

Meeting Notes Summary: January 14, 2003

Warrior River

www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Meeting Attendees

IAG Members

Jim Beason	Smith Lake Civic Association	Beasonjimdot@aol.com
Deb Berry	Smith Lake Env. Preservation Committee	debcberry@aol.com
Bill Campbell	EPRO	wcampbell@eproconsulting.com
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	Bruce.DiGennaro@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Jim Howard	AL B.A.S.S. Federation	bassnbuddy@aol.com
Barry Lovett	APC	BKLOVETT@southernco.com

Other Meeting Attendees

Amy Bennett	Kleinschmidt	Amy.Bennett@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Jason Redmond	APC	HJRedmon@southernco.com
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	Kelly.Scaheffer@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Heather Seiders	EPRO	hseiders@eproconsulting.com

Action Items

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

- Barry Lovett: Delete any reference to the Warrior River and Smith Lake in the Woody Debris recommendation.
- Barry Lovett: Add woody debris and Styrofoam as agenda items for a future Smith IAG meeting.
- Barry Lovett: Present the Lake Clean-Up recommendation to the WCRT at next week's meeting.

Meeting Notes

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

Introduction and Review

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

Issue Action Group: Smith

Meeting Notes Summary: January 14, 2003

Ongoing Work

Barry Lovett indicated that work has and will continue to be conducted to address issues raised in the Smith IAG, even if the group is 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 the Smith IAG, 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 IAG will be presented with the concept designs for Smith Lake this spring.

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

Barry also updated the Smith IAG on the progress of the WR9 issues and meetings with the USFS. APC and the USFS are working together to coordinate recreation issues on the Warrior River. The USFS expects to be more active in relicensing this year.

2003 Work

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

Differences between Warrior River and Coosa River Issues

Several stakeholders stated that in order to increase efficiency and resolve issues on Smith Lake, APC and the IAG need to more clearly define and separate the Warrior River and Coosa River issues. All meeting attendees agreed that the relicensing process may be at a juncture that more separation is warranted.

Recommendations

The Smith IAG has 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 Coosa Coalitions' comments regarding these issues, specifically utilizing language that was provided to revise the recommendations.

Issue Action Group: Smith

Meeting Notes Summary: January 14, 2003

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 discussed that woody debris, as outlined in this recommendation, was not an issue for Smith Lake. Smith Lake is the headwaters of the Warrior River system and woody debris, as outlined in this recommendation, is not an issue. However, several stakeholders noted that woody debris in the reservoir may cause property damage during flood conditions and acknowledged that Styrofoam is a greater concern on Smith Lake. The Smith IAG will discuss these two issues at a future IAG meeting and Barry noted that the Styrofoam issue should be addressed in conjunction with the R6 Shoreline Management issue.

Therefore, the IAG recommended that all references to the Warrior River and the Smith Lake be removed from the document. The facilitator acknowledged this unanimous agreement and stated that the woody debris recommendation would not be presented to the WCRT.

Lake Clean Up

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

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

Meeting attendees had no comments, questions or concerns regarding the lake clean-up recommendation and 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. Several stakeholders also noted that volunteer participation is very important to the success of this effort.

Issue Action Group: Smith

Meeting Notes Summary: January 14, 2003

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.

Next Steps

All WR1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 IAG materials will be distributed to IAG members prior to meetings and posted on the Internet at www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro.

The next WR1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 meeting will be held on February 19th or 20th. APC will contact the IAG once the meeting specifics have been determined. During the February meeting, 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 19, 2003

Warrior River Projects

www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Meeting Attendees

IAG Members

Jim Beason	Smith Lake Civic Association	jimdot5@netzero.net
Deb Berry	Smith Lake Environmental Pres. Com.	debcberry@aol.com
Bill Campbell	EPRO	wcampbell@eproconsulting.com
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Keith Floyd	ADCNR	kbfloyd@hiwaay.net
Jim Howard	Alabama B.A.S.S. Federation	alcondir@aol.com
Barry Lovett	APC	BKLOVETT@southernco.com
Walter Ramey	APC	WRRAMEY@southernco.com
Stephanie White	APC	SKWHITE@southernco.com

