**Minutes of General Members Meeting,**

**Leesville Lake Association, April 15, 2023, Altavista Train Station**

**Present:** Vice President Chip Zimmerman, Roy Kelley, Mary Loiselle, Pam McMillan, Dave Waterman, Richard Beaton, Cynthia Coleman, Joe Humphrey and Jeff Markiewicz of the Board of Directors and 15 members.

**Absent:**  President Dave Rives, Treasurer Bill Beckett, Directors JW Burton, Tony Capuco, Charlie Hamilton, Dannie Smith

**Quorum:** Yes

**Call to order:** Chip called the General Members meeting to order at 10:32 AM.

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

**Guest Speaker:** Keith Roberts, local competitive fisherman. See [www.keithrobertsfishing.com](http://www.keithrobertsfishing.com).

**Treasurer Report**: Mary Loiselle for Bill Beckett

VA SCC annual fee of $25 has been paid, report is due (online update of directors and officers) in May.

Additional Beautification Day sponsorships have been received - TLAC, First National Bank of Altavista and Gretna Drug Store.

**Committee Reports:**

**a. Beautification Day -**  Roy reported that everything is proceeding well for the June 10 Beautification Day. Drop off sites of Leesville Lake Marina, Tri-County Marina and Runaway Bay have been confirmed. Reminder to Heron Landing HOA that their sponsorship has not been received. Volunteers need to sign up too.

**b. Debris -** Pam reported:

(Appalachian, APCo or AEP will refer to the same entity.)

-There has been no activity with the off-load debris site at Myers’s creek and no new information on the potential debris collection/diversion devise. Appalachian has called for their annual Technical Review Committee (TRC)meeting on April 28th and I expect those topics to be brought up.

-2022 Smith Mountain Debris Management Annual Report was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on March 31, 2023. Apparently, they did not have time to answer or comment on our replies to the report and so they will also address those additional comments at the TRC meeting and include them as an amendment to the filing.

The communication committee will put that link up to the FERC report on the LLA website as soon as APCo files those meeting amendments.

-Last several membership meetings I stressed the need for reporting debris. Here is an example of why.

APCo is required to acknowledge and respond to your reports. There is a permanent record of your reports, and those reports are filed and monitored by TLAC who greatly supports our concerns and most importantly, a record of a positive or negative pattern that eventually gets filed with FERC, who expects and requires Appalachian to comply to their license agreement.

Filing reports has started to pay off.

In the last few months, APCo disagreed about the amount of debris left still in the lake and particularly in the upper lake after the results of a High Flow (HF) event from the Pigg River on February 12th-13th.

AEP performed a required survey on Feb16th. None of our committee members were available to attend that survey. When the report from that survey came out on March 10th, (22 days after the survey), it was evident from my view of mm 9.5- 11 and Roy Kelley’s view at mm 13-15, that there was way more debris than Appalachian reported. In addition, their proposed plans to address the HF event was minimal and not escalated as required by their license agreement. Also, they did not send a crew or the contractor to the upper part of the lake where the debris needed to be captured. We responded to that survey saying so and suggested AEP do another run above mm10 and readdress the results of debris loading.

AEP actually did so but not until March 20th, a full 32 days after the initial February 16th HF survey. Again, we were not notified to participate.

In fact, we didn’t even know about it until management (APCO?) sent a brief email stating they did so and that the results were not found to be close to our description of the upper lake and so they kept their proposed plans going forward to the same minimal protocol.

First of all, from Feb 16 the first HW survey to March 20 the second suggested survey is 32 days. That’s 32 days of giving the opportunity for that debris to travel down-stream and disperse throughout the lower areas of the lake.

Unfortunately, that unchecked theory could be challenged or simply disbelieved. What strengthened this fact and what becomes an important backup to our claims was the unusual amount debris reports submitted during this time.

In the past 5 years in records supplied by TLAC show that the average number of debris reports submitted during the months of January, February and March were between 15 and 22. This year in that same timeframe there were **64**. That is more than triple but, the key record from TLAC is that ***19 debris reports were filed shortly after that February 12-13 HF event.***

Debris reporting works!

**Informal Survey of questions to members**

Yes or No (by show of hands)?

1 - do you feel the lake currently is safe for recreational use?

2 - do you feel confident that Appalachian in general is doing as much as needed to improve conditions or be in compliance of their license agreement?

3 - do you think Appalachian administration is the problem?

4 - do you think crew operation is the problem?

5 - do you think we have enough equipment on the lake?

6- As everyone is aware, currently the only means of collecting wood is the barge and related onboard track-o setup. What is this?

If you are familiar with a skimmer and its purpose, do you think it would be a good addition for the needs of our lake debris problems?

7- Due to Appalachian’s (not ours), current latest survey results, they are assigning AEP crew to work 3 days a week working the lower half (below mm8 or so) and the contractor 1 day a week upper half (above mm8 or so) on LVL. According to AEP, “work” on the lake includes collecting debris on water, hauling debris or chipping collected debris at the storage area below the Leesville dam, or maintenance on equipment. In addition, Appalachian often claims that inclement weather, vacation schedules, training new personnel and other unavailability reasons may interrupt these proposed plans.

With all that in mind, do you think it’s still not enough work days and hour assignment, especially after a residual HF event such as what happened on February 12th-13th?

8- In general, without the impact of a high flow event, do you believe Appalachian needs to provide more staff, and on water debris removal days and equipment working simultaneously?

FERC report

Tlac meeting coming up

May use survey questions PLEASE CLARIFY or DELETE THESE ITEMS

**c. Membership -** Cynthia reported 221 member households.

**d. Navigation:** Joe reported:

-Hazard Buoy Update-The 12 Hazard Buoys planned and approved are all in place.

-Aids To Navigation - AEP has indicated they wish to have a Coast Guard representative survey the lake while considering our recommended 13 proposed navigation aids intended to identify the channel where the location of the channel may be in question. Currently, the Coast Guard visit is scheduled for May 15th. I plan to accompany them during the survey.

Along with our proposal for the 13 channel markers, we requested AEP install and maintain navigation lights on the Tolers Ferry Bridge.

**e. Water Quality:** Chip reported for Charlie:

All Water monitoring efforts for 2022 have completed, in accordance with our 2022 MOA, and preparations for 2023 are underway. Budgeting activities have been submitted to APCo and TLAC for 2023/2024 Water Quality initiatives. APCo 2023 LVL work Plan was submitted to APCo on 2/11/2023. 2022 LVL Water Quality Annual Report was submitted to APCo on 3/9/23 and posted on LLA Website for all to read. 2022 Pigg River study report is under review. Water Quality TRC 2 is scheduled for Friday 21 April at 1030. HDR (APCo subcontractor) will present Phase 3 Feasibility Study results. VDEQ will present the 401 Procedural Review Process (license). Comments on the APCo 2022 Annual report were submitted 4/5/2023.

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. Appalachian’s VDEQ Virginia Water Protection Individual Permit No 08-0572 (Permit) expires on March 31, 2025. LLA has communicated to APCo and FERC that APCo’s resolution of the DO challenge should be central to whether Permit 08-0572 is renewed, or not.

b) Poor water quality of the Pigg River (subject to 2023 studies)

**TLAC Update:** None

**Old Business:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:** Nothing to report.

**Adjourn:**

***Motion: Dave Waterman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15PM. Member Nancy Parker seconded. All approved.***