

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

Coosa River Projects

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

---

**Meeting Attendees**

***IAG Members***

Bill Campbell	EPRO	<a href="mailto:wcampbell@eproconsulting.com">wcampbell@eproconsulting.com</a>
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	<a href="mailto:Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com">Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com</a>
Don Haney	Individual	<a href="mailto:edhaney@aol.com">edhaney@aol.com</a>
Barry Lovett	APC	<a href="mailto:BKLOVETT@southernco.com">BKLOVETT@southernco.com</a>
Bill Sim	APC	<a href="mailto:wasim@southernco.com">wasim@southernco.com</a>
Sheila Smith	APC	<a href="mailto:SCSMITH@southernco.com">SCSMITH@southernco.com</a>
Bert Thaxton	Lay Lake Home Owners and Boat Owners	<a href="mailto:riverratthax@aol.com">riverratthax@aol.com</a>
Dan Thompson	ADCNR	<a href="mailto:dthompson@dcnr.al.us">dthompson@dcnr.al.us</a>
Joe Young	Lake Jordan Home Owners and Boat Owners	<a href="mailto:pegyoung@earthlink.net">pegyoung@earthlink.net</a>
Gene Allison	APC	<a href="mailto:EBALLISO@southernco.com">EBALLISO@southernco.com</a>
Jack Blackburn	Neely Henry Lake Association	<a href="mailto:jaandja@gateway.com">jaandja@gateway.com</a>
Keith Bryant	APC	<a href="mailto:kebryant@southernco.com">kebryant@southernco.com</a>

***Other Meeting Attendees***

Amy Bennett	Kleinschmidt	<a href="mailto:Amy.Bennett@KleinschmidtUSA.com">Amy.Bennett@KleinschmidtUSA.com</a>
Dan Catchings	ADCNR	<a href="mailto:dancatch@hiwaay.net">dancatch@hiwaay.net</a>
Rick Claybrook	ADCNR	<a href="mailto:rclaybrook@dcnr.state.al.us">rclaybrook@dcnr.state.al.us</a>
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	<a href="mailto:Kelly.Scaeffe@Kleinschmidtusa.com">Kelly.Scaeffe@Kleinschmidtusa.com</a>
Heather Seiders	EPRO	<a href="mailto:hseiders@eproconsulting.com">hseiders@eproconsulting.com</a>
Danny Tignor	APC	<a href="mailto:DGTIGNOR@southernco.com">DGTIGNOR@southernco.com</a>
Harold Clark	Lay Lake Home Owners and Boat Owners	
Dan Murchison	Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners	<a href="mailto:danmurch@aol.com">danmurch@aol.com</a>

**Action Items**

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

- Barry Lovett: Present the Lake Clean-Up and Woody Debris recommendations to the CCRT at next week's meeting.
- Dan Murchison: Contact Marine Police regarding concerns about the relationship between the Marine Police and the Coosa HOBOS.
- Barry Lovett: Gather information regarding APC's legal/jurisdictional rights on lands within the FERC boundary.

**Meeting Notes**

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

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

**Introduction and Review**

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.

**Recommendations**

The Lower 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, all homeowner association representatives were asked if they were linked with the Coalition. All meeting attendees acknowledged the Coalition and stated that they were aligned with this organization.

*Lake Clean Up*

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

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

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.”

Several IAG members suggested that the last sentence of the recommendations read “as long as volunteer participation remains reasonable”. The sentence will be revised to reflect this comment. Meeting attendees had no further 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 specific to 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.

**Other Discussions**

*Shoreline Management Plan*

Stakeholders want to know APC’s legal/jurisdictional rights on lands within the FERC boundary. This information will help stakeholders focus their requests and discussions. Barry explained that APC will gather this information for a future meeting.

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

Several stakeholders also noted that the shoreline management issue may need to be addressed at the individual IAG level because there are varying conditions and agreements on these lakes. Bill Campbell suggested that one approach that will prove efficient and effective is focus on specific areas and not every shoreline property.

*Overnight Camping on Mitchell Lake*

Key stakeholders have been able to reach a consensus agreement on the proposal that was put forward by EPRO. Discussion of this proposal will be added to the February meeting agenda.

*Public Safety*

APC encourages interested stakeholders to provide feedback when the public safety proposal is presented in February. This goal of this proposal is to address public safety issues that have been raised in this relicensing, including signs, general information requests, training and buoys.