Other Meeting Attendees

Rick Allums	APC	
Amy Bennett	Kleinschmidt	Amy.Bennett@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Keith Bryant	APC	kebryant@southernco.com
Bill Dillahunty	APC	wrdillah@southernco.com
Jim Hancock	Balch & Bingham	JHANCOCK@balch.com
Viki Jenkins	APC	VRJenkin@southernco.com
Kelly Johnston		
Russell Oliver	Alabama Water Watch	
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	Kelly.Schaeffer@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Heather Seiders	EPRO	hseiders@eproconsulting.com
Sheila Smith	APC	SCSMITH@southernco.com
Dana Valleau	EPRO	dvalleau@eproconsulting.com

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.
- Barry Lovett: Develop a list of all outstanding recreation issues for the Smith IAG.
- IAG Members: Provide comments on the January 14, 2003 Meeting Summary to Barry Lovett by March 28, 2003.
- Barry Lovett: Revise the shoreline management document to incorporate Deb Berry's changes. Redistribute this document to the IAG.
- IAG Members: Review the shoreline management maps and provide comments to APC.

Issue Action Group: Smith IAG

Meeting Notes Summary: March 19, 2003

- EPRO: Determine if aerial photography is available along the Black Warrior River to the Holt Lock and Dam.

Meeting Notes

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

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
- IAG Updates
- Discuss R6 – Shoreline Development Issues
- Review Shoreline Management Plan Maps
- Next Steps

After review of the agenda, APC discussed the format of the meeting and briefly reviewed the formal IAG procedures (as outlined in the Operating Procedures). APC stated that, particularly during larger meetings, formal meeting procedures will be followed. Several procedures were outlined as follows: IAG members will be situated around the table; tent cards will be placed on the table for each IAG member; non-IAG members will be asked to sit in designated seating; and non-IAG members will be provided with time to speak at the end of each discussion/meeting. APC also pointed out that the IAG's discussions regarding the preliminary draft concept designs are relatively sensitive and all IAG members should be aware of and follow the communications protocol when sharing this information with the public.

APC also stated that this meeting will provide the Smith IAG members with separation from the Coosa River issues. The IAG members appreciated the goals of this meeting and encouraged APC to continue separating the Warrior and Coosa relicensing meetings, when applicable.

IAG Updates

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

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

Issue Action Group: Smith IAG

Meeting Notes Summary: March 19, 2003

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

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

Bruce also explained that the Smith IAG will address some R6 Shoreline Development issues in the context of this IAG.

Other IAG updates include the following:

- **United States Forest Service** - APC and the USFS have been involved in resource discussions both in this IAG and in other meeting forums. There are specific federal land management discussions taking place between APC and the USFS. Some of the USFS issues parallel or overlap with the Smith IAG's issues and will eventually be incorporated into this IAG's efforts. APC will continue to provide updates regarding the progress of the USFS issues to the Smith IAG.
- **Concept Designs** - At this time, APC informed the IAG that the concept designs were not yet completed for Smith Lake. Upon completion, APC will schedule meetings to further discuss potential recreation improvements.
- **January 14, 2003 Meeting Summary** - Comments on the January 14, 2003 Meeting Summary should be sent to Barry Lovett by March 28th.
- **Woody Debris** – Deb Berry stated that the stakeholders from Bankhead should be consulted before deleting the reference to the Warrior River in the Woody Debris Recommendation.
- **Safety and Security** - Officials at FERC are trying to revamp their dam safety program and formulate a new security plan. APC will inform this IAG of any new developments during future IAG meetings.
- **Walker County Park** - The Walker County Commission is still interested in a park with a picnic area, swimming access, and a pavilion (no launch area). In regards to this site, APC has property north of the forebay, but there are security and demand issues that need to be addressed before the potential for a park is pursued.

