

## RECREATION MEETING – FACILITIES

### Meeting Summary: APC Headquarters - Birmingham, Alabama May 5, 2004

Final 05-26-04

#### Warrior and Coosa Relicensing Projects

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#### List of Attendees

Attendee	Organization	Attendee	Organization
Jim Beason	Smith Lake Civic Association	Don Greer	Logan Martin Lake Protection Association
Hap Bryant	Neely Henry Lake Association	David Haynes	City of Wetumpka
Keith Bryant	Alabama Power	Chuck Jensen	Lay Lake HOBO
Bill Campbell	E/Pro Consulting	Steve Jones	Alabama Power
Lonnie Carden	Coosa River Paddling Club, American Whitewater, Southern Trails	Barry Lovett	Alabama Power
Dan Catchings	ADCNR	Bill O'Brien	Weiss Lake Improvement Association
Stan Cook	ADCNR	John Peconom	Kleinschmidt
Jim Copeland	Neely Henry Lake Association	Sam Piccolo	Lake Mitchell HOBO
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	Chuck Shirah	Alabama Power
Bill Dillahunt	Alabama Power	Sheila Smith	Alabama Power
Keith Floyd	ADCNR	Dan Thompson	ADCNR
Valerie Garner	Alabama Power	Joe Young	Lake Jordan HOBO

#### Action Items

- Review the Recreation Plan Outline and implementation strategy and provide comments to Barry Lovett.  
All Stakeholders Due –May 28, 2004
- Send any comments regarding completed and remaining recreation issues to Barry Lovett.  
All Stakeholders Due –May 28, 2004

#### Meeting Notes

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

#### **Introduction and Overview**

Barry Lovett thanked all the stakeholders for their continued participation in this process, especially those who have attended the numerous meetings that have been held since this process began. Barry also informed everyone that one of the purposes of this meeting was to “report-out” on the large amount of work that has been conducted over the past 2 + years to address recreational needs on the Warrior and Coosa Project reservoirs. In addition to thanking everyone

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involved in this process, Barry stated that this was not a final meeting in the process, but a meeting to help transition from the planning to implementation phase of the process.

After a quick round of introductions, Bruce DiGennaro restated the meeting's goals which were to finalize the initial recreation facilities plan and to review upcoming relicensing activities.

#### Concept Design Process Review

Bill Campbell reminded stakeholders about the steps and the process used by the IAGs to develop the Recreation Facilities Prioritization Schedule that was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. Bill identified and walked through several steps in this process including the recreation inventory, recreation use data collection and analysis, consultation regarding recreation needs, field analyses, and concept planning and consultation. Bill also emphasized several points about this process including the many opportunities the IAGs have had to review and comment on this information, the documentation of all stakeholder meetings, the storage of all data and plans in a GIS database, the use of existing recreational information (including FERC Form 80s), the methods used to prioritize site improvements and the importance placed on local participation including the in depth consultation with the appropriate cities, counties and state agencies.

A draft Recreation Plan documenting the recreation inventory and concept design process, including all the associated consultation will be made available for IAG and public review prior to submission to FERC.

The Recreation Facilities Prioritization Schedule is aggressive (tentative implementation dates are scheduled significantly earlier than would otherwise be required by FERC) and front loaded so that each reservoir experiences some improvement relatively quickly. The schedule is also dynamic, meaning that it is very likely to change. Because of the many variables, some sites may be improved faster than initially scheduled and the implementation of other improvements may be delayed; some improvements may be added, and others dropped. The reasoning/justification for changes will be documented and discussed.

Representatives from the Neely Henry Lake Association suggested that thought be given to some public relations/outreach activity at some point to make the broader public aware of at least the next couple of years of proposed recreation improvements. This could be done in a variety of ways over the course of the next six months or so.

Representatives from the Coosa Paddling Club expressed concern about the proposed scheduling of public access at the old Fish Camp below Jordan Dam. There is concern that this additional access is needed soon to minimize conflicts at the existing boat launch below the dam. APC agreed to discuss this specific concern and the rationale for not making this site a high priority with the paddling club in a separate venue outside today's meeting.

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Aside from the scheduling concern noted above, no concerns were voiced regarding the proposed prioritization schedule and meeting participants generally expressed support for the process and the product.

