**Minutes of General Members Meeting,**

**Leesville Lake Association, January 14, 2023, Altavista Train Station**

**Present:** Dave Rives, Chip Zimmerman, Charlie Hamilton, Roy Kelley, Mary Loiselle, Pam McMillan, Dave Waterman, Dannie Smith, Bill Beckett, Brian Bell, Richard Beaton, Cynthia Coleman, Tony Capuco of the Board of Directors and 13 members.

**Absent:**  Directors JW Burton, Joe Humphrey

**Quorum:** Yes

**Call to order:** President, Dave Rives called the General Members meeting to order at 10:32 AM.

**Introductions:** Board of Directors, all other attendees (members) and guest speaker.

**Guest Speaker:** Kristina Sage, TLAC Executive Director.

Her presentation is attached.

Q&A afterwards focused on the ongoing No Wake zone application issue and the debris reporting process.

**Treasurer Report**: Bill Beckett, Treasurer

Pigg River water quality monitoring reimbursement procedure is working. Calendar sales are good (to the point of breaking even with costs) and the 2021-2022 tax return has been filed.

**Committee Reports:**

**a. Executive:**

i. Election of New Director – Jeff Markiewicz. By the action of the board, Jeff has been confirmed as a Director and has been appointed as the chair of the Water Safety Committee.

ii. Open Position – Secretary. We are still seeking a permanent secretary.

**b. Beautification Day:** Roy Kelley, Committee Chair

Save the date for 2023 – Saturday, June 10. Reminders will be going out to all previous sponsors and we’re always looking for new and additional ones.

**c. Debris:** Pam McMillan, Committee Chair

Those of you who read my debris article in the January newsletter may recall I relayed that the lake was generally in pretty good shape. Because of newsletter deadline, those statements were submitted right before a high water incident that occurred on December 23rd when the Pigg River crested to 6.68 ft.

Because of the holiday and weather conditions, AEP did not perform a HW survey until January 3. We were not notified or invited to participate on this survey, however APCo has since apologized for this oversight.

On the reporting of this survey, we do not agree with the assessment and description from AEP as to the amount of recent debris load and its locations, currently in the lake.

Thanks to in-house communication and being copied on formal submitted reports from members such as Larry Mitchell, JW, Roy Kelley, Danny, Bill Beckett and others, our committee was made aware of most of the concentrated areas, shoreline conditions, prior to APCo’s high flow released survey report.

As a reminder, APCo is required by license to remove this debris even beyond the off season collection, if there is a HW incident and to report on it formally to the Technical Review Committee.

As such;

AEP’s proposed work plan going forward is to ‘continue to remove debris, weather permitting, until such debris resulting from high flow event is removed. The Leesville Crew will concentrate on areas between Leesville Dam and MM9. Unfavorable days will be utilized for debris shredding.’

-LLA’s opposition, once again, is that this proposed plan of AEP is simply not enough to cover all of the lake especially since there are several hundred tons of debris above mile marker 9. We expressed those concerns in reply to AEPs report and strongly urged them to hire a contractor in addition to the LL Crew.

In a separate follow up email, a 2 question request for further answers regarding the number of days worked and tonnage removed since the HW incident, David Agee(one of APCo’s middle project managers), relayed that, ‘as of January 3rds HW survey, Appalachian has worked 6 days, shredding debris, hauling debris, removing debris between the dam and MM3, and expanding the barge with two new sections to hold more debris. And second, ‘that no tonnage has been calculated as it is determined when debris is hauled to the storage locations. Appalachian will provide this information to the Debris Technical Review Committee in a January/February report.’

-What was not expected in this email exchange was additional information in regard to my comments on the initial HW report regarding the need for contractor work in addition to LL Crew. David Agee offered up the following, “please note that we are currently coordinating with our contractor to schedule additional assistance on Leesville Lake but were hesitant to confirm it on the Debris Report’s proposed work plans. As soon as the contractor’s availability can be confirmed, we will update the Technical Review Committee with this additional information.”

Based on this one HW flow that only reached 6.68ft., the amount and type of debris that came into our lake is unfortunately a sample of what’s likely to continue.

And based on the more realistic amount of work AEP will actually be able to accomplish during wind and freezing winter temperatures, the majority of current debris and anything future coming into the Lake, will still be with us throughout this coming recreational season.

