

**Meeting Notes & Summary: Meeting, October 23, 2001
Coosa River Projects
www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro**

Meeting Attendees

IAG Members

Johan Beumer	Trail of Legends Association Inc.	howschwa@bellsouth.net
Bill Campbell	EPRO	wcampbell@eproconsulting.com
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Jim Howard	AL B.A.S.S. Fed.	alcondir@aol.com
Bob Huffaker	AL Marine Police	bhuffaker@dcnr.state.al.us
Barry Lovett	APC	BKLOVETT@southernco.com
Walter Ramey	APC	WRRAMEY@southernco.com
Dan Thompson	ADCNR	dthompson@dcnr.state.al.us

Other Meeting Attendees

Amy Bennett	Kleinschmidt	Amy.Bennett@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Bill Dykes	APC	WCDYKES@southernco.com
Tom Littlepage	AL Office of Water Resources	toml@adeca.state.al.us
Jim McHugh	ADCNR	jmchugh@dcnr.state.al.us
Sam Piccolo	Lake Mitchell HOBO	snpiccolo@mindspring.com
Shelia Smith	APC	SCSMITH@southernco.com

Action Items

The following action items were agreed upon by the CR 1, 3, 4 & 5 IAG and should be completed prior to the next IAG Meeting.

- APC: Distribute the final Vision Statement to all meeting attendees by November 3, 2001.
- All IAG Members: Prepare all comments and questions regarding the final vision statement for a conference call meeting on November 8, 2001 at 1PM.
- All IAG Members: Prepare to discuss Step 2 of the standard questions for the November 8th conference call.

Meeting Summary

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

The meeting began with individual introductions and notification that the Coosa RAT Meeting scheduled for December, 2001 was cancelled. This cancellation is due to financial challenges that APC, particularly this relicensing process, is confronting through the remainder of 2001. APC stressed that the IAGs will continue to meet over the next two months and maintain forward momentum, but meetings will be conducted in a highly efficient manner.

APC also explained that due to heightened security at this time, several recreation sites in close proximity to project features are closed. The time frame of these closure is currently unknown and APC will keep all stakeholders informed regarding their status.

The following agenda was reviewed and agreed upon for this meeting.

1. Introductions
2. IAG Update – including activity to date, changes to the workplan, and discussion of the data
3. Review Vision Statement
 - Proposed Boat Ramp (ADCNR)
 - Boy Scout Camp Area
4. Discuss Step 2 questions
5. Next steps

IAG Update

At this time, the IAG members and other meeting attendees were updated on the progress of the Mitchell CR1, 3, 4, & 5 IAG. The changes to the workplan were reviewed, including changes of several tasks to mirror those made for the other reservoirs and the additions of R3, 4, & 5 to this IAG. The workplan was agreed upon as final and will be distributed to all IAG members by November 3, 2001.

EPRO also provided attendees with a brief overview of the recreation inventory data. Due to the cancellation of the September field inspection, changes and comments to the Mitchell recreation data has not yet been incorporated into the database. A January field inspection has been scheduled to address this issue.

Review Vision Statement

The primary objective of this meeting was to finalize the Mitchell Vision Statement. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the vision for Mitchell Lake. Comments made at this time included: level of intensity of recreational use for the lake, motorized boating access, management of the lake for demand and ‘primitive’ uses, and general wordsmithing. All items expressed at this meeting were noted. Attendees input will be used to slightly modify the vision statement and will be included in future discussions.

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Discuss Step 2 questions

This agenda item was not discussed during this meeting. Step 2 questions will be discussed during the next IAG conference call. IAG members are encouraged to review these questions and be prepared for a discussion regarding these questions.

Next Steps

All CR 1, 3, 4 & 5 IAG Mitchell materials will be distributed to work group members via email prior to meetings and posted on the Internet at www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro.

The next CR 1, 3, 4 & 5 IAG meeting will be held on November 8th from 1PM to 2PM.

An operations meeting will be set up during late November or early December. This meeting will provide information on operation of the entire Coosa River and will include discussion of current operations.

