

Martin Agency Study Plan Meeting

Meeting Summary: September 11, 2007

FINAL 5-8-08

Meeting Location – ADEM Office – Montgomery, AL

Attendees:

APC: Jim Crew, Gene Allison, John Grogan, Jim Lochamy, Steve Krotzer, Charles Stover, Ashley McVicar, Walter Ramey, Angie Segars

USFWS - Jeff Powell

ADCNR - Nick Nichols, Chris Greene, Ericha Nix, Rick Claybrook

ADEM - Fred Leslie, Lynn Sisk

Kleinschmidt - Dave Anderson, Henry Mealing

Action Items

- Provide Study Plan Edits to Jim Crew
USFWS, ADEM, ADCNR October 1, 2007
- Make edits to study plans
APC & Kleinschmidt October 5, 2007
- Meet again for next Study Plan review meeting
APC, USFWS, ADEM, ADCNR, and Kleinschmidt Oct/Nov 2007

Meeting Notes

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

Jim Crew reviewed the history of our process to date. APC solicited and received feedback from a variety of stakeholders (one-on-one meetings, PAD questionnaires, Issue Information Workshop, etc.). We then grouped similar issues into five issue areas (fish & wildlife; water quality & quantity; project operations; recreation; and shoreline management) and drafted Martin Issue Group (MIG) sheets for each of the five areas. Based on the MIG sheets and consultation with the agencies at the June 12, 2007 meeting, APC and Kleinschmidt drafted the study plans being reviewed at the meeting.

We also reviewed the purpose of the upcoming September 26 & 27 stakeholder meetings, at which time APC will kick-off the MIGs, review the MIG sheets with the stakeholders, and present a general description of the proposed studies. However, the study plans will not be handed out at this meeting. There will be a half-day devoted to the SMP maps and how the SMP process is going to work.

Jim Crew reiterated that these draft study plans are our first cut. We plan to continue to work with the agencies to develop “consensus-based” study plans to present in the Preliminary Application Document in 2008.

The group then reviewed each of the 14 study plans and discussed general edits to the study plans (listed below). The agencies were encouraged to send in additional edits to the study plans in track

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changes to Jim Crew. The group will meet again in mid-October to review the changes made to the drafts.

Jim also reviewed the ILP process and study plan criteria. He emphasized that all “consensus based” study plans will be filed with the PAD. FERC will then hold scoping meetings and additional or revised study plans will be identified. APC will then prepare a response to the additional requested studies and file it with FERC. By the spring of 2009, FERC will make their decision on what studies will be developed and performed. There is a dispute resolution process, but it is only available to APC or any agency with mandatory conditioning authority.

Study Plan Review

Study #1 – Migratory Fish – Tallapoosa Basin Literature Review

Jeff Powell noted that we should use the “concept paper” developed as part of the E9 IAG on the Coosa Project relicense. Jeff also noted that we should review species recovery plans for a larger geographic area – not just the southeast distributions, and pay special attention to American Eel. Jeff remarked that the study plan is in line with the USFWS request. We also noted the Corps will need to be included in this discussion.

Study #2 – Lake Martin – Assessment of Fish Density and Species Composition Associated with Various Shoreline Types

Chris Green noted that the ADCNR would like to work with APC to develop more specific collection and analysis methods for the study plan. Chris noted that the current drought would be a great time to identify sampling areas. Jim Lochamy agreed and will work with Chris to identify a time to select sites. Chris agreed that the study plan should address their concerns.

Study #3 – Evaluation of Minimum Flows Downstream of Martin Dam

The agencies stated that the purpose of this study is to better understand the habitat available downstream of the Martin Dam. Can the habitat be improved with a minimum flow? Jim Lochamy asked if the Mussels and Snails Sampling protocols could be modified to include more qualitative sampling than quantitative sampling. Jeff Powell agreed that this would be a good idea. Jeff also noted that the Water Quality Data needed for the tailrace area should focus on temperature and dissolved oxygen. There was general agreement with the proposed study plan.

Study #4 – Fish Entrainment and Turbine Mortality

Henry Mealing noted that the study plan parallels the study performed on the Coosa and Warrior Projects relicensing. Nick Nichols asked if he could have copies of those study reports, drawings of the intakes (including depth), and more information on the “entrainment filters” mentioned in the study plan, which APC agree to provide.

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Study Plan #5 – Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Surveys

Jim Lochamy recapped some of the initial unionid sampling that APC performed this past year. They sampled several tributary areas and spots in the upper portion of the lake and found several species of mussels and snails. None of these species is listed as federally threatened or endangered. Jeff noted that this information would be used in developing the Section 7 Biological Assessment. Jeff also noted that Leslie Durham at Office of Water Resources has additional information on low head dams in the vicinity of the project.

Study Plan #6 – Striped Bass Tagging – Hydroacoustic Collections

Angie Segars reminded the group that she was working on a revision to the “striped bass report” she prepared and distributed at the June 12, 2007 meeting. She will continue to revise and update the report as requested by the group. The report will be included in the PAD when we file it in 2008. Henry reviewed the study and focused on the use of an “Expert Panel” before studies were begun. The group was in agreement with this methodology. The group noted a few suggested editorial changes.

Study Plan #7 – Lake Martin – Wildlife Management Plan

Rick Claybrook and Ericha Nix offered comments on the study plan. The plan should include the production of GIS layers that include the current timber stands on project property – long-leaf pine, hardwood, pine, and mixed. ADCNR would like to be able to see long-leaf pine areas that would potentially serve as areas for red-cockaded woodpecker recovery areas, and is generally interested in the restoration and management of longleaf pine ecosystems and other conservation areas. ADCNR is also interested in additional lands outside of the project boundary that could be managed for wildlife. The plan should include use of herbicides, thinning, and other ways to enhance existing wildlife habitats. ADCNR’s species listed in the Wildlife Comprehensive Strategy should be included in the plan also.

Study Plan #8 – Lake Martin Adaptive Management Water Quality

The general discussion of using an Adaptive Management Plan for evaluating changes in water quality with a change in the rule curve was undertaken by the group. The group still agreed that this is the best way to address this issue. Fred Leslie, Lynn Sisk, Angie Segars, and Jim Lochamy will review the existing data and identify what information is needed for developing a good baseline of data. This will then be used to help develop the AMP for future data collection. Nick Nichols noted that ADCNR would also like to be involved with these discussions.

Study Plan #9 – Location of NPDES Permits on Lake Martin

Angie Segars provided an overview of this study plan. The group was in agreement with the study plan and agreed that this would be a good addition to the Water Quality AMP.

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Study Plan #10 – Erosion and Sedimentation

Henry Mealing explained that this study would be similar to the Coosa and Warrior relicense studies, but we expect more erosion sites to be identified on the lake. The group was in general agreement with this study plan, but wanted to see topic of nuisance aquatic vegetation carried throughout the study plan. No specific comments were offered at the meeting.

Study Plan #11 – Water Quantity, Water Use, and Water Withdrawals

Henry Mealing described that this study plan mirrored the same study that was performed during the Coosa and Warrior relicense. There were no specific comments by the group on this study plan.

Study Plan #12 – Lake Martin Rule Curve Change

Jim Crew and Ashley McVicar gave an overview of this study plan. Jim stated that APC's analysis is already underway since that so many other studies depend on the outcome of the rule curve change evaluation. There were no specific comments on this study plan at the meeting.

Study Plan #13 – Shoreline Management Plan Development

Dave talked about how this study plan is the basic premise for developing the SMP. Jim mentioned that there will be a half day spent on this at the September 27th MIG meetings and that APC had been working on updates to the shoreline classification maps. No specific comments were offered on this study plan.

Study Plan #14 – Recreation Plan Development

Dave introduced this study plan as the backbone of how the recreation plan would be developed. There were no specific comments on this study plan.