Several chairs will be meeting with Appalachian project managers on the last day of this month and we expect to have these conversations and more.

For those of you who have been documenting and reporting your own sightings on the lake or around your property, thank you. If it wasn’t for your recent reports, this HW event and debris load would not have had the attention it deserves and the Debris Committee is grateful for your involvement in the goals, your goals too, in a better future for the health, beauty and especially recreational safety of Leesville Lake.

As a recap, from January through December 2022, there were:

* 71 Debris reports submitted and recorded, courtesy of TLAC;
* 84 days were worked on Leesville Lake by AEP crew;
* 3 days were worked on Leesville by contractor;
* 3 HW incidents occurred. One in March, one in May and the latest on December 23. None of these events were above 7 ft.
* Total tonnage (not including December) is 1,135.

**d. Membership:** Cynthia Coleman, Committee Chair

Cynthia has been acclimating herself to Aplos and becoming familiar with the membership database. Outreach and ideas (some from the member survey) will be addressed at a future meeting.

**e. Navigation:** Given by Dave Rives, acting for Joe Humphrey, Committee Chair

-All 13 navigation (hazard) buoys are in place.

-AEP has indicated they wish to have a Coast Guard representative survey the lake while considering our recommended 13 proposed navigation aids.

-The hazard buoy request by the Firnhabers is still pending with DWR.

**e. Water Quality:** Charlie Hamilton, Committee Chair-

All Water monitoring efforts for 2022 have completed, in accordance with our 2022 MOA.

Budgeting activities have been submitted to APCo and TLAC for 2023/2024 Water Quality initiatives.

TLAC has been very responsive to our reimbursement requests – thank you Kristina Sage!

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:

a) low dissolved oxygen in the tailwaters from Smith Mountain Lake Dam

b) poor water quality of the Pigg River

Low Dissolved Oxygen (DO):

Appalachian Power Company (APCo) “SMITH MOUNTAIN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT June -

October 2022 Monthly Water Quality Monitoring Reports (ES Project No: 16402), and our WQ

monitoring in concert with University of Lynchburg show data from Instantaneous DO values and Daily

average DO values which were consistently below 5.0 mg/l between 25 July and 15 October 2022

(Permit lower DO boundary).

The APCo November 2022 report results show data from Instantaneous DO values ranged from

5.9 mg/L to 9.5 mg/L, with an average of 7.4 mg/L. Daily average DO values ranged from 6.4 mg/L to 9.0

mg/L, with a median of 7.2 mg/L – all above minimum required D.O. levels.

APCo has been studying this issue for 14 years. APCO is currently in the middle of Phase 3 of

their Feasibility Study, which will:

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.

No preliminary insights have been provided by APCo. We anticipate some disclosure by APCo in the 31

Jan 2023 meeting between APCO and LLA, and also at the March/April 2023 Water Quality Technical

Review Committee. 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

Pigg River first sampling was conducted on 10 October 2022. Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) was taken

(3 host markers per sample) on 9 water samples focusing on the following analyses: Human-HF183

ddPCR, Cow-CowM2(EPA1), and Ruminant\_Rum2Bac. Second sampling, coincident with heavy rain from

Hurricane Nicole, was conducted Friday 11 November 2022. Analyses of both Pigg River samplings have

been completed at Luminaltra Laboratory, and the results are being factored into the University of

Lynchburg analyses and report.

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.

PFAS

We have also monitored reports of Polyflorinated Alkyl substances (PFAS), aka GEN X (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 now. Impacts to

Leesville Lake and Smith Mountain Lake are under review, but likely not an issue. A 10 November 2022

Roanoke Times article summarizes status: source found and remediation in progress.

Special thanks to the LVL WQ Committee: Debbie Oliver, Kathleen Giangi, Dave Waterman, and Tony

Capuco for their continuing hard work.

**TLAC Update:** None

**AEP/APCo:**

- Next meeting is January 31, 2023 with Dave and the committee chairs of the Water Quality, Navigation and Debris committees.

**AEP Technical Review Committee Updates:** No meetings have been held.

**New Business:**

Dave Rives announced that Director Brian Bell and his wife are moving so Brian will be resigning from the LLA Board. He thanked Brian for his service on the board.

**Adjourn:**

***Motion: Charlie Hamilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 PM. Tony Capuco seconded. All approved.***