At this time, Barry Lovett reviewed a similar situation that is currently being evaluated at Mitchell Lake on the Coosa River. Barry briefly explained that the Mitchell HOBOS developed a proposal for a recreation area at an "Old Boy Scout Camp" that included a management vision for the site and a details regarding a cooperative approach to development and long term management. In this proposal, APC would commit to providing initial infrastructure improvements and the HOBOS would cover the remaining improvements/developments and would operate and maintain the site in the future. This recreation improvement on the Coosa, spearheaded by a HOBOS, could serve as a model for stakeholder cooperation on Smith Lake. APC mentioned that if stakeholders on Smith were interested in a similar approach for the aforementioned park site (or other

Issue Action Group: Smith IAG

Meeting Notes Summary: March 19, 2003

sites) then the stakeholders should prepare a written proposal. APC offered to assist stakeholders in the preparation of a proposal for recreation sites.

The IAG members also suggested that properties could be set aside for recreation purposes for potential future use, if deemed appropriate.

- The IAG agreed to discuss this potential improvement further during the concept plan meeting.

Discuss R6 – Shoreline Development Issues

APC explained that shoreline development/management encompasses both recreation and ecological issues. Therefore, the majority of the discussion for R6 will need to take place with representatives from recreation and ecological IAGs. APC will plan a joint ecological and recreation, Warrior specific, meeting that will begin to focus on shoreline management goals, objectives and policies.

In order to address several issues, the IAG agreed to hold preliminary discussions.

Styrofoam Litter

The IAG raised the issue of styrofoam litter and its associated problems (clean up, appearance, safety, property damage, etc.) in previous meetings. The IAG members asked that this issue be a priority in the shoreline management plan. The following summarizes the styrofoam discussion:

- The Smith Lake Civic Association stated, that with support from the County and APC, it has removed and disposed of 150 tons of styrofoam from the lake. The Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee also stated that it removes and disposes of styrofoam from the lake.
- Styrofoam litter typically results from deteriorating docks that are improperly managed/disposed.
- Approximately 60-70% of existing docks use styrofoam. However, styrofoam is slowly being phased out which should result in a decrease in the amount of styrofoam litter on the lake.
- Styrofoam becomes water logged after extensive periods in the water and becomes very heavy.
- There was a brief discussion about proper disposal and options for disposal of the styrofoam.
- Styrofoam can be classified as a shoreline management, public safety and aesthetic issue.
- The IAG discussed potential management actions to address this issue including, construction standards and increased enforcement.

Other

- Jim Howard stated that objectives for the Shoreline Management Plan need to be defined before specific issues can be discussed. A Shoreline Management Plan should establish policies regarding the use of the shoreline.
- Erosion, water quality, and terrestrial and aquatic habitat need to be investigated in R6.

Issue Action Group: Smith IAG

Meeting Notes Summary: March 19, 2003

- The IAG suggested that a joint ecological and recreation meeting be held to address specific R6 issues related to Smith Lake. This group could serve as a pilot R6 IAG for the Coosa River system. The IAG will need to define policies, develop objectives and goals, and determine how to implement the policies to address the issues.
- APC will revise the shoreline management plan documents to reflect Deb Berry's comments.

Review Shoreline Management Plan Maps

The IAG reviewed draft maps of Smith Lake (including aerial overlays and USFS lands) depicting the existing conditions, the FERC project boundary (+500-feet), the Bankhead National Forest, land classifications and other project related resources (recreation sites, wetlands). The goal of reviewing these maps was to update the IAG on progress of the R6 issue and discuss means for IAG members to provide feedback on these maps. The IAG decided that the maps need to be reviewed by individuals who have specific knowledge of recreation and ecological issues on Smith Lake. The IAG suggested that individuals familiar with various sections of the lake should review those maps, instead of distributing all of the maps to all of the IAG members.

Therefore, the overview maps will be made available to all IAG members. APC will house several sets of the specific maps at the Stephanie White's office at Smith Dam and at Barry Lovett's office at APC Headquarters in Birmingham. IAG members can contact either Stephanie or Barry to review the maps and are encouraged to do so.