*Interaction with the Marine Police*

Dan Murchison expressed concerns about the relationship between the Marine Police and the Coosa River HOBOS. APC stated that the monitoring portion of the woody debris recommendation emphasizes cooperation between APC, the Marine Police and the Coosa River HOBOS. This cooperation should address any potential communication concerns.

In addition, stakeholders were encouraged to talk with the Marine Police and APC will work with the HOBOS and Marine Police to facilitate communication. The issue of communication and process will also be addressed in the public safety recommendations that will be introduced at a future 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.

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.

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

**Next Steps**

All CR1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 IAG and Lower 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.

**Meeting Notes Summary: March 18, 2003**

Coosa River Projects

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

---

**Meeting Attendees**

***IAG Members***

Bill Campbell	EPRO	<a href="mailto:wcampbell@eproconsulting.com">wcampbell@eproconsulting.com</a>
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	<a href="mailto:Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com">Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com</a>
Jim Howard	Alabama B.A.S.S. Federation	<a href="mailto:alcondir@aol.com">alcondir@aol.com</a>
Bob Huffaker	Alabama Marine Police	<a href="mailto:bhuffaker@dcnr.state.al.us">bhuffaker@dcnr.state.al.us</a>
Barry Lovett	APC	<a href="mailto:BKLOVETT@southernco.com">BKLOVETT@southernco.com</a>
Jerry Moss	ADCNR	<a href="mailto:jmoss@dbtech.net">jmoss@dbtech.net</a>
Sheila Smith	APC	<a href="mailto:SCSMITH@southernco.com">SCSMITH@southernco.com</a>
Adam Snyder	Alabama Rivers Alliance	<a href="mailto:asnyder@alabamarivers.org">asnyder@alabamarivers.org</a>
Bert Thaxton	Lay Lake Home Owners and Boat Owners	<a href="mailto:riverratthax@aol.com">riverratthax@aol.com</a>
Danny Tignor	APC	<a href="mailto:DGTIGNOR@southernco.com">DGTIGNOR@southernco.com</a>

***Other Meeting Attendees***

Amy Bennett	Kleinschmidt	<a href="mailto:Amy.Bennett@KleinschmidtUSA.com">Amy.Bennett@KleinschmidtUSA.com</a>
Keith Bryant	APC	<a href="mailto:kebryant@southernco.com">kebryant@southernco.com</a>
Bill Dillahunt	APC	<a href="mailto:WRDILLAH@southernco.com">WRDILLAH@southernco.com</a>
Jim Hancock	Balch & Bingham	<a href="mailto:JHANCOCK@balch.com">JHANCOCK@balch.com</a>
Heather Seiders	EPRO	<a href="mailto:hseiders@eproconsulting.com">hseiders@eproconsulting.com</a>
Dana Valleau	EPRO	<a href="mailto:dvalleau@eproconsulting.com">dvalleau@eproconsulting.com</a>

**Action Items**

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

- APC and EPRO: Develop the concept designs and present this information in a future meeting.
- APC: Field check the markers on Lay Lake and provide and update to the IAG.
- Barry Lovett: Develop a list of all outstanding recreation issues for the Lay IAG.
- Jim Howard: Investigate the flags utilized for navigation guides on Lake Seminole.

**Meeting Notes**

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

**Meeting Notes Summary: March 18, 2003**

***Introductions***

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

- Introductions
- Continue Public Safety Discussion
- Other Items
- Next Steps

The IAG also agreed that the purpose of this meeting was to focus on public safety (R2) on Lay Lake. Specifically the IAG would focus on updates regarding the FERC safety plan, effectiveness of the plan, potential monitoring of the plan, review/clarification of the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, and discussion of other safety issues.

At this time, APC informed the IAG that the concept designs were not yet completed for Lay Lake. Meetings will be scheduled, upon completion of this work, to further discuss potential improvements to recreation facilities.

***Continue Public Safety Discussion***

***APC Update on Public Safety Issues***

The installation of piles with day markers, per FERC's Order, began in September of 2002 and was completed in early December 2002. During this period, APC installed 61 total markers which included 45 channel markers (red and green) and 16 hazard markers (triangular warning signs) placed at the tributaries. All channel markers are numbered.

APC explained that minor modifications to the original marking plan occurred in September 2002. These modifications included the installation of an additional channel (red) marker on a tributary, the designation of one marker from a channel (green) to a hazard marker, and the installation of two proposed in Cedar Creek was not completed.