#### **Recreation Plan and Adaptive Management**

##### *Recreation Plan*

Bill Campbell explained that the Recreation Plan, which will be a part of the license application, is a record of how recreation improvements were addressed in the relicensing process. Also, Bill discussed that the plan would be amendable annually, with implementation and consultation documentation included in the continuing Recreation Report that will be available for review annually by key consultation stakeholders, with all yearly amendments being submitted to FERC every six years (during the FERC Form 80 review year). After reviewing the outline of the Recreation Plan, APC asked that any comments be sent to Barry Lovett by May 28, 2004.

##### *Adaptive Management*

One aspect of the recreation plan that was described in additional detail was its ability to be flexible. Due to several dynamic factors including changing demand, budgets and priorities, the recreation plan outlines opportunities for annual consultation that will help key stakeholders determine the following years' schedule and scope of improvements. Specifically, the recreation plan anticipates annual consultation (likely in the fall), beginning in 2004, to discuss and finalize proposed improvements for the coming year.

One stakeholder noted that fall consultation may conflict with local elections, but the group agreed that the fall was the best time to review upcoming plans and confirm commitments and that interested parties would do the best they could to work with/around local elections.

In addition to the annual consultation, the recreation plan also outlines a reoccurring six-year consultation (concurrent with the FERC Form 80 cycle) that will allow stakeholders to take a more in depth look at recreation improvements. Instead of focusing on one year's improvements, the six-year meeting will take a larger look at recreation improvements. ADCNR recommended that APC consider broader public input and outreach as part of the more detailed review every six years and that some thought be given to the process that would be used for these more in-depth reviews.

#### **Upcoming Activities and Schedule for Completion**

Bruce Digennaro briefly discussed several upcoming meetings and activities and informed the group that because of all the progress that has been made on recreation issues, APC

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does not anticipate the recreation IAGs holding very many meetings over the next several months.

#### *Upcoming Meetings*

A plenary meeting has tentatively been scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessments.

The Draft Recreation Plan should be ready for stakeholder review this fall.

The Draft License Applications and Preliminary Draft Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessments should be available for review later this year.

The Final License Applications and Draft Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessments are due to FERC in June 2005.

#### *Remaining Issues*

Several “completed” and “remaining” recreation issues were discussed with the group. Completed issues have been addressed through some type of formal resolution statement; and remaining issues have not been fully addressed and do not have any type of resolution. Completed issues include: recreation facility improvements, public safety, woody debris, lake clean-up, Smith-styrofoam, Neely Henry daily fluctuation, and Weiss and Logan Martin sedimentation. Remaining issues included: Weiss and Logan Martin rule curve requests, O’hatchee recreation facility erosion, Smith tailrace access (north of Birmingham Water Board’s pumping house), Bouldin recreation access, Jordan daily fluctuations, Jordan maintenance drawdown, Jordan downstream recreation flows and US Forest Service lands issues (Smith).

Barry Lovett informed stakeholders that he expects resolution on several of the remaining issues over the next few weeks. Barry also asked that any comments on these issues be sent to him.

Representatives of the Neely Henry Lake Association indicated that they have concerns regarding the channel marking and woody debris issues on that reservoir and agreed to provide written comments to APC for incorporation into the record. Joe Young also suggested that the circular access road portion of suggested improvements for Site 4 (Bonner's Landing) on the Jordan reservoir be removed from consideration as part of the proposed recreation site improvements because the site is not practical. APC responded that this portion of the suggested improvements may be removed in the future (in fact the current plan is to widen the existing access road to more readily accommodated two-way vehicular traffic), but at this point no suggested improvements have been removed from the plan. In all likelihood after proposed improvements are finalized (with the state and county) for Bonners this item will be removed from the facilities list.

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#### **Other Discussions**

In reply to a stakeholder question, APC requested that anyone who wished to discuss this information with the news media to please remember the relicensing process communication protocol established in 2001 and to please work with APC on press releases and related news articles. APC asked that stakeholders consider that there are on-going discussions relative to the proposed recreation improvements and any media attention may disrupt these discussions.

#### **Conclusion**

These meeting notes as well as all other recreation related materials are posted on the internet at [www.southerncompany.com/alpower](http://www.southerncompany.com/alpower). County meeting notes will also be posted to the internet after they are finalized.