Additional items discussed during this portion of the meeting include:

- After going over the land classification system, the IAG discussed several aspects of USFS land management and ownership. APC explained that it does not own the lake bed within the USFS boundaries, but has a special use permit to flood USFS lands.
- APC explained that it does not have maps or data beyond Smith Lake area. Aerial photographs may be available down to Holt Lock and Dam. EPRO will follow up on this item and report findings back to the IAG.
- There are two basic purposes for the photographs: 1) they are the basis for developing the overview map and 2) the aerial photos can be magnified to investigate on one specific.
- EPRO explained specific nuances regarding the Smith maps.
- EPRO explained that T&E habitat and cultural resource sites are not included on the map due to the sensitive nature of the resources.

Next Steps

All WR1, 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

Issue Action Group: Smith IAG

Meeting Notes Summary: March 19, 2003

The next Smith IAG meeting will be held during the week of May 5th. The primary focus of this meeting will be to discuss specific R6 issues relating to Smith Lake. APC will contact all IAG members to establish a conference call to further discuss these issues.

Meeting Notes Summary: August 26, 2003

Warrior River Project

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Meeting Attendees

IAG Members

Jim Beason	Smith Lake Civic Association	Beasonjimdot@aol.com
Deb Berry	Smith Lake Env. Preservation Committee	debcberry@aol.com
Bill Campbell	EPRO	wcampbell@eproconsulting.com
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Barry Lovett	APC	BKLOVETT@southernco.com
Sheila Smith	APC	SCSMITH@southernco.com

Other Meeting Attendees

Keith Bryant	APC	kebryant@southernco.com
Jamie Freeman		jamfree@bellsouth.net
John Peconom	Kleinschmidt	John.Peconom@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	Kelly.Schaeffer@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Heather Seiders	EPRO	hseiders@eproconsulting.com

Action Items

The following action items were agreed upon by the IAG:

- Barry Lovett: Follow up with Jamie Freeman re: recreation facilities proposal.
- APC Staff: Finalize and distribute agenda for the next IAG Meeting – October 1, 2003
- APC Staff: Present Draft Concept Design Plans at the next IAG meeting - October 1, 2003.
- 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

It has been several months since this IAG last met. In that time a significant amount of work has been done “behind-the-scenes”. The goal of this meeting was to provide IAG members with a brief, 20-30 minute update of what APC has been doing since they last met.

Issue Action Group: Smith IAG

Meeting Notes Summary: August 26, 2003

New Relicensing Participants

Bruce DiGennaro commented that new participants, representing agencies as well as some of the local and homeowner groups were now participating in the process. Bruce asked that if participants find themselves working with someone who is new to the relicensing process to please refer them to the process protocols and encourage them to review past meeting notes and other 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 moving forward and progressing on the issues. A lot of hard work has already been put into the process and everyone wants to make sure that this hard work comes to successful fruition.

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. These comments will be presented at the next SMP meeting/workshop, 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. Bruce suggested and stakeholders agreed that during the "break-out" session, Smith Lake stakeholders could gather and discuss specific shoreline management issues that may potentially be included in the separate Smith SMP that is being prepared.

Draft Concept Design Plans

APC staff have been preparing draft concept design plans to present to the IAG at its next meeting in October. Bill Campbell informed the IAG that APC has been evaluating both upstream and downstream recreation access points. As a result of further investigation and discussions with key stakeholders, APC has eliminated some sites and has been able to focus more on others. After the IAG's initial review of the draft concept design plans at the upcoming October meeting, APC will incorporate stakeholder comments and then begin working with local entities and municipal governments (cities and counties) to gauge their interest and support for these efforts. The IAG will be given numerous opportunities to provide input on all versions of the concept design plans.

General Relicensing Schedule

Bruce informed the IAG that overall the relicensing process was making good progress. 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.

Issue Action Group: Smith IAG

Meeting Notes Summary: August 26, 2003

Questions & Answers / General Discussion

Barry Lovett, on behalf of APC, thanked Jim Beason and Deb Berry for their continued contributions to this relicensing process. .

Jaime Freeman has approached APC with some preliminary ideas on how to potentially develop a recreation area in Walker County. Jim Beason, who also was familiar with Jaime's efforts, briefly shared with the IAG his understanding that Jaime's proposals will revolve primarily around developing hiking and off highway vehicle (OHV) trails. APC will review the information Jaime will provide and determine its feasibility, including whether or not it would be an appropriate use of FERC hydro project lands. APC is looking forward to learning more about this proposal and the resources available to support it.

Mack Thomas is APC's new land management and permitting representative responsible for Smith Lake. He is currently working with Charles Mauldin and will be replacing him full-time in the very near future.

APC reiterated their willingness to work with Smith stakeholders on resolving issues related to abandoned docks, specifically the styrofoam that pollutes the lakes. Deb Berry suggested that revisions to the lake's permitting program could address this issue and create some solutions.

November 12th and 13th have been set aside as possible relicensing meeting dates, however these dates are subject to change.

Next Steps

The next Smith Reservoir IAG Meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2003. A formal announcement, along with an agenda and any other pertinent materials will be distributed via electronic mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

All Smith Reservoir IAG materials will be distributed to IAGs members prior to meetings and posted on the Internet at www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro.

**Meeting Notes Summary: October 01, 2003
APC – Headquarters, Birmingham**

Warrior River Projects

www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Meeting Attendees

IAG Members

Jim Beason	Smith Lake Civic Association	Beasonjimdot@aol.com
Deb Berry	Smith Lake Env. Preservation Committee	debcberry@aol.com
Bill Campbell	EPRO	wcampbell@eproconsulting.com
Keith Floyd	ADCNR	kbfloyd@hiwaay.net
Jim Howard	B.A.S.S.	alcondir@aol.com
Barry Lovett	APC	BKLOVETT@southernco.com

Other Meeting Attendees

Rick Allums	APC	rkallums@southernco.com
Keith Bryant	APC	kebryant@southernco.com
Bill Dillahunt	APC	WRDILLAH@southernco.com
Viki Jenkins	APC	vrjenkin@southernco.com
John Peconom	Kleinschmidt	john.peconom@kleinschmidtusa.com
Len Simmons	APC	lfsimmon@southernco.com

Action Items

- Prepare meeting notes and distribute to the IAG.
Barry Lovett Due – October 17, 2003

Meeting Notes

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

Introduction

Barry thanked Jim Beason and Deb Berry for their continued participation in this process, noting that their contributions have really been appreciated especially as new participants have joined the process.

The purpose of this meeting, which was similar to other meetings that have been held on other Project reservoirs, was for APC staff to report on their efforts to determine the feasibility of enhancing existing recreation sites around the Smith Reservoir, and to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide input and suggestions on these potential recreation enhancements. This meeting did not focus on any federal lands; APC is engaged in an ongoing dialogue with the Forest Service to address their issues. After processing the IAG's comments on the concept

Issue Action Group: SMITH IAG

Meeting Notes Summary: October 01, 2003 APC – Headquarters, Birmingham

designs, APC will act as the IAG's agent and consult with the appropriate state and local agencies/governments to discuss potential partnerships and other planning efforts. APC has found that successful projects depend on local community support. In order to ensure that there is sufficient local support to proceed with some of these potential enhancements, APC will meet with local entities to determine their interest and willingness to participate in this process. APC will then report back to the IAG on the outcome of these consultations.

Jamie Freeman's Development Plans

The IAG briefly discussed Jamie Freeman's proposed Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation plans and agreed that a lot of discussion still needs to take place. APC informed the IAG that a proposal of this type would require considerable scrutiny and consideration and that this type of project is not usually associated with hydroelectric relicensings.

Draft Concept Design Plans

These draft concept design plans are based on field assessments of existing APC and state recreation facilities as well as initial design work completed by APC staff, and do not include commercial or residential facilities.

Concept design plans not acted upon at this time will be kept on file and may be reconsidered as a part of FERC's Form 80 process.

Draft Concept Design Plans Presentation

A total of eight draft concept design plans were presented. Each plan generally included a brief discussion of the site's existing conditions as well as suggested improvements.