Meeting Notes & Summary: Meeting, November 8, 2001
Coosa River Projects
www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Meeting Attendees

IAG Members

Johan Beumer	Trail of Legends Association Inc.	howschwa@bellsouth.net
Bill Campbell	EPRO	wcampbell@eproconsulting.com
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Jim Howard	AL B.A.S.S. Fed.	alcondir@aol.com
George Jackins	Lake Mitchell HOBO	gjackins@aol.com
Barry Lovett	APC	BKLOVETT@southernco.com
Walter Ramey	APC	WRRAMEY@southernco.com
Dan Thompson	ADCNR	dthompson@dcnr.state.al.us

Other Meeting Attendees

Amy Bennett	Kleinschmidt	Amy.Bennett@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Janet Hutzal	FERC	janet.hutzal@ferc.fed.us
Patti Leppert	FERC	patricia.leppert@ferc.fed.us
Joe Pender	Logan Martin Lake Association	jmpen1@juno.com
Shelia Smith	APC	SCSMITH@southernco.com
Joe Young	Lake Jordan HOBO	pegyoung@earthlink.net

Action Items

The following action items were agreed upon by the CR 1, 3, 4 & 5 IAG and should be completed prior to the next IAG Meeting.

- All IAG Members: Prepare to discuss the remaining Step 2 questions (Questions 11 through 14) at the next IAG conference call that is scheduled for November 29, 2001 at 9AM.
- Walter Ramey: Provide a brief summary regarding management issues, including areas of conflict, congestion, littering, trespassing, etc. at the November 29th conference call.

Meeting Summary

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

Meeting Notes & Summary: Meeting, November 8, 2001

This meeting began with participant introductions and review of the meeting summary for October 23, 2001. There were no comments on the October meeting summary. Therefore, the draft summary will be posted on the web as final.

In general all meeting attendees agreed on the vision statement with two minor comments. Several IAG members discussed and decided upon the second bullet reading as follows: "Consider the need for an additional public boat ramp to accommodate demands from the northern area, consistent with the vision statement." Also, the Lake Mitchell HOBOS suggested that the third bullet include reference to potential facilities for environmental education and a conference center at the old Boy Scout Camp. There was a brief discussion regarding the inclusion of the old Boy Scout Camp facilities on the vision statement. IAG Members decided to include reference to this facility, as requested, in the third bullet. These comments will be reflected in the final vision statement.

After discussion of the vision statement, the IAG Members briefly discussed Step 2 questions of the standard process. It was explained that currently questions 6, 7, 8 and 10 are being addressed by APC through their work on the recreational inventory and the ACT use levels and projected future demand statistics. At this time the group decided to address question 9 as follows:

9. Are there known management issues associated with use?
 - a. Are there areas of congestion, and if so where?
 - There is parking and launching congestion at Higgins Ferry,
 - There is minimal congestion on the remainder of the lake.
 - b. Are there known conflicts between users, and if so where and when?
 - There is a conflict at Higgins Ferry between the church and Higgins Ferry boat launch.
 - c. Are there other known management issues, such as littering, trespassing, etc?
 - Littering was perceived to be an issue in general, but is greatly mitigated by large clean-up efforts.
 - There is a chronic littering problem at the Pennymotley Creek boat launch.

Next Steps

All CR 1, 3, 4 & 5 IAG Mitchell materials will be distributed to work group members via email prior to meetings and posted on the Internet at www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro.

The next CR 1, 3, 4 & 5 IAG meeting will be held on November 29th from 9AM to 10AM.

Issue Action Group: CR 1, 3, 4, & 5 Mitchell

Meeting Notes & Summary: Meeting, November 8, 2001

As a reminder, a field investigation is scheduled for January 2002. This investigation will include a visit to sites commented on by IAG members and an inventory of sites that were not previously recorded. All members of the IAGs will have the opportunity to participate in the field investigation and/or provide comments.

**Meeting Notes & Summary: Meeting, November 29, 2001
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Meeting Attendees

IAG Members

Bill Campbell	EPRO	wcampbell@eproconsulting.com
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Jim Howard	AL B.A.S.S. Fed.	alcondir@aol.com
George Jackins	Lake Mitchell HOBO	gjackins@aol.com
Barry Lovett	APC	BKLOVETT@southernco.com
Dan Thompson	ADCNR	dthompson@dcnr.state.al.us
Joe Pender	Logan Martin Lake Association	jmpen1@juno.com
Joe Young	Lake Jordan HOBO	pegyoung@earthlink.net

Other Meeting Attendees

Janet Hutzal	FERC	janet.hutzal@ferc.fed.us
Patti Leppert	FERC	patricia.leppert@ferc.fed.us
Shelia Smith	APC	SCSMITH@southernco.com

Action Items

The following action items were agreed upon by the CR 1, 3, 4 & 5 IAG and should be completed prior to the next IAG Meeting.

