

Meeting Notes Summary: January 16, 2003

Coosa River Projects

www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Meeting Attendees

IAG Members

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

Other Meeting Attendees

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

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.

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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.

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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.

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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 22nd 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.

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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.

The next CR1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 meetings will be held on February 19th and 20th. 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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Lay, Mitchell and Jordan-Bouldin Developments

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Meeting Attendees

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

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

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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 19th 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 17th. 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

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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 17th 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.

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November 12th and 13th as well as December 10th and 11th 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.

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Lay, Mitchell and Jordan/Bouldin Developments
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Meeting Attendees

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

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 16th.
- 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

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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

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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.

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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.