APC and contractors conducted a field assessment of these markers in February in order to evaluate the location of the markers. During this investigation, APC noted several discrepancies between the GPS coordinates proposed in the initial plan and the actual survey coordinates. These discrepancies occurred during placement of the buoys by APC and the Marine Police and may be a result of miscalculations in the original plan and/or minor adjustments in the field to improve the effectiveness of the markers. APC also stated that according to their survey information three markers were "missing" and one was leaning. APC reinstalled the leaning marker and will further investigate the three "missing" buoys. APC will perform another field investigation to determine the fate of the three markers and also to recheck the markers on the water versus what was installed. One IAG member reported to APC that marker number 55 is just sticking out of the water and needs to be investigated. APC acknowledged the IAG

**Meeting Notes Summary: March 18, 2003**

members request and will provide updated information to the IAG members regarding this discussion.

Another aspect of the public safety plan was to install informational boards at marinas and other public access sites. These boards will include a map of the lake, marker locations (with GPS coordinates), safety information and emergency contacts. APC is hoping to complete this task in April. APC will then issue a public statement announcing the availability of this information and revise the Lay Lake recreation maps.

*September 16, 2002 Meeting Summary Review and Discussion*

APC distributed copies of the September 16, 2002 Meeting Summary for review and discussion. Several issues, specifically from page five of the summary, were discussed by the IAG. These issues included limited timber cutting and means to evaluate the effectiveness of the public safety plan.

Access issues resulting from underwater timber

The IAG began this portion of the meeting by discussing limited timber cutting issues on Lay Lake. This discussion yielded the following information:

- APC stated that it's purpose for the public safety plan was to address the public safety needs on Lay Lake in a comprehensive manner.
- The IAG discussed that the current plan meets all of the FERC requirements. However, the HOBO stated that the FERC plan only addresses 80 to 90% of identified public safety issues. This issue will be discussed in further detail.
- Bert Thaxton stated that the list identified in the September meeting for timber cutting was not comprehensive. The HOBO also stated that they are requesting limited timber cutting which could mean cutting areas the width of a boat, not all the timber in areas.
- The issue relating to limited timber cutting near commercial marinas was discussed.
  - The HOBO representative stated that several of these sites, were originally suggested by the "old" safety committee and if the HOBO knew that cutting would not occur, then they would have requested additional markers.
  - IAG members suggested that they meet with the Marine Police to discuss the commercial marinas issues further.
  - IAG members also suggested the potential for marina owners to share in the cost and responsibility of marking areas of concern around their facilities.
  - APC stated that it is not responsible for addressing access to commercial marinas.
  - **Little Tom's, LaCoosa, Pineview and Wahatchee Marinas** – Marking at these sites were not included in the FERC public safety plan. However, the HOBO stated that there are still issues in these areas. The HOBO also indicated that several of these marinas are located in close proximity to public launching areas and therefore hazards should be addressed.
- Jim Howard stated that there are other management actions that can be taken to address the HOBO's issues. These actions include the placement of additional markers, flagging

**Meeting Notes Summary: March 18, 2003**

the timber and/or developing signage that would aid in navigation of the challenging areas. Jim Howard will investigate how flags are utilized to mark hazards on Lake Seminole and provide an update to the IAG at the next meeting.

- The IAG discussed several specific areas on the lake that the HOB0 perceived as areas that would benefit from timber cutting. The benefits outlined by the HOB0 include boating access and boater safety. Locations discussed included Spring, Cedar and Peckerwood Creeks; and Shelby Shores.
  - **Spring Creek** –APC installed a channel marker approximately ¼ mile downstream of the mouth of the creek and installed two hazard markings in Spring Creek. The HOB0 believes that the three markers do not sufficiently address the access issue to this creek.
  - **Cedar Creek** - The IAG agreed that the hazard marker installed at Cedar Creek should address the public safety concern at this site.
  - **Peckerwood Creek** –An IAG member stated that there still may be access issues at the mouth of the creek because the single marker may not adequately warn boaters of the relatively broad area of timber at this site. The marker installed at Peckerwood Creek should be periodically investigated during 2003.
  - **Shelby Shores** - The IAG agreed that the markers at Shelby Shores adequately addressed the issues in this area.
- A member reminded the group that it needs to focus on long-term (50 year) management solutions for the public safety issues.
- IAG members suggested that Officer Webster be contacted and invited to an IAG meeting to further address these issues. The HOB0 agreed with this approach and stated that the HOB0 will agree with Officer Webster’s findings regarding public safety on Lay Lake.

How do we evaluate the effectiveness of the FERC Public Safety Plan?

The IAG than discussed the potential means to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan. The following summarizes the discussion:

- The plan is relatively new and any evaluation in 2003 may be difficult.
- **Information Compilation**
  - One approach to evaluate the effectiveness would be to compile information on the following factors.
    - Number of accidents reporting that involved striking underwater timber
    - Number of injuries and fatalities resulting from hazards
    - Location of accidents
    - Total of damage to equipment resulting from striking underwater timber. The IAG agreed that this factor would be difficult to measure because many individuals do not report property damage to the Marine Police.
  - One IAG member pointed out that many years of data should be compiled and annual results compared. The Marine Police added to this statement by indicating that the number of accidents reported to the Marine Police is relatively low,

**Meeting Notes Summary: March 18, 2003**

therefore comparing minor changes in annual statistics will not provide ample information to determine the effectiveness of the program.

- **Survey**
  - The IAG discussed the potential for conducting a survey. The survey would focus on the boater's perception of the markers. The IAG members compiled a tentative list of potential questions that included:
    - Do you think there is less damage to boats because of the navigational markers?
    - Are conditions better?
    - Are you familiar with boating safety regulations and how to read markers?
    - Do you understand the new program?
    - Has the plan made a difference in your ability to navigate the channel?
    - Has it enhanced public safety of the waterway? If yes, why?
  - The Marine Police reiterated that education is a valuable component in increasing the safety on the waterways. The Police also stated that they would not perform the survey.
  - IAG members agreed that if a survey is needed then it should be conducted from February through Labor Day and should sample general lake users and tournament anglers.
  - The IAG discussed the objective of the survey. They agreed that the objective should be to determine the effectiveness of the public safety plan. However, the HOB0 believed the survey should have a broader scope and should include the tributaries and the main channel.
  - APC and the IAG then concluded that a survey for the main channel may not be necessary because all IAG members agreed that the public safety program is effective. It was suggested that a professional judgment on the public safety plan be obtained from the Marine Police. Therefore, residual issues (including timber cutting/marking) could be discussed in further detail.
- Bruce DiGennaro therefore decided that the tributary areas need to be discussed in further detail. He suggested the following possibilities to address this issue:
  - Focus the survey on tributary users
  - Investigate the "problem areas"
  - Obtain Officer Webster's professional opinion
  - Consult FERC, if necessary
  - Discuss these issues in future meetings
  - Obtain information from APC on their field check of the buoys

**Next Steps**

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

The next Lay IAG meeting will be scheduled in April. APC will contact all IAG members to establish a conference call to further discuss these issues.



**Meeting Notes Summary: June 18, 2003  
APC – Headquarters, Birmingham**

- APC Staff: Continue consulting with state agencies and local governments regarding draft concept design plans in July.

**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 a review of the agenda. The goal of this IAG meeting was to briefly discuss the IAG's progress in relation to the steps outlined in the standard process and to review and comment on the draft concept design plans prepared by APC and EPRO. Similar to the concept design plans prepared on the Neely Henry, Mitchell and Jordan reservoirs, these designs are draft and should be treated as privileged information. IAG members should follow the relicensing communication protocol and operating procedures when sharing this information with others.

APC agreed to follow up with this IAG through subsequent emails on the following three items:

- Missing channel markers
- Final talking points of the APC-Alabama Marine Police public safety agreement
- Revised May Meeting Notes Summary

*Trash Can Policy*

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

APC will make a determination at the end of this recreation season as to 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 Shelia.

**Lake Drawdown**

Danny Tignor informed the IAG that the Lay Lake drawdown has been postponed and is now scheduled to begin on July 11<sup>th</sup>, ending on July 14<sup>th</sup> when the lake begins refilling. Bert Thaxton asked if the drawdown could be scheduled to accommodate weekend recreation users,

**Meeting Notes Summary: June 18, 2003  
APC – Headquarters, Birmingham**

shifting the start of the drawdown to Sunday to create higher lake levels by the following weekend. Danny and other APC staff indicated that the drawdown is currently scheduled to maintain generation flexibility, but that they would investigate this option further with Andy Sheppard and report back to the IAG on their discussions.

**Standard Process Review**

Bruce DiGennaro reviewed the standard process diagram, the IAG's progress to date and future IAG tasks. Bruce revisited the IAG's standard process diagram, indicated that this IAG has had numerous meetings and stated that all meeting materials are available on APC's hydro relicensing website. According to Bruce, steps 1 (Determine Desired Future Condition) and 2 (Establish Baseline Conditions) of the four-step standard process are almost complete and the IAG is currently working on step 3 (Determine What is Needed and When).