Site 3 Boat Launch on Sipsey Fork just below 278

Potential enhancements to this existing site are being put forth by Winston County whose engineer is currently working on developing additional details. Improvements at this site include additional lands for parking and a realignment of the state-leased boat ramp. Stakeholders, the State in particular, expressed some concerns about purchasing lands for additional parking; they stated that any additional parking should be explicitly used for this site and not for adjacent commercial facilities.

Site 16 on Brushy Creek

This existing unimproved boat launch on Forest Service property has been identified as a potential low water access site. APC, the state and the county proposed a joint effort to improve the site to enhance public access. The Forest Service has expressed public safety concerns associated with the site and have declined to allow the site to be improved

Issue Action Group: SMITH IAG

Meeting Notes Summary: October 01, 2003 APC – Headquarters, Birmingham

Site 40

This existing boat ramp located immediately above the dam has been characterized as one of the most important boat launches in the area. Potential improvements to this site include a new ramp (primarily to improve low water accessibility) and a courtesy dock.. There is a lot of potential to expand parking, but any expansion will need to be consistent with demand. APC also expressed some concern about the site's proximity to the dam and how security issues may affect the site in the future.

Site 48

This is a boat launch facility located in Cullman County at Ryan's Creek. This site was characterized as large and well kept. It was also noted that the site had recently been improved to make it more ADA accessible (a new courtesy pedestrian ramp and dock has been installed by the state). Potential improvements at this site include a parking realignment that could yield up to 35% additional parking, a new bank fishing platform, and possible fish habitat modifications. Parking improvements would be phased in and balanced with boat ramp use, since ramps are often a bottleneck for resource users. Stakeholders indicated that there were some capacity issues at this site and that this might be a good site for the phased approach with improvements being made as needed and demanded by use figures.

Site 49

Potential improvements to this spring/summer fishing site which is adjacent to a local county park include, additional bank fishing, parking and road modifications.

Site 76

This site used for bank fishing and swimming, is located on Forest Service property across the bridge from the unimproved Brushy Creek boat ramp. Since the Forest Service's public safety concerns for the site across the bridge (Site 16, Brushy Creek Boat Launch) is related to the public highway (speed, sight distance, highway entrance hazard) APC has determined that the same conditions apply to this site and have suggested that site improvements not be pursued.

Site on Brushy Creek at 278 Bridge

This site was proposed for consideration by the Forest Service. This site may be located on ALDOT land. Due to public safety concerns related to roadside visibility and police patrolling, this may be a future use site rather than one that's improved in the short term. APC will discuss this site with Winston County to solicit their opinions on the feasibility of pursuing improvements at this location.

Issue Action Group: SMITH IAG

Meeting Notes Summary: October 01, 2003 APC – Headquarters, Birmingham

Site 89 Mims Family Access Site to Sipsev Fork

This privately owned, publicly accessible carry-in canoe site is operated in cooperation with the Alabama Wildlife Federation and Champion Paper. This site has been characterized as a clean and excellent access site. However, the site is in need of some maintenance. Potential improvements to this site include road erosion repairs and enhancements to the turnaround area at the end of the access road. APC will consult with the owners and contributors of this site to determine issues and needs.

Tailrace Improvements

Keith Bryant presented information on potential improvements to the Smith tailrace area. The general goal of any improvements to the tailrace area would be to improve parking, enhance pedestrian access and repair erosion on existing access trails. This same information was present to the ecological Smith Tailrace Working Group and together this IAG and the ecological group will work to address any tailrace access issues. Another issue raised by the ecological group was a suggestion to investigate an additional bank fishing access area downstream of the Route 69 highway bridge. Public safety due to project releases was raised as an issue that will need some further analysis.

Upcoming Meetings

Shoreline Management Plan Workshop – November 13th.

Smith IAG Meeting – January 7th, 2004.

Conclusion

APC stated that they would contact the IAG to schedule the next meeting.

All Smith IAG materials will be distributed to IAG members prior to meetings and posted on the Internet at www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro.