Minutes of General Members Annual Meeting,

**Leesville Lake Association, July 16, 2022, Leesville Lake Marina**

**Call to order:** President Dave Rives called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**  Richard Beaton, Brian Bell, J. W. Burton, Tony Capuco, Phyllis Garlick, Joe Humphrey, Pam McMillian, Dave Rives, Dannie Smith, Dave Waterman, and Chip Zimmerman

**Board Members Absent:** Frank Podrebarac, Mary Loiselle

**Guests:** Rob Gallimore, Steve Dolan, Kristine Sage

After welcoming everyone, Dave R. reminded all members to check-in at the registration table. Also, back by the registration table are t-shirts are for sale, free maps, and Bob Rankin has his prints for sale.

Dave R. introduced the Directors, Committee Chairs, TRC Reps, and the prospective new directors. Special recognition was given to Tony Capuco who is stepping down as chair of the Water Quality Committee and Phyllis Garlick who is resigning from the Board and the Secretary position.

**Election of Officers:** Dave R. reported that the terms will expire for Board members, Frank Podrebarac, Dannie Smith, David Rives, and Chip Zimmerman. Dave R. asked if there were any nominations from the floor. The Board nominated Charlie Hamilton, Roy Kelley, and Bill Beckett. Charlie is serving as the Water Quality Chair, Roy Kelley is Co-Chair of Beautification Day, and Bill Beckett is taking on the Treasurer’s position. Dave R. asked for a motion.

***Motion: Tony Capuco made a motion to accept the nomination of Charlie Hamilton, Roy Kelley and Bill Beckett as Directors and to accept the Directors that agreed to serve another term. Kathleen Giangi seconded. All approved.***

After a call for a moment of Thankfulness, the meal, which was prepared by the Leesville Lake Marina was served.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Dave R. reported that the 2022-2023 budget balanced and copies were available for review at the registration table. At this time there are around 250 members and dues will be coming in with the invoices being picked up and mailed. There is an increase to the budget for clothing, which is in the works to happen for this fiscal year, along with an increase for volunteer recognition and WQ monitoring from AEP and TLAC to the University of Lynchburg in the amount of $67,000.

***Motion: J. W. made the motion to approve the 2022-2023 budget as submitted. Charlie seconded. All approved.***

**Committee Reports:**

**Beautification Day:** Roy reported that there was a good turnout for this year’s Beautification Day and thanked all who participated. He stated that we had several new sponsors this year. 47 tons of debris was collected. There were 11 participating boats with crews and around 70 volunteers working at the various sites.

**Communications:** Dave W. did not have an update. Dave R. explained that the Communications Committee, headed by Dave W., handles the social media, email blasts, e-newsletter and the calendar.

**Debris:** Pam Mcmillian introduced the Debris Committee members which added three new members, Roy Kelley and April and Lyle Firnhaber. As expected, debris topics were the main concern in the comment section of the membership survey. She reported that since January there have been 2 minor highwater events, March and May. She covered the frustration of the long periods that it takes AEP to address these issues. AEP is providing monthly mile by mile survey reports that the committee also participates in and keeps records of. The Debris Committee appeals monthly to AEP for more crew, working hours and additional equipment. Since April, AEP reported that the crew worked 29 days on debris related activities and 3 days from the contractor. The last report received, July 10th, the total amount of debris removed from LVL ety since January is 400 tons. TLAC reported 35 reports of debris sightings received.

**Membership:** Dave R. stated that Chip is overseeing about 250 members.

**Navigation:** Joe informed the members that all of the hazard buoys are installed. He is working with AEP to install the channel markers. The original plan called for 43 channel markers, however, the Association proposed 13 and requested AEP install navigation lights on Tolers Ferry Bridge. After an inspection of the mile markers, mile marker 7 was missing. Joe reported that he has a new mile marker 7 and it is ready to be installed.

**Safety:** Dave R. reported that we have a need for Safety Committee members. This includes setting up boater safety classes, boat inspections and safety articles for the e-newsletter along with just keeping safety in the forefront of everyone’s mind.

**Water Quality:** Water monitoring efforts for 2022 are well underway.  Dr. Shahady/University of Lynchburg sampled at the end of April and May, June, and the Water Quality Committee sampled on 6/15 and 7/14. Monitoring will continue through August, in accordance with our 2022 MOA.  In the fall we will continue sampling of the Pigg River, using the 2022 Pigg River Project Plan.

Current Water Quality health of LVL:

1. **No overall health concerns for recreational use.**
2. Two threats to the lake are evident and are being carefully monitored.  These are:
3. low dissolved oxygen in the tailwaters from Smith Mountain Lake Dam
4. poor water quality of the Pigg River

**Low Dissolved Oxygen**:

Appalachian Power Company (APCo) has not been meeting its operating license requirements regarding the minimal dissolved oxygen content permissible in water released during SML dam operations for the last seven years (2015-2021). This year’s trends suggest that condition has not changed. The problem has been known (by APCo) since March 2008, without an active plan for remediation (only studies). LVL WQ has highlighted this to FERC in the May 2022 Annual WQ report.

APCO is initiating Phase 3 of their Feasibility Study:

1. evaluate the practicality, effectiveness and cost efficiency of methods that increases dissolved oxygen in the tailrace without causing other water quality issues (e.g., increased water temperature).
2. Determine life cycle costs and decide whether to act, or not.
3. The completion of the Feasibility Plan is timely as Appalachian’s VDEQ Virginia Water Protection Individual Permit No 08-0572 (Permit) expires on March 31, 2025. It is Appalachian’s intent to file for a new permit at least one year prior to the expiration date.

The LVL WQ Committee will continue to work with APCo, TLAC, DEQ, DWR, and other regulatory agencies to achieve satisfactory DO levels in Leesville Lake.

**2022 Pigg River Study:**

The Pigg River is the major tributary flowing into Leesville Lake (LVL). Although water quality in LVL remains good, the Pigg River is classified as an impaired river for bacteria by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) and this poor water quality has been confirmed by the Leesville Lake Association (LLA). Indeed, monitoring efforts by the LLA indicate that the quality of water flowing into LVL from the Pigg River has been worsening in recent years as documented in the annual LVL Water Quality Reports. Of greatest concern is the sediment and bacteria suspended in the waters of the Pigg then transported to Leesville Lake. This has resulted in degradation of water quality in the upper region of Leesville Lake, which is concerning to residents and visitors. Furthermore, storm events promote entrainment of poor-quality water in the upper regions of LVL and pumping of that water into Smith Mountain Lake during pump-back operations.

We initiated monitoring of water quality in the Pigg River during the 2018 season, and continued 2019-2021. Our 2022 Objectives are:

(1) Closely study the area between Chestnut Hill and Colonial Turnpike (the area implicated as contaminated with sediment from the Power Dam removal) to quantify the extent to which the sediment in this area impacts bacterial/nutrient/sediment water quality in the Pigg River.

(2) Identify sources of bacterial contamination by identifying the bacterial content of water during both low flow and storm events.

(3) Quantify the impact of this sediment by conducting sediment disturbance experiments (water collected before and after sediment disturbance) in conjunction with bacterial source tracking to specifically characterize how this underlying sediment contributes to bacteria in the water.

(4) Evaluate the efficacy of *E. coli* / *Enterococci* ratios in determining the source of bacterial contamination. We need to identify this impact to suggest management of sediment as it impacts water quality to Leesville Lake and continues its migration into the lake.

Special thanks to the LVL WQ Committee: Debbie Oliver, Kathleen Giangi, Dave Waterman, and Tony Capuco for their continuing hard work.

**TLAC Update:** Dave R. informed the members that he is the TLAC Rep for LVL and is now the Vice Chairman of the Board. He introduced the new TLAC Executive Director, Kristine Sage. She stated she is looking forward to working with LVL and LLA. Tiffany Miller will still be working with the debris reports. Dave R. reminded the members that they can apply for a NO WAKE ZONE for wake boarders. The first application is in place and there is a public hearing on Tuesday evening.

**Guest Speakers:** Dave R. introduced the guest speakers for AEP. Rob Gallimore is the AEP Hydro Asset Manager and Steve Dolan is the AEP Hydro Plant Manager. On July 13th Dave R., the LLA Debris Chair, LLA WQ Chair and LLA Navigation Chair met with AEP. Mr. Gallimore briefly explained the AEP’s hydro system and the hows and whys for running the dams. He reported that a piling has been installed at LVL dam for large debris to be tied to versus to our docks. The Myer’s Creek project is on hold but they are continuing to work with the County. Mr. Dolan took questions from the members. Some topics that were covered were Myers Creek, DEBRIS, Pigg River, low water levels, barge schedules, contractor schedules, and low oxygen levels. Between Mr. Gallimore, Mr. Dolan and Dave R., a lot of member questions were answered.

**Member Meeting Adjourn:**

The 2022 Annual Member’s Meeting adjourned at 2:20.

**The next Board meeting will be at the Altavista Library, August 11th at 6:30.**