**Leesville Lake Association, Inc.**

**Quarterly General Membership Meeting – October 8, 2022**

**Altavista Train Station – 10:30am**

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by LLA Vice President, Chip Zimmerman, presiding.

**Present:** Chip Zimmerman, Bill Beckett, Pam McMillan, Tony Capuco, Charlie Hamilton, Dave Waterman, Roy Kelley, J.W. Burton, Danny Smith, Brian Bell, Richard Beaton

**Absent:** Dave Rives, Frank Podrebarac, Mary Loiselle, Joe Humpreys

**Quorum:** Yes

**Membership:** Officers, Directors, Committee Members and General Members introduced themselves. A sign-up sheet was distributed to record attendance (see attachment 1 for a listing of attendees).

**Guest Speaker’s Presentation:** Tony Capuco introduced Mr. Bill Tanger, Director of the Friends of the Rivers of Virginia (FORVA) Project Manager for the Pigg River Project, who was the featured guest speaker. FORVA is focused on the preservation and restoration of Virginia inland waterways. Bill was instrumental in the Pigg River Dam demolition. He gave a slideshow presentation with a follow-up question and answer period. His presentation described the rationale and activities leading up to and the subsequent demolition of the dam near Rocky Mount, VA. He provided a slideshow highlighting the ecological and recreational reasons for the dam removal. The dam was over 100 years old and failing. He highlighted FORVA’s efforts to restore the river to its original condition, which was met with some opposition by sportsmen, recreationalists and DEQ because the demolition would drain the wetlands behind the dam, but was subsequently approved by DEQ. He spoke to the ongoing efforts following the demo to capture debris and to stem bank erosion.

Several members pointed out how the dam removal has negatively affected the water quality at Leesville Lake in terms of unacceptable levels of debris, turbidity of the flow into the lake and the increased levels of e-coli bacteria. Other members questioned Bill as to why nobody affiliated with Leesville Lake was informed of the intention to remove the dam, as the end recipients of the flow.

Mr. Tanger spoke to other ongoing efforts of FORVA. He revealed that a recent Roanoke Times article reported that a “forever chemical” called Gen-X (a precursor chemical for teflon and other end products) was discovered in the Roanoke River. Efforts are underway to find the source of the contamination. Gen-X does not break down and is linked to several health concerns, including breast cancer and others. The concern to Smith Mountain Lake and Leesville Lake are obvious and if not stopped will eventually become an environmental issue for the lakes. Note: The Water Quality Committee is aware and will be monitoring this issue for impact to the lake.

**Treasurer’s Report**

LLA Treasurer, Bill Beckett provided the Treasurer’s Report for September 2022. October begins the new fiscal year for LLA and therefore starts the new budget, which was covered. Membership renewals are lagging but are expected to increase over the next few months as renewals pour in, consistent with previous years. Motion was made by Pam to accept the September Financial Report, seconded and accepted unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**2022 Beautification Day**

Roy Kelley briefed that the second Beautification Day that was scheduled for Oct, 1 was canceled because of the concern over potential impacts from Hurricane Ian. A question was asked if we wanted to reschedule for a later date, but after discussion it was concluded that it was not recommended. The second day was going to be primarily a barge-focused event with the support of boaters. The first BD was very successful; the next is scheduled for June 10, 2023. A suggestion was made to hold the second BD in August rather than October.

**Debris**

Pam McMillan briefed that the last AEP debris survey was conducted on Oct 4th. Results are anticipated to be released on Oct 10th. No LLA Debris Committee members were able to attend due to a short notice sent the night before the survey. Monthly debris surveys are conducted monthly from April to October. There were no high water events from the hurricane despite several days of rain. As a result, observations indicated that minimal debris entered the lake. During the month of September eight debris reports were submitted through TLAC.

Committee was informed by Pittsylvania County that the Myers Creek Offload Facility project was approved allowing AEP to proceed under the FERC license. No word yet from AEP on their plans to proceed. Richard Beaton saw that survey stakes have been placed recently.

No update has been received from AEP regarding the Pigg River Collection/Diversion Study, despite frequent requests from LLA, TLAC and other stakeholders. LLA and TLAC will continue to pressure AEP for updates. The Debris Committee will continue to pressure AEP for an update. This will be a topic of discussion at the next TLAC Board meeting on Oct 13th.

**Membership** *(Chip Zimmerman)*

Officer & Committee Chair Positions open – Secretary, Membership and Safety

**Navigation** *(Joe Humphrey)*

Hazard Buoys

Aids to Navigation

**Water Quality** *(Charlie Hamilton)*

2022 Lake Monitoring Update: Overall the water quality for Leesville Lake indicates that there are no overall health concerns for recreation. However, there are two ongoing concerns that affect the water quality in the lake are being monitored closely:

1) **Low dissolved oxygen (DO)** in the tailwaters from Smith Mountain Lake Dam: July and Aug testing of indicates average DO of less than 5mg/l. APCO has initiated Phase 3 of their Feasibility Study, which will:

a) 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).

b) Determine life cycle costs and decide whether to act, or not.

c) 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.

No preliminary insights have been provided by APCo. 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.

2) **Poor water quality of water entering into the lake from the Pigg River.** Pigg River sampling plan commences on 10 October 2022. Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) will be

conducted (3 host markers per sample) on 9 water samples focusing on the following analyses: Human-HF183 ddPCR, Cow-CowM2(EPA1), and Ruminant\_Rum2Bac.

**Our 2022 Pigg River Study 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.

We are also monitoring reports of Polyflorinated Alkyl substances (PFAS), aka GEN X f(non stick plastics, semiconductor chips automotive parts) found in Spring Hollow reservoir and the nearby Roanoke River. EPA Health advisories call for no more than 10 parts per trillion. Spring Hollow is at 62 parts per trillion. Roanoke County Board of Supervisors is working a remediation plan now. Impacts to Leesville Lake and Smith Mountain Lake are under review, but likely not an issue at this point.

**TLAC** *(from David Rives)*

No Wake Surfing Zone Applications

TLAC Board approved the first application at SML

DWR Rejected the application as they felt No Wake Buoys were more appropriate and they are concerned about singling out a specific type of boat or recreational activityTLAC is required to review the process annually, which is forthcoming.

**Elect 2023 TLAC Representative**

Chip stated that the LLA needed to provide a representative to the TLAC for 2023. He stated that Dave Rives had stated that he would serve again if elected.No other nominations from the floor were offered. Vote was made, Dave was reelected by unanimous vote which was seconded and carried.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Q&A and Membership Appeal**

**General Membership Meeting Adjourn**

**Member’s Social** *(Pam McMillan)*