy or marker for public safety reasons on any of the lakes requires that an individual (including APC) apply to the Marine Police for the necessary permit. The Marine Police upon receipt of the application will process the request, conduct a site visit (if necessary), and provide a recommendation to the head of the Marine Police Division. Once these steps are completed a decision will be rendered on the application. Bob explained that the Marine Police will mark all true hazards, which in part are determined by pool and traffic conditions. Bob further explained the definitions of hazards and the responsibilities of entities in marking said hazards. Bob reiterated that the Marine Police will work with stakeholders

## **Issue Action Group: Jordan and Henry IAGs**

### **Meeting Notes Summary: May 7, 2003**

throughout the application process and stated that the Marine Police could meet with stakeholders at any time to explain the application process.

- *Lake Level Fluctuations* - Stakeholders stated that boating safety is directly correlated with lake level fluctuations on both Henry and Jordan Lakes. For example, the Minnesota Bend area on Henry Lake during low water periods has a greater number of hazards (tree stumps). Joe Young suggested that stakeholders should survey the perceived hazards when lake levels are down in the fall in order to identify and potentially remove some of these hazards. Other stakeholders reminded the group that there will always be a certain level of hazardous conditions associated with boating.
- APC stated that this proposal is forward- looking and should improve public safety on the lakes.

APC will revise the proposal per the IAG's discussion and redistribute it for a final review. In general meeting participants, with a few reservations (specifically channel markers and public input) were able to reach a consensus on this proposal, as modified by today's discussion. The IAG agreed to "test-drive" the proposal to see how it works. The stakeholders would then review the proposal in a year or two to determine the effectiveness of the proposal and identify any modifications that may be needed.

### ***Lake Level Fluctuations***

Andy Sheppard distributed three handouts that summarized the issues and information regarding several lake level fluctuations requests. During this portion of the meeting, Andy reviewed the information in the handouts, answered questions and encouraged all meeting attendees to review and comment on the handouts by June 15, 2003.

### ***Neely Henry***

Issue – The Neely Henry Lake Association is requesting that the lake surface elevation vary no more than 12 inches from 508' during the summer months and no more than 8 inches from 507' during the winter months during daylight hours to improve boating safety.

The following summarizes the discussion regarding the request to limit lake level fluctuations on Henry Lake:

- It is practically impossible to manage all the parameters needed to limit the fluctuations as requested. This is due in part to the natural hydraulic characteristics and flood control concerns of Henry Lake, which severely limit further reduction in lake level fluctuations during normal and high flow conditions.
- Andy Sheppard stated that there is a "hinge-effect" on Henry Lake which makes it difficult to manage lake level fluctuations. APC stated that they have done all they can do to manage lake level fluctuations. Barry Lovett offered to provide IAG members with

## **Issue Action Group: Jordan and Henry IAGs**

### **Meeting Notes Summary: May 7, 2003**

a paper, completed for ecological issues, describing many of the issues related to lake level fluctuations at the Lay reservoir.

- Reductions in lake level fluctuations would limit project operations and increase the need for other, more costly generation resources. APC's hydroelectric projects are used for "peak-shaving"; if these developments are unavailable then APC must purchase energy off the system or utilize natural gas resources.
- In response to a stakeholder question about the well being of the Henry fishery, ADCNR indicated that the fishery is in "good shape" and seemingly unaffected by the lake level fluctuations.
- The test program raising winter lake levels two-feet for the past three years seems to be working well. APC will submit a report to the ACOE and FERC and will likely continue operating the lake in this manner, if approval from ACOE and FERC is received. The raising of the winter pool should help address some boating safety concerns.
- Jim Copeland inquired if any modeling had been done that takes into consideration the removal of Minnesota Bend. Andy Sheppard replied that no modeling, to his knowledge, had been done, and that any modeling would be an expensive undertaking. Andy also noted that at one time, the ACOE was looking into the option and was willing to do some work if a local group would share in the costs. After a brief discussion, Andy agreed to participate in meetings between the ACOE and the City of Gadsden, if either party initiated discussion on this issue.

#### *Jordan Lake*

Issue – The Jordan HOB0 is requesting that current lake level fluctuations be modified to provide a near full pool elevation during the morning high-use recreation periods and/or provide near full conditions on weekend mornings during May through August or other high-use periods such as holidays. The higher lake level would improve lake aesthetics and access.

The following summarizes the discussion regarding the request to limit lake level fluctuations on Jordan Lake:

- Andy Sheppard presented and discussed with the IAG, background information on lake level fluctuation issues and the existing minimum flow schedule at Lake Jordan. IAG members reviewed and briefly discussed several aspects of the background information including, minimum flow requirements and drawdown restrictions.
- Stakeholders expressed that erosion is becoming a problem. After a brief clarification, the IAG members decided to raise the issue at the appropriate ecological IAG meeting.
- After discussing and commenting on some of the statements in the handouts, the IAG agreed that lake level fluctuations on Lake Jordan have been discussed for several years, between many competing interests. A lot of time and resources have been applied to finding a balance on this issue. APC feels that the existing management strategy is working well to balance the various resources. The IAG members agreed with APC's analysis regarding this issue.

