**Minutes of General Members Meeting,**

**Leesville Lake Association, October 9, 2021 Altavista Train Station**

**Call to order:** 10:30 a.m. by Vice President, Chip Zimmerman

**Present:** Richard Beaton, Tony Capuco, Phyllis Garlick, Pam McMillian, Dave Waterman, Chip Zimmerman

**Absent:** J. W. Burton, Joe Humphrey, Mary Loiselle, Frank Podrebarac, Dave Rives, Dannie Smith

**Members Present:** 16 members were present.

**Quorum:** Yes

**Introductions:** Chip asked that everyone introduce themselves.

**Treasurer’s Report:** In Mary’s absence, Phyllis read the Treasurer’s report submitted by Mary. Treasurer reports for the first month of the fiscal year were emailed to the Board and finance committee. There were no concerns noted. 50 dues reminder postcards were mailed on Saturday, October 2. Through Thursday the 7th, 2 payments have been received as a result. LLA yearly documents and reports were dropped off at H&R Block in Lynchburg on Friday, October8 and our tax return is expected to be complete before the end of October. They are due to the IRS by January 15, 2022 and will be mailed well ahead of that. Once the taxes are complete, I’ll arrange for an audit or inspection of the annual records. We have 15, 2022 calendar orders that were placed online.

**Speaker’s Presentation:** Tony introduced the speaker, Dr. Tom Shahady. Tom Shahady has been an integral part of the Leesville Lake Association’s water monitoring program for approximately 11 years. This has involved water monitoring of LVL and more recently evaluating water quality and sources of contamination in the Pigg River. Dr. Shahady’s main focus is aquatic ecology, lake management and environmental compliance. His teaching and internship programs focus on these areas. Today Dr. Shahady spoke about studies on the University of Lynchburg’s Lake pertaining to the impact of the dam breach after heavy rainfall 2 years ago and issues with demolition of the Pigg River dam. He will discuss the pros and cons of dam demolition and the caution that is necessary*.*

**Committee Reports:**

**2021 Beautification Day:** In Dannie’s absence, Chip stated that this year’s Beautification Day was a success. There was great participation.

**Communication:** Dave W. stated that the Facebook page is up and running. Christine Beckett and Joni Pauley are keeping it updated. The E-Newsletter is being sent out quarterly and this past one included a member’s survey. He asked that everyone please go online and participate in the survey. The 2022 calendar is in production and should be available by November 1.

**Debris:** Pam reported that from January-September 2021, AEP reported a total of 1,692 tons removed from Leesville Lake (last year same timeframe, AEP 5,847). There has not been a high-water incident since February 2020. A monthly lake survey was performed on September 28th. Debris Committee members Rob Johnson, Gary McMillan and I did a comparative survey and found that although large size logs have been reduced, scattered debris throughout the lake still poses safety hazards. AEP informed the committee that for the remainder of October and until the next survey, their crew plans to work 2-3 days a week, working out of the dam and concentrating efforts between Toler’s Ferry Bridge and MM15. **Meyers Creek:** The issue with the construction limits due to bat nesting, expired on October 1st. AEP stated it is waiting for their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program Permit and once received, clearing and construction for debris storage should take place in a couple of months. They still anticipate the facility to be in service by the end of this year. **Pigg River Containment Study:** AEP should have a final design and cost estimate next February. They have been doing boring samples to check stability and measuring flow rates out of the river. If a feasible solution can be determined, Appalachian still predicts the in-service date is the end of 2023.

**Membership:** Chip announced that the Membership Committee is in need of a Chair or serve as a member. We have 215 members at this time. He asked members to please complete the online survey.

**Navigation:** In Joe’s absence, Chip presented the submitted report. The two hazard buoys that had moved at mm11 and mm15 have been returned to their designated locations. Each of those buoys now has an additional 100 pound anchor. Thanks to Dave Rives for the assistance getting this accomplished with short notice. The new NO WAKE buoy for Old Woman’s Creek has been installed. Three of the four final hazard buoys proposed are in the works with the help of Paula at TLAC. AEP asked that we not consider the buoy propose at the mouth of the Pigg River due to the work AEP is considering for capturing debris from the river. We are waiting on Campbell County Board of Supervisors to have a formal labeling system for our hazard buoys due to the relatively low number of 12 buoys. On September 15th he had a teleconference with Liz to discuss the proposed Aids to Navigation Plan. AEP proposed 43 channel markers. Joe proposed reducing to 13 and installing navigation lights on the Toler’s Ferry Bridge. AEP will get back with our suggested locations for the channel markers and navigation lights to the bridge and get back with comments and suggestions.

**Water Quality:** Tony reported that this season we have two new members on our Water Quality Committee. They are Charlie Hamilton and Debbie Oliver. They join me, Dave Waterman and Kathleen Giangi. At this point, our committee has concluded its water sampling of LVL for the 2021 season, although Dr. Shahady will continue monitoring the lake through October. Overall, the water quality of LVL has remained good this season. Bacterial contamination has not been monitoring in August and September revealed a decline in dissolved oxygen in the upper waters of LVL. At times this reduced dissolved oxygen extends as far as MM6 and hovers at or below acceptable levels. Typically, oxygen levels in the SML tailwaters are *not* compliant with their license during August and the fall months. This has been documented the past couple of years and AEP needs to address it to meet its licensing obligations. This week we initiated water sampling of the Pigg River. Those efforts evaluate water quality at 12 sites from the border of Rocky Mount to Toler bridge on LVL, and this will continue into November. Along with our monitoring for nutrient contamination and chemical composition, we are monitoring for *E. coli* and performing bacterial source tracking to trace the animal source for the bacteria in the river. Dr. Shahady has gathered information to identify land usage around these 12 sites. Our data from this year and the previous two years will be used to assess the impact of land usage on water quality. This should provide insight for future efforts to improve Pigg River water quality. The VA Department of Soil and Water Conservation has worked with landowners to make property and management improvements that should enhance water quality. Although our water monitoring efforts are directly pertinent to their efforts, the information is proprietary, and we cannot gain access. We will, however, provide them with our findings in the hope that it will increase their ability to improve water quality. Finally, it is my plan to relinquish chairmanship of the water quality committee after this season, although I will remain on the committee and will assist as much as possible.

\*\*\*There were no updates from TLAC, no Old Business, no New Business.\*\*\*

The meeting was adjourned and all enjoyed pizza from Peace of Pie of Altavista.

The next meeting is a Board meeting on Thursday, November 11 at the Staunton River Library at 6:30.