- Walter Ramey: Provide a brief summary regarding management issues, including areas of conflict, congestion, littering, trespassing, etc. – January 2001 meeting.
- Barry Lovett: Notify all IAG members for the date and time of any meeting with the State to discuss existing goals for the Coosa Wildlife Management Area and consistency with recreation use (likely the week of Jan 14).
- Barry Lovett: Notify all IAG members for the date and time of planned field activities at Mitchell to refine the recreation site inventory.

Meeting Notes & Summary: Meeting, November 29, 2001

Meeting Summary

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

This meeting began with participant introductions and a brief reminder of the operating procedures for dealing with the media. All members agreed to follow these procedures for any future correspondence with the media. The meeting summary for November 8, 2001 was reviewed. There were no comments on the November meeting summary. Therefore, the draft summary will be posted on the web as final. However, there was one minor wording change to the vision statement. It was recommended that in the 2nd and 3rd bullet of the vision statement, the verb “consider” should be changed to “examine”.

The group discussed the conflict and congestion at Higgins Ferry that was identified at the Nov. 8 meeting and elaborated on the details of the situation. The church conducts approximately 40-minute services at 8:30 AM on Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Although conflict is not a common occurrence, there are approximately 2 to 3 instances per year when there are services and a fishing tournament occurring at the same time. While individuals participating in the fishing tournaments are usually already in the water well before 8:30, the heavy use ties up much of the parking and creates difficulty for other users arriving later. In addition, some of the church goers take up parking spaces, which adds to the congestion problem (though many of the church goers travel by boat to the services). It was noted that congestion at Higgins Ferry is not only when there are tournaments. Congestion has been observed by APC recently even when there are not tournaments. This includes congestion in the parking lot, at the boat tie down areas (as boaters launch and take out), and potential conflicts with the swimming area.

The discussion then moved to Step 2, Questions 11 through 14 of the standard process. The questions were addressed as follows:

11. Identify current local benefits from recreation and any local detriments.
 - The IAG decided that this question was aimed primarily at commercial activity, and that it was not something that needed to be specifically addressed at Mitchell.
12. Identify information on specific public safety issues.
 - Jet skis have been noted as a public safety issue in previous meetings, but the IAG acknowledges that this is primarily a State law enforcement issue.
 - The IAG decided that there were no major existing safety issues relative to recreation on the lake. There is currently less than one accident per year on the lake.
13. Identify specific shoreline problems.

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- Currently there are no major shoreline problems with either permitting or use on Mitchell Lake.
 - Future discussions at other impoundments may focus on the permitting program in general.
 - Potential seasonal sensitive resource concerns include habitat for eagles, walleye and mussels. Habitat areas include Hatchet and Weogufka Creeks. There is limited access to these areas, but there are still some use areas. These shoreline problems will most likely be dealt with in coordination with an ecological IAG.
14. Are there existing public lands immediately adjacent to the project (within 200 feet of the FERC boundary) that offer, or might offer, recreation opportunities?
- The IAG needs to work with the state on “acceptable” use and wildlife management goals. The IAG will meet with the state and review the goals during the week of January 14th.
 - For clarification: the Boy Scout Camp is on APC land and Higgins Ferry is on APC land, but is leased to the state and county.
 - The IAG agreed that more detailed information on APC lands in the FERC boundary would only be needed if there was interest in a particular area or site. Most of the lands owned by APC in the FERC boundary are owned in fee title.

Next Steps

All CR 1, 3, 4 & 5 IAG Mitchell materials will be distributed to work group members via email prior to meetings and posted on the Internet at www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro.

The next CR 1, 3, 4 & 5 IAG meeting will be held in late January. The specific time and place are to be announced.

As a reminder, a field investigation is scheduled for January 2002. This investigation will include a visit to sites commented on by IAG members and an inventory of sites that were not previously recorded. All members of the IAGs will have the opportunity to participate in the field investigation and/or provide comments.