

**Minutes of General Members Meeting,  
Leesville Lake Association, April 16, 2022 Altavista Train Station**

**Call to order:** 10:35 a.m. by Vice President, Chip Zimmerman

**Present:** Richard Beaton, J. W. Burton, Tony Capuco, Joe Humphrey, Phyllis Garlick, Mary Loiselle, Frank Podrebarac, Dannie Smith, Chip Zimmerman

**Absent:** Brian Bell, Dave Rives, Pam McMillian, Dave Waterman

**Members Present:** 19 members were present.

**Guest:** John Pupnik

**Quorum:** Yes

**Introductions:** Chip asked that everyone introduce themselves with Directors going first. He introduced the guest speaker, John Rupnik. He is the past president of the SMLA and chair of their Buffer Landscaping Committee. John is a Master Gardner and Master Naturalist in Franklin County. The focus on Education and Recognition to increase awareness of what Buffer Gardening can do to help our lakes. The website for more information is [www.smlassociation.org](http://www.smlassociation.org), click on Buffer Programs then "How we help the lake".

**Treasurer's Report:** Copies of the most current reports – End of March 2022 Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Budget Year-To-Date – were sent to the board on April 4 and are here for interested members. The initial payment for the 2022-2023 Leesville Lake MOU has been sent to the University of Lynchburg for their role in WQM. MOU final payments for Leesville Lake and the Pigg River were made in March. We received two years worth of Water Quality Monitoring funds from AEP last year so no check was received this year. In the next few months, we'll be soliciting sponsorships for Beautification Day and putting together the budget for the FY 2022-2023, which begins September 1. Also, before the next meeting, invoices will be created and distributed, and then the remainder will be mailed. The invoices will include a section to update addresses and email addresses so we can keep our communications and e-newsletter distribution lists up to date. Due within the next few months is our Retail Sales and Use Tax Certificate of Exemption. That must be applied for every 5 years.

**Motion:** *Tony made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report as presented. Frank seconded. All approved.*

**Committee Reports:**

**2022 Beautification Day:** Dannie reported that plans for the 2022 BD is on schedule. He has been in contact with Bob Rankin concerning the t-shirts. He should have a new design within two weeks. We still need to confirm chainsaw users at the drop-off sites. The sign-up sheet for Beautification Day is available on the website.

**Water Quality:** Tony reported that the WQ Committee will begin water monitoring efforts for 2022. Dr. Shahady will begin sampling this month and the WQ will begin in June through August. In the fall the WQ will continue sampling of the Pigg. There have been no overall health concerns for recreational use. Two threats to the lake are evident and are being carefully monitored. These are poor water quality of the Pigg River and low dissolved oxygen in the tailwaters from SML Dam. Water quality of the Pigg degrades after substantial rainfall and appears to be due to multiple causes. Due to runoff bacteria and nutrients from hillsides of forested and agricultural lands, with the bacteria coming from ruminant waste. Additionally, it appears that with heavy rainfall there is a stirring of sediment in the riverbed downstream from the former Pigg River power dam. This causes a rise in nutrients and bacteria contained within this sediment. Which is to say that we are seeing continued effects of removing the power dam. The committee will meet with Dr. Shahady in the coming weeks to discuss our continued work on the issue. Low dissolved oxygen in the tailwaters of SML dam is evident in late summer and fall months. This is due to the seasonal reduction in the oxygen content in SML at the depths where the turbines are located, so that poorly oxygenated water is delivered to LVL. This does not meet AEP's licensing obligations and we continue to raise the issue for resolution by AEP. On May 4 there will be a meeting of the TRC for water quality. We will pressure AEP to take action to alleviate the situation. If that is not forthcoming the problem will be highlighted in communications with FERC. Tony acknowledged the dedication of the WQ committee which includes Charlie Hamilton, Dave Waterman, Kathleen Giangi and Debbie Oliver. Charlie has agreed to serve as the committee chair.

**Communication:** Frank reported that the survey results have been reviewed by the Executive Board. He asked for volunteers to help with the survey and articles for the e-newsletter. Frank also asked if everyone was receiving the email blasts, if more e-blasts were needed and if more info was needed. He reminded everyone to send in pictures for the 2023 calendar.

**Debris:** Chip stated that there were no high-water events but with the winds, there are a lot of trees down. He asked that Debris Reports need to be sent to TLAC and the Debris Committee. Roy Kelley, member of the Debris Committee, reported that there are no AEP contractors on the lake at this time.

**Membership:** Chip reported that we have 239 dues paying members. He announced that the Membership Committee is in need of a Chair or to serve as a member to help put together events. Results of the survey will be coming soon. Debris was the #1 concern on the survey. A Safety Committee chair is also needed.

**Navigation:** Joe reported that all 12 of the hazard buoys have been installed. There is one more to be installed at Pigg River but that one is on hold for now. AEP proposed 43 channel markers. Joe proposed reducing to 13 and installing navigation lights on the Toler's Ferry Bridge. AEP has yet to get back with our suggested locations for the channel markers and navigation lights to the bridge. Joe stated that Tony scheduled a maintenance day to clean up the Mile Markers. He stated that he and Tony and Larry Garlick went out and cleaned up around the mile markers and found that #7 and #16 are missing. He will order replacements.

**\*\*\*There was no Old Business or no New Business.\*\*\***

**Adjourn: Motion: Frank made a motion to adjourn. J. W. seconded. All approved.**

The next meeting is a Board meeting on Thursday, May 12th at the Staunton River Library at 6:30.