

Meeting Notes Summary: January 16, 2003

Coosa River Projects

www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Meeting Attendees:

IAG Members

Jack Blackburn	Neely Henry Lake Association	jaandja@gateway.com
Bill Campbell	EPRO	wcampbell@eproconsulting.com
Dan Catchings	ADCNR	dancatch@hiwaay.net
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Jim Howard	AL B.A.S.S. Federation	bassnbuddy@aol.com
Barry Lovett	APC	BKLOVETT@southernco.com
Bill O'Brien	Weiss Lake Improvement Association	bobrien9@tds.com
Walter Ramey	APC	WRRAMEY@southernco.com
Dan Thompson	ADCNR	dthompson@dcnr.al.us

Other Meeting Attendees

Amy Bennett	Kleinschmidt	Amy.Bennett@KleinschmidtUSA.com
Bill Dillahunt	APC	WRDILLAH@southernco.com
Jason Redmond	APC	HJRedmon@southernco.com
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	Kelly.Scaheffer@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Heather Seiders	EPRO	hseiders@eproconsulting.com
Joe Pender	Logan Martin Lake Association	jmpen1@juno.com

Action Items

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

- Barry Lovett: Present the Lake Clean-Up and Woody Debris recommendations to the CCRT at next week's meeting.
- Marine Police: Contact Neely Henry Lake stakeholders in regards to buoy placement.
- Barry Lovett: Add Hap Bryant to the Ecological distribution list.

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

Issue Action Group: Upper Coosa River

Meeting Notes Summary: January 16, 2003

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.

At this time, Bill O'Brien stated to the group that the ACOE is considering raising winter lake levels on Altoona Lake. He suggested that the group remain aware of this proposal because any changes may affect the Coosa River and should be factored into recommendations and modeling. Though a final decision may be a few years away it is good to be aware of this situation.

Recommendations

The Upper 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, Bill O'Brien and Joe Young stated that they are both linked with the Coalition.

Issue Action Group: Upper Coosa River

Meeting Notes Summary: January 16, 2003

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. 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 regarding 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.

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.

Issue Action Group: Upper Coosa River

Meeting Notes Summary: January 16, 2003

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 CR1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 IAG and Upper 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.

Meeting Notes Summary: August 27, 2003

Weiss, Neely Henry and Logan Martin Developments
www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Meeting Attendees

Hap Bryant	Neely Henry Lake Association	hap2mshap@aol.com
Keith Bryant	APC	kebryant@southernco.com
Bill Campbell	EPRO	wcampbell@eproconsulting.com
Dan Catchings	ADCNR	dancatch@hiwaay.net
Jim Copeland	Neely Henry Lake Association	wjcopeland@aol.com
Bruce DiGennaro	Kleinschmidt	Bruce.DiGennaro@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Bill Dillahunty	APC	WRDILLAH@southernco.com
Bill Dykes	APC	WCDYKES@southernco.com
Shad Ellis	Weiss Lake Improvement Association	arealty@tds.net
Don Greer	Logan Martin Lake Association	dfgreer@aol.com
Jim Howard	B.A.S.S.	alcondir@aol.com
Viki Jenkins	APC	VRJenkin@southernco.com
Barry Lovett	APC	BKLOVETT@southernco.com
Bill O'Brien	Weiss Lake Improvement Association	bobrien9@tds.com
John Peconom	Kleinschmidt	John.Peconom@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Walter Ramey	APC	WRRAMEY@southernco.com
Kelly Schaeffer	Kleinschmidt	Kelly.Schaeffer@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Heather Seiders	EPRO	hseiders@eproconsulting.com
Sheila Smith	APC	SCSMITH@southernco.com
Ken Swafford	Neely Henry Lake Association	kcriver@aol.com

Action Items

The following action items were agreed upon by the IAG:

- APC Staff: Present Draft Concept Design Plans for Logan Martin at their next IAG meeting - October 1, 2003.
- IAG Members: Remind new participants of relicensing team protocols and encourage newcomers to review published materials.
- APC Compliance Staff: Develop response to Neely Henry (Minnesota Bend) modeling request.

Issue Action Group: Upper Coosa River Meeting

Meeting Notes Summary: August 27, 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 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 is to provide stakeholders with a quick overview of ongoing relicensing work, the Weiss, Neely Henry and Logan Martin IAGs have been combined into this Upper Coosa River group to increase the efficiency of the presentation. Similar meetings have been held or will be held for both Warrior and Lower Coosa River stakeholders.

New Relicensing Participants

Bruce DiGennaro commented that some new participants were joining the relicensing process and some participants were re-engaging, which is to be expected and natural. Bruce asked for the new participants to please refer to the process protocols and to review 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 anyone with contact information changes to submit those changes to APC. APC wants to ensure that interested stakeholders continue to receive relicensing information.

Shoreline Management Plan

Following the June 19th Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) meeting/workshop, APC has been compiling and processing stakeholders comments (including those provided by the Neely Henry Lake Association) 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.

Issue Action Group: Upper Coosa River Meeting

Meeting Notes Summary: August 27, 2003

Draft Concept Design Plans

APC staff have prepared and presented draft concept design plans for the Weiss and Neely Henry Reservoirs and will be presenting draft concept design plans for the Logan Martin Reservoir on October 1st. 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 scheduling meetings with and gathering comments from other key stakeholders including the Alabama Departments of Transportation. Additionally, APC is working to schedule meetings with affected counties and other local municipalities, which have yet to be 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 for additional review and approval. The IAGs will have numerous opportunities to provide feedback on the concept design plans.

APC is preparing an email meeting announcement for the October 1st relicensing meeting which will be held at APC headquarters in Birmingham. At this meeting draft concept design plans for the Logan Martin Reservoir will be presented.

Weiss and Logan Martin Modeling

A meeting (similar to the one held in May) to update the Weiss and Logan Martin IAGs on APC's efforts to address their respective modeling requests has been tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of October 16th. Formal results, conclusions or recommendations will not be presented at this meeting because they are not yet available. The sole purpose of this meeting is to update interested stakeholders on APC's modeling efforts, what's been done and what needs to be done.

Minnesota Bend

In response to a question from Hap Bryant on modeling requests at Neely Henry—specifically at Minnesota Bend—Barry confirmed that APC has agreed to investigate this issue further and that APC views this issue as separate from relicensing. Barry also stated that APC owes Neely Henry stakeholders a response.

Minnesota Bend is the site of a constriction of the Coosa River. Due to potential flooding effects on the City of Gadsden this site has been an issue of concern for a number of years. One solution raised by the Neely Henry group is to cut a channel to relieve this constriction.

General Relicensing Schedule

Bruce informed the IAG that overall, participants in the relicensing process are making good progress 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 next spring.

Issue Action Group: Upper Coosa River Meeting

Meeting Notes Summary: August 27, 2003

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.

November 12th and 13th as well as December 10th and 11th have been set aside as tentative relicensing meeting dates.

Questions & Answers / General Discussion

Hap Bryant informed the group that anyone who would like to learn more about the Neely Henry Lake Association can view their new web site: www.neelyhenrylakeassoc.org. Hap also reminded the group that Jim Blackburn is no longer participating in the relicensing process. Hap informed the group that he saw a truck load of hazard buoys in town and wanted to know if those were earmarked for Neely Henry. Barry suggested that Hap check with the Alabama Marine Police because they are responsible for marking hazards on the state's lakes.

Bill O'Brien who was unable to attend the Weiss IAG meeting where the draft concept design plans were discussed thanked Barry for allowing him to submit comments. Bill Campbell pointed out that Bill's comments were very useful and have been incorporated into APC's ongoing efforts.

Next Steps

A Shoreline Management Plan meeting has been scheduled for the afternoon of September 17th in Birmingham. A formal announcement, along with an agenda and any other pertinent materials will be distributed via electronic mail at least a week prior to the meeting.

A meeting of the Logan Martin IAG has been 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.

November 12th and 13th as well as December 10th and 11th have been set aside as tentative relicensing meeting dates.

All Upper Coosa River group as well as Weiss, Neely Henry and Logan Martin IAG materials are posted on the Internet at www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro.

Meeting Notes Summary: December 11, 2003

Weiss, Neely Henry and Logan Martin Developments

www.southerncompany.com/alpower/hydro

Meeting Attendees

David Brock	APC	cdbrock@southernco.com
Hap Bryant	Neely Henry Lake Association	hap2mshap@aol.com
Keith Bryant	APC	kebryant@southernco.com
Bill Campbell	EPRO	wcampbell@eproconsulting.com
Dan Catchings	ADCNR	dancatch@hiwaay.net
Jim Copeland	Neely Henry Lake Association	wjcopeland@aol.com
Chris Greene	ADCNR	cgreene@dcnr.state.al.us
Don Greer	Logan Martin Lake Protection Association	dfgreer@aol.com
Viki Jenkins	APC	VRJenkin@southernco.com
Barry Lovett	APC	BKLOVETT@southernco.com
Bill O'Brien	Weiss Lake Improvement Association	bobrien9@tds.com
John Peconom	Kleinschmidt	John.Peconom@Kleinschmidtusa.com
Ted Pyron	APC	tjpyron@southernco.com
Walter Ramey	APC	WRRAMEY@southernco.com
Al Read	Logan Martin Lake Protection Association	readco@mindspring.com
Jason Redmond	APC	HJREDMON@southernco.com
Heather Seiders	EPRO	hseiders@eproconsulting.com
Chuck Shirah	APC	ceshirah@southernco.com
Sheila Smith	APC	SCSMITH@southernco.com
Dan Thompson	ADCNR	dthompson@dcnr.state.al.us

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

Issue Action Groups: Upper Coosa River Meeting

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 Upper 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 additional 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, but no recreation sites will be closed.

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 Talladega counties as well as several municipalities 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 Conservation and Natural Resources (Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries) whose support is critical for the improvement of many of these sites. Their concurrence and partnership will be required 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 implementation partnerships where local entities will share in the operation and management of

Issue Action Groups: Upper Coosa River Meeting

Meeting Notes Summary: December 11, 2003

these improved recreation facilities. Police and trash 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 draft list of reservoir 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

Weiss Reservoir

- Stakeholders were concerned that facility improvements to public use areas would have an adverse affect on local commercial operators. APC staff indicated that this issue was given consideration and that APC’s intent is not to adversely impact local businesses.

Neely Henry Reservoir

- Stakeholders requested an supplemental site for Ten Islands Park (directly across from Ten Islands on the east side of the river) remain on the maps for future discussion.

Issue Action Groups: Upper Coosa River Meeting

Meeting Notes Summary: December 11, 2003

- Site 51 has county road right-of-way issues.
- In the future there may be development opportunities on the south side of the Route 77 Bridge.

Logan Martin Reservoir

- Considerable development currently exists on this reservoir.
- Stakeholders discussed and agreed to investigate a potential improvement site along I-20 just west of Riverside Marina. There are “No Parking” signs at this site, but resource users continue to park there despite the signs.

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, 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 Upper Coosa River group as well as Weiss, Neely Henry and Logan Martin IAG materials are posted on the Internet at www.southernco.com/alpower/hydro.