**Minutes of Leesville Lake Association**

**Board of Directors Meeting, May 11, 2023, Altavista Train Station**

**Present:** President Dave Rives, Vice President Chip Zimmerman, Treasurer Bill Beckett, Directors Richard Beaton, JW Burton, Tony Capuco, Cynthia Coleman, Charlie Hamilton, Joe Humphrey, Roy Kelley, Mary Loiselle, Pam McMillan, Dannie Smith, Dave Waterman and Committee Chair Glen Coleman.

**Absent:**  Director Jeff Markiewicz.

**Quorum:** Yes

**Call to order:** Dave Rives called the Board meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

**Minutes:** Dave Rives asked for a motion to approve the March meeting of the Board. Danny Smith motioned that the minutes from the March 9, 2023, meeting of the Board of Directors be approved. JW Burton seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Dave Rives asked for a motion to approve the April General Membership meeting. Cynthia Coleman motioned that the minutes from the April 15, 2023, General Membership meeting be approved. Joe Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer Report**: Bill Beckett

The Year-to-Date Budget report, Income Statement, and Balance Sheet for March and April were submitted. Mary Loiselle made a motion to approve the March Treasurer’s Reports as submitted. Cynthia Coleman seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Cynthia Coleman made a motion to approve the April Treasurer’s Report as submitted. Roy Kelley seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**a. Executive -** Dave Rives

Organizational Succession Planning remains a concern. We have seven board members whose terms are expiring. In addition, the association is lacking a secretary and several committee chairs will not be returning.

**b. Finance -** No report

**c. Nominating -** JW Burton has stepped down from the Chairman position. Glen Coleman is currently the only member of the committee.

**d. Beautification Day -** Roy Kelley

Everything is proceeding well for the June 10, Beautification Day. The drop-off sites of Leesville Lake Marina, Tri-County Marina and Runaway Bay have been confirmed and coordinators have been assigned for each site. Tipping fees have been waived. Donor/Sponsorship has increased. T-shirts and artwork are set for timely delivery by the next Board Meeting. Runaway Bay will be using the Association boat. Need more volunteers to sign up.

**e. Communications** - Dave Waterman

Newsletter articles due by June 15.

f. **Debris -** Pam McMillan

2022 Smith Mountain Debris Management Annual Report was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on March 31, 2023. Appalachian did not have time to answer or comment on our replies to the report and therefore addressed those additional comments and questions at the TRC meeting on April 28th. It was requested that Appalachian include them in as an amendment to the filing. 4 key issues that were discussed.

-Additional equipment

-Increased staffing

-Myers Creek update

Pigg River debris/collection devise

Except for the formal announcement of Appalachian’s purchase order for a new skimmer, expected sometime in 2024, there is no change in Appalachian’s stance on utilizing more staffing both for crew and contractor with assigned days.

Myers Creek offload site is still in the permit stage. However, even if that process were to be completed, we are now coming into the long-eared bat roosting season (June-October).

There were no updates on the Pigg River diversion/device.

Other topics of discussion were the committee’s frustration on Appalachian’s response time and work location choices after a high-water incident, lack of contractor utilization, and that there is no evidence to support Appalachian’s claim on the annual report that efforts “are escalated”, to address debris after a high-water incident.

Courtesy Calls

Discussion about whether courtesy call backs have been helpful. As a reminder, this service provided is not a requirement and the Appalachian representative pointed out that although they hoped that stakeholders appreciated the timely confirmation upon receipt of reports, the response time to retrieve cannot be given and this may at times created the opposite effect.

Contractor Discussion

Appalachian asked if LLA knew any contractors who would work on Leesville Lake. The contractor would need to comply with Appalachian high safety standards. Apparently, Appalachian knows of other contractors, but they are either too expensive or would not meet Appalachian safety standards.

Project’s 2023 general overall plan

Same as last year’s when it comes to proposed debris removal.

Leesville Lake Crew will work two or three, 10-hour days any days Monday through Thursday depending upon variables. The contractor will assist with debris removal from mile markers 8 to 14, one day a week, as available.

Month of April

-TLAC took 10 debris reports.

-There was a high-water incident on April 28-29 in which the Pigg River reached 10.15 feet.

-215 tons were collected by the lake crew and 30 tons by the contractor for a total of 845 tons from Leesville since January, (70 tons for SML – total 380 tons from SML).

-Between April 7, 2023, and May 5, 2023, the Leesville Lake Crew worked 9 days and the Contractor worked 3 days on Leesville Lake.

**g. Membership -** Cynthia Coleman

LLA currently has 224 member households.

Apparel is available through a website, or the association could purchase and resell the apparel. JW Burton made a motion to post a link to the website where people could order apparel. Joe Humphrey seconded the motion. A decision was made that the membership committee will create a link for members to use to purchase LVL items and provide the Board with that link and instructions to try before it is posted to the website. The link and instructions will be presented at the next meeting.

Annual Meeting to be held at Noon on July 15, 2023, at the Leesville Lake Marina. AEP will provide a speaker for the event. Reservations for attendance required.

**h. Navigation -** Joe Humphrey

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

-Aids To Navigation - AEP 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. Originally, the Coast Guard visit was scheduled for May 15th. It has been postponed until sometime in July.

**i. Property** - Open

Joe Humphrey reported the LLA pontoon boat is back on the water. Some water was noticed in the lower unit when it was serviced.

**j. Water Safety -** Jeff Markiewicz was absent. An article on Electric Shock Hazard was discussed as a potential for the next newsletter.

**k. Water Quality –** Charlie Hamilton

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 was held Friday 21 April 2023. HDR (APCo subcontractor) presented Phase 3 Feasibility Study results. VDEQ presented the 401 Procedural Review Process (license). Comments on the APCo 2022 Annual report were submitted 4/5/2023. APCo will address in their final submission by 15 May 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 Dissolved Oxygen (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)

Charlie attended the AEP Water Quality TRC meeting and reported the following:

Elizabeth Parcell indicated the LLA 2023 WQ check was being sent “shortly”.

APCo acknowledged our challenge that DO permit limits were not met from July to October. All 3 Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reps were very attentive to that discussion and indicated they would bring that information to the attention of the new Director of DEQ.

Ferrum College’s discussed Potassium levels in SML.

Lynchburg University provided a synopsis of pages 58-60 in LLA Annual report for presentation/discussion.

HDR did about a 30 minute follow up on the phase 2 engineering feasibility study. They have found that modifying turbines 2 and 4 with air pushed through the turbine blades (a technique we use in the Navy called Prairie and Masker) achieves about 90% of the DO standard in all conditions. APCo is concerned about achieving 100% and are squeamish about spending the money to get 90% effectivity. They also stated that Turbines 2 and 4 are relatively new and not ready for replacement (again cost). APCo acknowledged they would articulate their Phase 3 study in their 2022 Annual Report in response to our written comments. They further indicated they have not committed to a Phase 4 study looking at other mechanical solutions.

APCo acknowledged that they are not currently on a timeline to fix the DO issue before Permit review. DEQ acknowledged that APCo’s continuing 14 years of study had not gotten anywhere close to the goal line. DEQ freely acknowledged APCo was not meeting Permit standards and DEQ and FERC had not held their feet to the fire.

**TLAC Update –** Dave Rives

The only “No Wake Surfing” zone request was denied by Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. The Wake Ed Taskforce has put together educational material and promotional giveaway items. The Taskforce has strong opposition to restricting what people do on or with boats. They support education. They have developed maps of safer boating zones and set up a QR code to access recommended boating behavior.

**Old Business:**

Richard Beaton made a motion to create a business membership option charging $35 for a non-voting membership that would provide advertising in the newsletter, email blasts, and website. There was no second and the motion died without further discussion.

**New Business:**

Dave Rives advised that an AEP managerial official offered to attend LLA meetings. The AEP official would not be an official member and would not have voting rights. There was concern about standing attendance but generally agreed there was benefit to attendance by invitation. Neal Holthouser will be invited to the June LLA board meeting.

**Adjourn:**

***Motion: JW Burton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlie Hamilton seconded. The motion was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.***