## **Issue Action Group: Jordan and Henry IAGs**

### **Meeting Notes Summary: May 7, 2003**

Due to time constraints, the discussion on the maintenance drawdowns on Jordan was tabled until the next IAG meeting. APC still encourages all meeting attendees to review the document and be prepared to comment on the issue during the next Jordan IAG meeting.

#### ***Next Steps***

At this time, Barry stated that the other reservoir specific R1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 IAGs have met or will meet to discuss the R2 – Public Safety issue. The Mitchell and Lay IAGs met on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, respectively to discuss the public safety plan and both IAGs provided minor comments to the proposal. The Weiss and Logan Martin IAGs meeting will be held this afternoon. APC explained that the proposal will be revised and distributed to all the IAGs after these meetings were completed.

The next CR1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Jordan and/or Henry IAGs meetings have not been scheduled. APC will continue to work on the concept designs, proposals and outstanding issues and will contact the IAGs to schedule a meeting, when appropriate.

All CR1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 Jordan and Henry IAGs materials will be distributed to IAGs members prior to meetings and posted on the Internet at [www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro](http://www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro).

**Meeting Notes Summary: August 27, 2003**

Weiss, Neely Henry and Logan Martin Developments

[www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro](http://www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro)

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**Meeting Attendees**

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**Action Items**

The following action items were agreed upon by the IAG:

- APC Staff: Present Draft Concept Design Plans for Logan Martin at their next IAG meeting - October 1, 2003.
- IAG Members: Remind new participants of relicensing team protocols and encourage newcomers to review published materials.
- APC Compliance Staff: Develop response to Neely Henry (Minnesota Bend) modeling request.

## **Issue Action Group: Upper Coosa River Meeting**

**Meeting Notes Summary: August 27, 2003**

### **Meeting Notes**

*These notes summarize the major discussion items and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.*

#### ***Introduction***

Barry Lovett stated that it has been some time since any of the recreation IAGs last met and in that time, APC staff have performed a significant amount of work “behind-the-scenes” to address and resolve issues raised in previous IAG meetings. The goal of this meeting is to provide IAG members with a brief, general-update of what APC staff have been doing since they last met and to inform stakeholders about upcoming relicensing meetings. Since the goal of this meeting is to provide stakeholders with a quick overview of ongoing relicensing work, the Weiss, Neely Henry and Logan Martin IAGs have been combined into this Upper Coosa River group to increase the efficiency of the presentation. Similar meetings have been held or will be held for both Warrior and Lower Coosa River stakeholders.

#### ***New Relicensing Participants***

Bruce DiGennaro commented that some new participants were joining the relicensing process and some participants were re-engaging, which is to be expected and natural. Bruce asked for the new participants to please refer to the process protocols and to review past meeting notes as well as other relevant relicensing materials, all of which can be found on APC’s hydro relicensing web site. Public involvement processes like this relicensing will always experience some “turn-over” among participants, but it is important to keep everyone “up-to-speed”, moving forward and progressing on the issues. The Standard Process Tracking document is an excellent resource for new participants to get “up-to-speed” and for current participants to remind themselves of past discussions and agreements.

Barry also asked that anyone with contact information changes to submit those changes to APC. APC wants to ensure that interested stakeholders continue to receive relicensing information.

#### ***Shoreline Management Plan***

Following the June 19<sup>th</sup> Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) meeting/workshop, APC has been compiling and processing stakeholders comments (including those provided by the Neely Henry Lake Association) to the Draft SMP Outline. APC appreciates everyone’s feedback on the SMP and will present these comments for discussion at the next SMP meeting/workshop, which is scheduled for the afternoon of September 17<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be very similar to the one held in June, sharing the plenary and “break-out” session format.

## **Issue Action Group: Upper Coosa River Meeting**

**Meeting Notes Summary: August 27, 2003**

### ***Draft Concept Design Plans***

APC staff have prepared and presented draft concept design plans for the Weiss and Neely Henry Reservoirs and will be presenting draft concept design plans for the Logan Martin Reservoir on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Bill Campbell informed everyone that APC has reviewed all the stakeholder comments from the initial draft concept design plan meetings and is incorporating them, as appropriate. Bill also stated that APC is scheduling meetings with and gathering comments from other key stakeholders including the Alabama Departments of Transportation. Additionally, APC is working to schedule meetings with affected counties and other local municipalities, which have yet to be actively involved in this relicensing process. After APC has met with these stakeholders and incorporated their comments, the revised concept design plans will be presented to their respective IAGs for additional review and approval. The IAGs will have numerous opportunities to provide feedback on the concept design plans.

APC is preparing an email meeting announcement for the October 1<sup>st</sup> relicensing meeting which will be held at APC headquarters in Birmingham. At this meeting draft concept design plans for the Logan Martin Reservoir will be presented.

### ***Weiss and Logan Martin Modeling***

A meeting (similar to the one held in May) to update the Weiss and Logan Martin IAGs on APC's efforts to address their respective modeling requests has been tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of October 16<sup>th</sup>. Formal results, conclusions or recommendations will not be presented at this meeting because they are not yet available. The sole purpose of this meeting is to update interested stakeholders on APC's modeling efforts, what's been done and what needs to be done.

### ***Minnesota Bend***

In response to a question from Hap Bryant on modeling requests at Neely Henry—specifically at Minnesota Bend—Barry confirmed that APC has agreed to investigate this issue further and that APC views this issue as separate from relicensing. Barry also stated that APC owes Neely Henry stakeholders a response.

Minnesota Bend is the site of a constriction of the Coosa River. Due to potential flooding effects on the City of Gadsden this site has been an issue of concern for a number of years. One solution raised by the Neely Henry group is to cut a channel to relieve this constriction.

### ***General Relicensing Schedule***

Bruce informed the IAG that overall, participants in the relicensing process are making good progress and that over the next six-months he expects the IAGs will come to consensus on a lot of outstanding issues. Concept Design Plans should be resolved by late next winter or by early next spring.

## **Issue Action Group: Upper Coosa River Meeting**

### **Meeting Notes Summary: August 27, 2003**

Stakeholders can expect to receive for their review, a draft license application sometime during the second quarter of 2004. APC must submit a license application to FERC by mid-2005, so by presenting a draft license application in early 2004, stakeholders should have plenty of time to provide input on the final license application.

November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> as well as December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> have been set aside as tentative relicensing meeting dates.

### ***Questions & Answers / General Discussion***

Hap Bryant informed the group that anyone who would like to learn more about the Neely Henry Lake Association can view their new web site: [www.neelyhenrylakeassoc.org](http://www.neelyhenrylakeassoc.org). Hap also reminded the group that Jim Blackburn is no longer participating in the relicensing process. Hap informed the group that he saw a truck load of hazard buoys in town and wanted to know if those were earmarked for Neely Henry. Barry suggested that Hap check with the Alabama Marine Police because they are responsible for marking hazards on the state's lakes.

Bill O'Brien who was unable to attend the Weiss IAG meeting where the draft concept design plans were discussed thanked Barry for allowing him to submit comments. Bill Campbell pointed out that Bill's comments were very useful and have been incorporated into APC's ongoing efforts.

### **Next Steps**

A Shoreline Management Plan meeting has been scheduled for the afternoon of September 17<sup>th</sup> in Birmingham. A formal announcement, along with an agenda and any other pertinent materials will be distributed via electronic mail at least a week prior to the meeting.

A meeting of the Logan Martin IAG has been scheduled for October 1, 2003. A formal announcement, along with an agenda and any other pertinent materials will be distributed via electronic mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> as well as December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> have been set aside as tentative relicensing meeting dates.

All Upper Coosa River group as well as Weiss, Neely Henry and Logan Martin IAG materials are posted on the Internet at [www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro](http://www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro).

**Meeting Notes Summary: December 11, 2003**

Weiss, Neely Henry and Logan Martin Developments

[www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro](http://www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro)

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**Meeting Attendees**

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**Action Items**

The following action items were agreed upon by the IAG:

- All Stakeholders: Review the reservoir list of priorities concerning the draft concept design plans and submit any comments to APC by January 16<sup>th</sup>.
- APC Staff: In consultation with key stakeholders develop a list of basin wide priorities for the concept design plans.

**Meeting Notes**

*These notes summarize the major discussion items and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.*

**Introduction**

Since the last round of IAG meetings, APC acting as an agent of the IAG, has met with several county commissions, local authorities and state agencies to discuss the technical aspects

## **Issue Action Groups: Upper Coosa River Meeting**

### **Meeting Notes Summary: December 11, 2003**

of the draft concept design plans as well as potential implementation partnerships. The goal of this joint IAG meeting was for APC staff to report on and discuss with stakeholders their efforts to improve existing recreation facilities on the three Upper Coosa River reservoirs.

Barry Lovett briefly reviewed the history of this process stating that from the beginning of this relicensing process everyone agreed that there was a need to investigate additional recreation opportunities on the Coosa River. To address this issue and establish a baseline, APC conducted a comprehensive inventory of all public and private recreation facilities. In order to ensure the accuracy of these efforts APC invited stakeholders to visit specific sites and review and comment on its inventory results. After identifying information gaps, establishing decision making procedures, and developing vision statements, the IAGs began to discuss potential site specific improvements to existing recreation facilities.

### **Draft Concept Design Plans**

Over the past year at the direction of the IAGs, APC created draft concept design plans to improve several existing recreation facilities. General factors in the development of these plans included existing capacity, population projections, site security and construction feasibility. More site specific factors including bank fishing, parking and ADA opportunities were also considered in the development of these plans.

Facility improvements are based primarily on recreation need at the specific reservoirs.

Site specific improvements suggested by some stakeholders and not included in the draft concept design plans have been recorded in APC's GIS database. These proposals have not been disregarded; they have been saved for future consideration. As a result of these efforts it has been determined that several sites will not be improved, but no recreation sites will be closed.

### **County Meetings & Other Consultations**

As part of the consultation process to develop the draft concept design plans, APC has met with several entities throughout the basin including Cherokee, Elmore, St. Claire, Coosa, Shelby, Etowah, Chilton and Talladega counties as well as several municipalities including Cedar Bluff, South Side, Gadsden, Childersburg, Rainbow City, and Centre.

In addition to meeting with local entities, APC has met with the Alabama Departments of Transportation, and Alabama Department Conservation and Natural Resources (Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries) whose support is critical for the improvement of many of these sites. Their concurrence and partnership will be required at several steps in this process.

At these local meetings APC staff reviewed the purpose of relicensing, progress to date, and the recreation aspects of the process. Any recreation improvements on the Coosa reservoirs will depend on the involvement, cooperation and partnership of several entities including APC, local municipalities and specific state agencies. Specifically, APC is hoping to develop implementation partnerships where local entities will share in the operation and management of

## **Issue Action Groups: Upper Coosa River Meeting**

### **Meeting Notes Summary: December 11, 2003**

these improved recreation facilities. Police and trash removal services from local entities are important to the success of these efforts. APC has engaged these parties early in the planning process so that recreation improvements will become a sustained reality.

APC reported that these meetings were very appreciated by the local communities and produced a lot of good discussion and interaction. As a result of these exhaustive consultation efforts, APC has received very favorable support for the draft concept design plans and the overall process.

#### **Reservoir Priorities**

Based on the consultations that have occurred with the IAGs and the State regarding the draft concept design plans, APC staff also presented a draft list of reservoir priorities (i.e., “priorities list”, see Attachment A) that outline the order in which the facility improvements would occur on each reservoir. This list was created based on stakeholder input, local support and participation, and perceived demand.

Understanding that circumstances change over the years, the priorities list may be modified in the future. Adaptive management techniques will be applied to this list; facility improvements may potentially move up and down the list depending on specific factors including available funding, changing demand and population, as well as local interest and participation. APC requested that stakeholders review and comment on the priorities list.

#### **Basin Wide Priorities**

In addition to the reservoir priorities list presented at the meeting, APC will develop a list of basin wide priorities based on previous meetings and anticipated consultations. This basin wide list of priorities along with other management considerations will guide the final implementation of the concept design plans.

Just like the reservoir priorities list, the basin wide priorities list will be flexible to respond to changing circumstances and new opportunities.

#### **Reservoir Specific Comments**

##### **Weiss Reservoir**

- Stakeholders were concerned that facility improvements to public use areas would have an adverse affect on local commercial operators. APC staff indicated that this issue was given consideration and that APC’s intent is not to adversely impact local businesses.

##### **Neely Henry Reservoir**

- Stakeholders requested an supplemental site for Ten Islands Park (directly across from Ten Islands on the east side of the river) remain on the maps for future discussion.

## **Issue Action Groups: Upper Coosa River Meeting**

### **Meeting Notes Summary: December 11, 2003**

- Site 51 has county road right-of-way issues.
- In the future there may be development opportunities on the south side of the Route 77 Bridge.

#### Logan Martin Reservoir

- Considerable development currently exists on this reservoir.
- Stakeholders discussed and agreed to investigate a potential improvement site along I-20 just west of Riverside Marina. There are “No Parking” signs at this site, but resource users continue to park there despite the signs.

### **Public Communications / Media Relations**

Barry Lovett asked that stakeholders consult with APC relicensing staff before discussing proposed draft concept design plans with the media. These plans are still draft, APC would like to keep all this information in the proper context and ensure that unrealistic expectations are not given to the public.

Once the development of the concept design plans is complete, APC will work with stakeholders to develop a public education plan highlighting the collective nature in which these efforts were conducted.

### **Next Steps**

APC relicensing staff will work internally to finalize an implementation plan for the draft concept designs. As is customary, APC staff will continue to update stakeholders on the progress of the proposed recreation facility improvements.

All Upper Coosa River group as well as Weiss, Neely Henry and Logan Martin IAG materials are posted on the Internet at [www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro](http://www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro).