**Minutes of General Members Annual Meeting,**

**Leesville Lake Association, July 10, 2021, Leesville Lake Marina**

**Call to order:** President Dave Rives called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**  Richard Beaton, J. W. Burton, Gerry Caprario, Phyllis Garlick, Joe Humphrey, Mary Loiselle, Frank Podrebarac, Dave Rives, Dannie Smith, Dave Waterman, and Chip Zimmerman

**Board Members Absent:** Tony Capuco, Ralph English

After welcoming everyone, Dave R. recognized Frank as the welcome committee. He directed everyone to the registration tables to register and pick-up their invoices along with purchasing t-shirts, calendars, or No Wake signs. Dave R. also recognized member and artist of the t-shirt print, Bob Rankin, who sells his signed, numbered prints and donates those funds back to the Association. Thank you to all the volunteers that worked the registration and sales tables.

Dave R. reported that 104 members registered to attend the meeting/picnic. Final count is estimated at 88.

The meal was prepared and served by the Leesville Lake Marina.

**Election of Officers:** Dave R. reported that the terms will expire for Board members, Richard Beaton, Phyllis Garlick, Mary Loiselle, J. W. Burton, Tony Capuco, Gerry Caprario, Joe Humphrey, and Dave Waterman. All directors agreed to serve for another term except Gerry Caprario, who is retiring after serving more than 17 years with the LLA either as a Board member or in other capacities. Gerry was presented with a handmade wooden bowl, made from the wood off a property on Leesville Lake. A plaque on the bottom honored his service. Dave R. asked if there were any nominations from the floor. He nominated Pam McMillian. She is serving as the Chair for the Debris Committee and agreed to also serve as a Board member.

***Motion: A motion was made to accept the nomination of Pam McMillian to the Board and to accept the Directors that agreed to serve another term. All approved.***

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mary reviewed the 2020/2021 budget with the members and explained that due to last year’s cancellation of the Annual Meeting it was not personally presented and asked if there were any questions. She also presented the 2021/2022 Budget for their approval. Copies of both budgets were available for review.

***Motion: J. W. made the motion to approve the 2021-2022 budget as submitted. Debra Kiraly seconded. All approved.***

**Committee Reports:**

**Beautification Day:** Dannie reported that 75 people registered to assist at the 2021 Beautification Day event held June 12th. There were 2.5 tons collected at Runaway Bay, 4.74 tons collected at Tri-County Marina, 15.4 tons collected at LVL Marina, and the AEP barge reported 50 tons of debris collected. He informed the members that all of the landfills waived their fees for dumping the debris and First Piedmont Trash Removal donated $534 to LLA as a sponsor in addition to supplying dumpster at the LLA marina.

**Communications:** Dave W. informed the members that the website, newsletter, Facebook, and the calendar were all up and running. He recognized Diane Hewett for doing a great job with the newsletter and Christine Beckett for updating the Association’s FB page. He asked that everyone please submit pictures for the 2022 calendar.

**Debris:** Pam Mcmillian, now the Chair of the Debris Committee, reported that last year there were 18 high water events and AEP removed over 7400 tons of debris from LVL. The Pigg River is the biggest source of debris to our lake. Since January of this year, AEP counted 9 high water incidents. AEP’s current plan is to have the crew with the barge work 4 days a week from the lower dam up to MM 10, pending weather and other variables. The total reported debris removed so far this year is around 1200 tons. Construction on the new debris off-load site at Meyers Creek has been temporarily delayed until late September after the long eared bat completes their roosting season. Pam asked members to go to the LLA website for the link to the 2020 final report APCo filed with the Federal Energy Commission. The Debris Committee comments were submitted and are found toward the end of the report. Dave R. did an excellent job composing and targeting our main concerns with AEP’s debris removal practices and the differences between the nature of our lake compared to SML. She asked that everyone continue to report debris as often as possible through the website and to make sure the debris committee receives a copy. Pam asked that members please consider joining the Debris Committee. There are no recent updates on the engineering study AEP is considering for the debris device at the mouth of the Pigg River. Pam made it a point to ask members to always give a shout out or a thumbs-up to the barge crew as they do a great job. Her final point was SAFETY. She stated that the lake is in pretty good shape but we all need to spread the word for the potential danger of the debris conditions.

Debris was a hot topic of conversation. Dave R. was able to answer questions and gave very informative explanations.

**Membership:** Dave R. asked the members to please consider stepping up and helping with the membership committee.

**Navigation:** Joe informed the members of the nine (9) hazard buoys that have been installed on the Pittsylvania and Bedford County sides of the lake. He stated that there are four (4) more buoys scheduled to be installed. He is working with AEP on the additional navigational aids that they are responsible for installing. AEP has 43 proposed aids to be installed, however, it has been determined that only 13 are actually needed.

Joe introduced our speaker, Officer Cory Harbour, with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR). He is from Campbell County and is usually our go-to officer. At this time he is on a special assignment but came back to be our speaker and answer any questions from the members. Officer Harbour spoke on boater safety and the Virginia laws that he and the other DWR officers enforce. He reported that DWR biologists recently placed 16 Fishiding Reclaimed Artificial Fish Habitat structures in LVL. For more on fish stocking and habitat info, he recommended contacting Dan Wilson at the Forest DWR office.

**Safety:** Gerry reminded the members to always wear a vest when boarding water craft. He also reminded us to remove all power cords on or around the docks from the water before swimming to avoid electrocution. He will be available for vessel safety inspections by appointment. Gerry will also be forwarding any safety info he receives from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxilary to the website and e-newsletter.

**Water Quality:** In Tony’s absence, Kathleen Giangi reported that the appearance of the lake this season has been excellent. The Water Quality Committee continues its efforts to protect the lake by identifying threats and developing management strategies to cope with these threats. The health of LVL remains very good and exhibits the characteristics of a maturing lake. It does face challenges from outside forces and the WQ team has focused its attention on two (2) of these external challenges. The first is the influx of low quality water from the Pigg River. Particularly after rain events, inflow from the Pigg contains a great deal of sediment and increased levels of bacteria (levels that exceed state standards for recreation waters). This water quality has declined in recent years, and has been impacted by the removal of the Pigg River dam and increased rainfall. The impact of the dam removal hopefully will decline as the riverbed stabilizes. The WQ team will strive to identify the problematic areas where runoff continues to pose a problem. Although contamination in Rocky Mount did not impact the health of our lake, our water monitoring efforts identified human waste contamination at Rocky Mount. In collaboration with the Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality, that work resulted in identification and elimination of the source of contamination. Second issue: The concern of low oxygen levels in the upper region of LVL (above MM11). This situation is impacted by SML dam operations. Water released during power generation contains low oxygen content. Mostly in the fall, the observation is that fish in the upper region of LVL are piping at that time. Because release of water with low oxygen content violates Appalachian Power’s federal license, they will be working with our committee and the technical review committee to develop strategies to correct this issue. The WQ team’s monitoring for the 2021 season is well underway. Dr. Shahady (U of Lyb) has been monitoring water quality in LVL since April and our WQ team began in June. With financial support from TLAC, water monitoring of the Pigg will continue in Sept.-Oct. At the end of the 2021 season, Tony will relinquish chairmanship of the Water Quality Committee. He will continue to serve on the committee and asked anyone with an interest to consider volunteering to serve.

**TLAC Update:** Please put together some info. Sorry but caught myself listening rather than note taking.

**Acknowledgements and Announcements:** Dave thanked Officer Cory Harbour from DWR. He thanked Chip and Lisa Zimmerman for letting the LLA use their facility for the Annual Meeting/Picnic and for the delicious food they prepared and served for the picnic.

**Member Meeting Adjourn:**

***Motion: Frank made a motion to adjourn the member meeting at 2:30. All approved.***

**The next Board meeting will be at the Altavista Library, August 12th at 6:30.**