**Draft Concept Design Plans**

Bill Campbell explained that FERC requires licensees to complete and file a Form 80 every six years after a license is issued. The Form 80 process is designed to gather information on APC's recreational facilities to determine whether public needs are being accommodated by these facilities and where additional efforts could be made to meet future needs, if necessary. Bill noted that the FERC Form 80 process requires the licensee to consult with stakeholders. Bill also explained that the FERC Form 80 process is a FERC compliance requirement for all non-federal hydroelectric projects and is not directly associated with this relicensing.

Bill Campbell explained that FERC may issue APC a 50-year operating license for the Coosa River Projects. It is impossible to predict recreation demands and use for the entire 50 year license term. Therefore, the draft concept design plans, as discussed below, have been assembled to meet the demands foreseen for the next 12 years. Potential changes to recreation facilities and access occurring after this 12 year timeline will be addressed through FERC's Form 80 process. EPRO reiterated that IAG members should consider this process as a tool when reviewing long-term recreation issues.

These draft concept design plans are based on an assessment of existing recreation facilities, not including commercial or residential facilities and include some preliminary ecological analysis.

*Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Access*

Federal law requires that all new construction consider ADA accessibility. Accessibility is not required at all facilities, but must be considered when there is a potential for new construction. In the context of these draft concept design plans, APC has assessed each site for improved ADA access.

*Local Consultation Regarding Recreation Improvements*

**Meeting Notes Summary: June 18, 2003  
APC – Headquarters, Birmingham**

Once APC has received comments from the IAG on the draft concept design plans, it will further consult with the appropriate state agencies and local entities at each site to discuss short and long term ways in which the interested parties, including APC, can work together to potentially improve these facilities. Several stakeholders have pointed out that the successful management of these recreation sites will depend on all the involved parties working together consistently on a long term basis.

*Draft Concept Design Plans Presentation*

A total of nine draft concept design plans were presented, including a brief description of the site's existing resources and uses, suggested improvements for each site, accompanied with aerial photos and site modification sketches. IAG members asked questions and provided comments on the each site to APC and EPRO staff.

*Site 3 Chilton City Boat Launch*

This site is currently used for swimming, picnicking, bank fishing and boat launching. The primary issue at this site is the conflict between trailer and single car parking. Therefore, the concept plan addresses ways in which to make the site more usable.

Potential improvements to this site include adding a single car parking area, designating several ADA parking spots adjacent to the pier and examining and potentially reconfiguring the trailer parking area. Bert Thaxton pointed out that due to the high weekend use at this facility, restroom facilities are really needed to maintain the integrity of this site. IAG members discussed a potential partnership with the county to improve public education and safety.

Stakeholders briefly mentioned that at one time this site had been considered for a county campground with some initial survey work having been completed, but that interest in this project had since passed.

*Site 7 Shelby County Boat Launch*

This site is primarily used for fishing and boat launching access and can get very congested during peak times. At this site there are some concerns about public safety and illegal trash dumping.

Potential improvements to this site include expanded parking and installing an additional boat ramp. EPRO noted that this site has potential for future expansion because APC owns lands adjacent to this site along the shoreline.

Additional consultation with local entities will be necessary because public demand for improvements might be low. APC will discuss this site with local entities later this summer and

**Meeting Notes Summary: June 18, 2003  
APC – Headquarters, Birmingham**

suggest possible local partnerships for improvements. This site may be considered for improvements in the future through the FERC Form 80 process.

*Site 13 Beeswax Creek*

This site is one of the most heavily used sites on Lay Lake and is generally referred to as a “nice facility”. However, during peak recreation use times, this site can become overcrowded and congested.

There are two concept designs for this site, Site 13A and 13B. Potential improvements to Site 13A (state leased) include expanded parking areas (specifically to accommodate more boat trailers). The expansion of parking areas would require additional planning due to the drainage of the existing parking area and the proximity of this area to county leased property. APC estimates that parking improvements would result in a 25 to 35 percent increase in available parking. The IAG noted that this area is steep and would not be suitable for providing ADA access.

Potential improvements to Site 13B (county leased) could include improving the parking area, providing ADA access, and installing a fishing pier (or bulkhead).

The State and County each have individual lease agreements at this site and further consultation is necessary before any improvements are made.

*Site 33 Highway 145 Bridge*

This site is currently being used for bank fishing and may be partly inside a DOT right-of-way. A survey of the property will need to be conducted.

Potential improvements to this site include formalizing parking and providing ADA access to the shoreline. The IAG stated that a pier would not be feasible due to boat traffic in the area, but suggested that a bulkhead could be placed along the shoreline.

Bert Thaxton requested that trash removal be addressed at this site and APC agreed to emphasize this issue in its meeting with the county. Similar to Site 7, the improvements at this site may not be warranted at this time (due to demand and trash removal issues); however if this site is not improved immediately upon relicensing, the site plans and work already completed will be filed at APC and available for future recreation analysis.

*Site 14 Kelly Creek Boat Launch*

This infrequently used bank fishing site is located on project lands and is primarily accessed by local anglers.

**Meeting Notes Summary: June 18, 2003  
APC – Headquarters, Birmingham**

Potential improvements to this site include improved parking and boat ramp maintenance. If local demand in the future increases, this site could accommodate some expansion. APC noted that lines have been recently painted on the parking area and would consider repainting the lines, if the need arises in the future.

There may be cultural resources in the vicinity of this site that will need to be considered in future analyses prior to any ground disturbing activities.

*Site 15 Glovers Point Landing*

This site is a former county park with lands that can be set aside for future recreation use.

Potential improvements to this site include boat ramp repairs (due to a drop off at the end of the launch) and parking area maintenance. ADCNR noted that they have recently repainted the parking lines at this site. The boat ramp will be examined during a low water period to determine if any improvements are warranted.

There are no immediate plans for additional improvements. The river current at this site prevents the installation of a dock, but a concrete wharf may be considered in the future.

*Site 18 Talladega State Boat Launch*

The state currently leases this site from a municipality for boat launching and bank fishing. The site is easily accessible, well maintained and frequently used.

Potential improvements to this site include reconfiguring the parking lot to provide additional single-car and trailer parking, installing an additional boat ramp and providing ADA access (trail and bank fishing opportunities). Any improvements to this site will need to be made in consultation with the City of Childersburg. ADCNR noted that they have plans (within 1-2 years) to install a second boat ramp at this site.

Dan Thompson indicated that this site is a high priority for the state, in part because it is located near an urban area.

*Site 35 Highway 76 Bridge*

This heavily used bank fishing site is currently located in and around the project's flood easement as well as within a DOT right-of-way.

Potential improvements to this site include some bank stabilization and parking modifications. The IAG agreed that to protect this site, the access road to the river should not be improved and could in the future be blocked off. Any improvements will require DOT consultation.

**Meeting Notes Summary: June 18, 2003  
APC – Headquarters, Birmingham**

*Site 29 Cedar Creek Bank Fishing*

This site located in the project's flood easement is currently being used for informal overnight camping.

Potential improvements to this site include improved ADA access (bulkhead) and bank fishing, improved gravel parking and increased public education (*i.e.*, signage). To improve the quality of the site and general access to it, it was suggested that camping at this site should be discontinued.

The IAG also recommended including education boards and investigating whether improvements across the river are feasible.

**Other Discussions**

*Bowater Informal Fishing Site*

Bob Ransom noted that about a quarter mile up the road from Site 18 is a highly used informal fishing site by the pumping station on the side of the road. APC agreed to investigate this site for potential improvements.

*Boat Ramp in the Sylacauga Area*

IAG members asked whether an additional boat ramp in the Sylacauga area had been considered in this analysis. APC stated affirmatively but because the area already has several private marinas, the need for an additional boat ramp and any additional facilities was not evident and may in fact impair the economic viability of the existing facilities.

**Next Steps**

After incorporating the IAG's comments on the draft concept design plans, APC will continue to consult with the appropriate state agencies and contact the local entities to discuss potential partnerships and other local planning efforts. To increase the efficiency of these efforts, IAG members were encouraged to share any information they may have about local officials and/or planning efforts.

APC will contact IAG members to schedule the next meeting.

All CR1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 Lay IAG 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).

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

Lay, Mitchell and Jordan-Bouldin Developments

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

---

**Meeting Attendees**

Keith Bryant	APC	<a href="mailto:kebryant@southernco.com">kebryant@southernco.com</a>
Bill Campbell	EPRO	<a href="mailto:wcampbell@eproconsulting.com">wcampbell@eproconsulting.com</a>
Lonnie Carden	Southern Trails	<a href="mailto:knewton@bellsouth.net">knewton@bellsouth.net</a>
Jim Copeland	Neely Henry Lake Association	<a href="mailto:wjcopeland@aol.com">wjcopeland@aol.com</a>
Dave Cunningham	Lay Lake HOBO	<a href="mailto:sly-pig@mindspring.com">sly-pig@mindspring.com</a>
Lynn Cunningham	Lay Lake HOBO	<a href="mailto:sly-pig@mindspring.com">sly-pig@mindspring.com</a>
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	<a href="mailto:Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com">Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com</a>
Bill Dillahunt	APC	<a href="mailto:WRDILLAH@southernco.com">WRDILLAH@southernco.com</a>
Bill Dykes	APC	<a href="mailto:WCDYKES@southernco.com">WCDYKES@southernco.com</a>
David Haynes	Wetumpka City Council	
Jim Howard	B.A.S.S.	<a href="mailto:alcondir@aol.com">alcondir@aol.com</a>
Viki Jenkins	APC	<a href="mailto:VRJenkin@southernco.com">VRJenkin@southernco.com</a>
George Jackins	Lake Mitchell HOBO	<a href="mailto:gjackins@aol.com">gjackins@aol.com</a>
Barry Lovett	APC	<a href="mailto:BKLOVETT@southernco.com">BKLOVETT@southernco.com</a>
John Peconom	Kleinschmidt	<a href="mailto:John.Peconom@Kleinschmidtusa.com">John.Peconom@Kleinschmidtusa.com</a>
Walter Ramey	APC	<a href="mailto:WRRAMEY@southernco.com">WRRAMEY@southernco.com</a>
Heather Seiders	EPRO	<a href="mailto:hseiders@eproconsulting.com">hseiders@eproconsulting.com</a>
Sheila Smith	APC	<a href="mailto:SCSMITH@southernco.com">SCSMITH@southernco.com</a>
Bert Thaxton	Lay Lake HOBO	<a href="mailto:rivrattax@aol.com">riverratthax@aol.com</a>
Joe Young	Lake Jordan HOBO	<a href="mailto:pegyoung@earthlink.net">pegyoung@earthlink.net</a>

**Action Items**

The following action items were agreed upon by the IAG:

- IAG Members: Remind new participants of relicensing team protocols and encourage newcomers to review published materials.

**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 Notes Summary: August 27, 2003**

meeting is to provide stakeholders with a quick overview of ongoing relicensing work, the Lay, Mitchell and Jordan-Bouldin IAGs have been combined into this Lower Coosa River group to increase the efficiency of the presentation. Similar meetings have already been held for both Warrior and Upper Coosa River stakeholders.

***New Relicensing Participants***

Bruce DiGennaro commented that some new participants were joining the process and that some participants were re-engaging, which is to be expected and natural. Bruce asked everyone who is new to the relicensing process to please refer to the process protocols and 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 if anyone has any changes to contact information please submit those changes to APC. APC wants to ensure that the appropriate stakeholders continue to receive all the relicensing information.

***Shoreline Management Plan***

Following the June 19<sup>th</sup> Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) meeting/workshop, APC has been working internally to compile and process stakeholders comments 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.

After some discussion by the group, Jim Copeland suggested that APC revise the SMP outline and present it for review at the upcoming meeting. Bruce agreed to look into it and at the very least present a summary of comments submitted.

***Draft Concept Design Plans***

APC staff have prepared and presented draft concept design plans for the Lay, Mitchell and Jordan-Bouldin Reservoirs. 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 now working to schedule meetings with and to gather comments from other key stakeholders including the Alabama Departments of Transportation and Conservation and Natural Resources. Based on discussions from APC's first meeting with these agencies, APC is preparing a document that summarizes the division of responsibilities and roles of each party in developing these sites. Additionally, APC is working to schedule meetings with affected counties and other local municipalities, which have yet to be

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

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, perhaps in early 2004 for additional review and approval. The IAGs will have numerous opportunities to provide feedback on the concept design plans.

Bill also informed the group that analyses are currently underway to determine the feasibility of recreation sites below the Jordan Dam and along the Bouldin Canal.

In response to a question by Bert Thaxton, Bill agreed to follow-up on the informal bank fishing site mentioned by Bob Ransom at the Lay Lake's last IAG meeting.

Joe Young expressed interest about a swimming area on the east side of the Jordan Reservoir. Joe and others also pointed out to group members that the Wetumpka Herald is running a series of news articles on the area's recreation facilities and opportunities.

***Downstream Flows below Jordan***

Barry was recently reminded by Tom Sherbourne that the issue of downstream flows, specifically test flows below the Jordan Reservoir, has not been discussed for some time. Barry reassured stakeholders that APC has not forgotten this issue and plans to pick it up again soon.

Lonnie Carden asked that IAG agendas better reflect the items they intend to discuss. Past Jordan-Bouldin agendas gave some stakeholders the impression that this issue would be discussed when it actually wasn't a planned part of the discussion.

***General Relicensing Schedule***

Bruce informed the IAG that overall, the participants in the relicensing process were making good progress on the relicensing issues 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 spring 2004.

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.

**Next Steps**

A Shoreline Management Plan meeting has been scheduled for the afternoon of September 17<sup>th</sup> in Birmingham. Prior to the SMP meeting, some ecological groups plan to meet to discuss ongoing issues. A formal announcement and any other pertinent materials will be distributed via electronic mail at least a week prior to the meeting.

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

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 Lower Coosa River group as well as Lay, Mitchell and Jordan-Bouldin 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**

Lay, Mitchell and Jordan/Bouldin Developments  
[www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro](http://www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro)

---

**Meeting Attendees**

Harlom Baker	APC	<a href="mailto:hbaker@southernco.com">hbaker@southernco.com</a>
Johan Beumer	TOLA	<a href="mailto:howschwa@bellsouth.net">howschwa@bellsouth.net</a>
Keith Bryant	APC	<a href="mailto:kebryant@southernco.com">kebryant@southernco.com</a>
Bill Campbell	EPRO	<a href="mailto:wcampbell@eproconsulting.com">wcampbell@eproconsulting.com</a>
Lonnie Carden	American Whitewater	<a href="mailto:knewton@bellsouth.net">knewton@bellsouth.net</a>
Chris Greene	ADCNR	<a href="mailto:cgreene@dcnr.state.al.us">cgreene@dcnr.state.al.us</a>
Don Greer	Logan Martin Lake Protection Association	<a href="mailto:dfgreer@aol.com">dfgreer@aol.com</a>
Viki Jenkins	APC	<a href="mailto:VRJenkin@southernco.com">VRJenkin@southernco.com</a>
George Jackins	Lake Mitchell HoBo	<a href="mailto:gjackins@aol.com">gjackins@aol.com</a>
Chuck Jensen	Lay Lake HoBo	<a href="mailto:kkerr50@hotmail.com">kkerr50@hotmail.com</a>
Barry Lovett	APC	<a href="mailto:BKLOVETT@southernco.com">BKLOVETT@southernco.com</a>
Dan Murchison	Lake Mitchell HoBo	<a href="mailto:danmurch@aol.com">danmurch@aol.com</a>
John Peconom	Kleinschmidt	<a href="mailto:John.Peconom@Kleinschmidtusa.com">John.Peconom@Kleinschmidtusa.com</a>
Bob Ransom	Lay Lake HoBo	<a href="mailto:tdg7249@bop.gov">tdg7249@bop.gov</a>
Heather Seiders	EPRO	<a href="mailto:hseiders@eproconsulting.com">hseiders@eproconsulting.com</a>
Sheila Smith	APC	<a href="mailto:SCSMITH@southernco.com">SCSMITH@southernco.com</a>
Woody Snell	Lake Jordan HoBo	
Dan Thompson	ADCNR	<a href="mailto:dthompson@dcnr.state.al.us">dthompson@dcnr.state.al.us</a>
Danny Tignor	APC	<a href="mailto:dgtignor@southernco.com">dgtignor@southernco.com</a>
Joe Young	Lake Jordan HoBo	<a href="mailto:pegyoung@earthlink.net">pegyoung@earthlink.net</a>

**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

**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 Lower 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 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 in the near term, but all recreation sites will be documented for future consideration.

**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 Talledega counties as well as several cities 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 of Conservation and Natural Resources (Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries) whose input is essential for the improvement of many of these sites. Their concurrence and partnership will be necessary 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

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

implementation partnerships where local entities will share in the operation and management of these improved recreation facilities. Police protection and trash/litter 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 list of reservoir site 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**

Lay Reservoir

- Stakeholders discussed some potential sites that were located on private lands and that had public sites very nearby.

Mitchell Reservoir

- A non-profit corporation is being formed by local interests to negotiate development at the old Boy Scout Camp.
- APC has acquired the “Big-foot” boat launch site which may be available as an alternative reservoir access to Higgins Ferry.

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

Jordan Bouldin Reservoir

- APC has proposed to provide a recreation platform within the Jordan Bouldin tailrace, but expressed some concern with opening the plant access road to recreational users.

**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 and until they are final, 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 Lower Coosa River group as well as Lay, Mitchell and Jordan Bouldin IAG materials are posted on the Internet at [www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro](http://www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro).