**Minutes of Board Meeting,**

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

**Present:** Roy Kelley,Chip Zimmerman; Bill Beckett, Cynthia Coleman, Glenn Coleman, Charlie Hamilton, Joe Humphrey, Mary Loiselle, Teri Thomas, Dave Waterman

**Guests**: Edwin Hanson; Neil Holthouser, Eli Meador

**Absent:**  Pam McMillan, Jeff Markiewicz, Dave Rives, Dannie Smith

**Quorum:** Yes

1. **Call to order:** President, Roy Kelley called the Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. The board introduced itself and recognized new members Teri Thomas, and two guests, Neil Holthouser, Eli Meador, APCO representatives.
3. Joe Humphrey’s seven year service to LLA as Navigation and Property Chair was recognized as Glenn Coleman is the new chair.
4. **Minutes:** Roy asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2023 LLA board meeting.

***Motion:*** *Charlie Hamilton made a motion to approve the minutes from the* August 10, 2023 *Board meeting as presented. Bill Beckett seconded. All approved.*

1. **Treasurer’s Report:** Temporary Treasurer, Mary Loiselle, reported on the end of Fiscal Year 2023 report. The association is in good financial shape with expenses down by $3,000, by cutting costs on the budget.

***Motion:*** *Charlie Hamilton made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Chip Zimmerman seconded. All approved.*

1. **Committee Reports:**
2. **Executive:** The two new board candidates were introduced
	1. Debra Kiraly (not present) lives in Runaway Bay
	2. Edwin Hanson, lives in Runaway Bay

***Motion****: Mary Loiselle made a motion to approve the two candidates. Bill Beckett seconded. All approved.*

* 1. Glenn Coleman was introduced as the new Navigation/Property Chair (non-voting member) with Joe Humphrey helping Glenn with the turnover
	2. Secretary position is still open and candidates for this position are being searched for in LLA membership
1. **Finance:** No report
2. **Beautification Day:** Roy Kelly
	* 1. Roy reported there would not be a second Beautification Day in 2024.
		2. Roy stated there needs to be more promotion and communication for this day, as the number who helped this summer were down
		3. Roy suggested a Drumbeat and Daily Countdown to notify and drive membership participation for this annual event
3. **Communications:** Dave Waterman
	1. Website, Dave Waterman: Stated things were fine
	2. E-Newsletter, Diane Hewett: Articles are due by September 15 for October quarterly newsletter.
	3. Calendar, Melissa Croteau and Phyllis Garlick: An order was placed for 50 calendars to start with; calendars cost $500 for 50.
4. **Debris:** Pam McMillan-LLADC Chair
	1. A regular monthly survey was performed on September 6th, 2023.  Appalachian’s timely report was sent to our committee on September 8th.  Our committee also participated that day and in our observations were in line with APCo.  The water level on the day of survey was a low pond of 602 feet.
		* + 1. In general, the main channel and both sides of shorelines between MM 0-7 was determined to be in the best shape it’s been all summer with limited debris throughout.
				2. However, the upper half of the lake above had numerous tons of mixed debris sizes in areas of the main channel and countless varieties resting on the shorelines and in coves throughout miles 7-15.
	2. In the month of August;
		* + 1. AEP Crew worked 10 days removing 290 tons.
				2. The Contractor worked 3 days removing 70 tons.
	3. Since January the total amount removed from Leesville Lake is now 2,245 tons.
	4. In comparison, Smith Mountain Lake total amount removed since January is 980 tons.
	5. There was 1 high flow event on August 28th when the Pigg River reached a height of 6.07 ft.
5. AEP’s Proposed plans going forward for the remainder of September into October is to continue with the crew working 2-3 days and the contractor 1-2 days (when available), removing debris on the lake, concentrating efforts above MM 7.
6. There were 12 debris reports submitted by Stakeholders in August.
7. There have been no updates given on the progress of Myers Creek off load site or the Pigg River collection /diversion device.
8. Meeting filed with FERC

Pam reached out to Liz Parcel by email on September 9, 2023 to get confirmation that the final Annual Meeting Notes and our follow up Committee comments sent on 8/8/23, were officially included on record and included/submitted to FERC. Pam received an email this morning stating that she filed the final report with FERC today, September 14, 2023.

Pam forwarded Liz Parcell’s email to President Roy Kelley for his records and to Dave Waterman to put up on the LLA website.

1. **Membership:** Cynthia Coleman
	1. Total Membership -  234, quite a jump from the previous number of 228, but had 6 former members reengage with the association to give that tally. There are 71 households that have not paid dues, and many of these may have paid, and Mary and Cynthia are working through the various lists. Also, there are many duplicates, a few of which Cynthia has temporarily resolved and will eventually merge the two accounts after she confirms with members.
	2. Many people have duplicate accounts because when they pay online, they don’t “go” to their Aplos account to pay, and if they use a name different from what is on file on Aplos, such as with using their nickname instead of their former name, such as Joey Smith instead of Joseph Smith, Aplos creates a new account.
	3. Cynthia suggests that we, a month or so before the picnic, tell our members to renew their dues under the original name on file, of which she can inform. Cynthia can create an email to send out to people letting them know this, or add this to my report for the October Newsletter.
	4. Also, Cynthia found that the mailing list that was used was the list created under Reports and is the *Last Year But Unfortunately Not This* (LYBUNT) list. The invoices should have been generated from the Membership list, which is not found under **Reports**, but under **People/Lists/Membership**. Cynthia will make sure that our new Treasurer or bookkeeper is aware of this for the next round of dues collection.
	5. Nonetheless, Cynthia will need to go through the LYBUNT list to compare it to the Membership list and see if anyone didn’t receive an invoice and then contact those members to remind them to pay dues.
	6. Suggest the way to best follow the number of attendees of the picnic would be to print out name tags prior to the day from those who have registered and then we’ll know exactly who has and who hasn’t attended. It wouldn’t be that much more expensive to buy sheets of name tags that Cynthia can print and then cut out and have ready for everyone. We could also buy the plastic sleeves that are reusable and print out the names on cardstock. New people and those who are no longer members could be easily set up with nametags.
2. **Navigation:** Glenn Coleman, Chair; Joe Humphrey (reporting)
	1. **Hazard Buoy Update**: The 12 Hazard Buoys planned and approved are all in place.
	2. **Aids To Navigation:** The planned Coast Guard survey to review our 13 proposed navigation aids has been postponed until further notice due to budget cuts, per Liz Parcell (AEP).
	3. **2021 Five-Year Sedimentation Survey Report:** Sediment survey is to be completed every 5 years

Identification of impacts of sediment deposits on project operation

Identification of actions to be taken by APCo to address the impact of the deposits Survey completed in 2021

March 2023 an internal review found the report was never filed. Extension requested. August 25, 2023 extension granted to file by October 31, 2023

APCo soliciting comments from TRC’s of Navigation and Water Quality by Sep 30. For LVL the areas of concern are Leesville Dam Boat Launch, Myers Creek Boat Launch, Old Woman’s Creek and the Pigg River.

Results of 2021 survey compared to previous surveys indicated the following:

Leesville Dam Boat Launch – negligible differences

Myers Creek Boat Launch – slightly increased sediment depositions

Old Woman’s Creek – slightly increased sediment depositions

Pigg River – greatest change relative to sedimentation differences for LVL

* 1. No impacts to project operations identified.
	2. Upper reaches of the Pigg River experienced the greatest change from the 2005 baseline survey.
	3. The source of the sediment is from activities outside of the project boundary.
1. **Property:** Glenn Coleman, Chair; Joe Humphrey (reporting)

**Pontoon:** We need to consider when to take the pontoon out of the water for the winter season.

1. **Water Quality:** Charlie Hamilton
2. **No overall health concerns for recreational use.**
3. Two threats to the lake are evident and are being carefully monitored.  These are:

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.

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

1. SMITH MOUNTAIN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT July 2023 Monthly Water Quality Monitoring Report ES Project No.: 16402 Date: 9/5/2023, Results show data from:
2. Instantaneous DO values ranged from 4.3 mg/L to 8.2 mg/L, with an average of 5.8 mg/L (minimum 4.0 mg/l).
3. Daily average DO values ranged from 4.9 mg/L to 6.9 mg/L, with a median of 5.7 mg/L. (minimum 5.0 mg/l)

As shown on Figures 2 and 4, DO concentrations decreased from the beginning to the end of July, with 31 July 2023 being the only day out of tolerance.

1. 2023 Pigg River Studies commence in mid-September 2023.  TLAC has been briefed on objectives, and funding requirements.

2023 Pigg River Study Objectives:

In 2023, we propose a further investigation of bacterial content in the waters of the Pigg River and its sediment.  We will employ the same sampling strategy as utilized in 2022, but analysis of the nature of bacteria present will be assessed by 16s next generation sequencing (16s NGS).  This analysis will provide information about the classes of bacteria present, their metabolism and pathogenicity.  Thus, we hope to determine if the presence of large quantities of *E. coli* presents a human health threat or reflects ongoing processes of vegetative decay in the sediment.  We should also be able to assess the nature of bacteria in the Pigg River waters during low flow and increased runoff conditions.

Key parameters to be tracked are turbidity, total phosphorus, nitrate-nitrogen, pH, dissolved oxygen, and two bacteriological tests - *E. coli* and *Enterococci* coliform bacteria.  Additionally, 16s NGS will be utilized to further characterize the prevalence of different classes of bacteria in the Pigg River and its sediment.  This information will allow us to identify appropriate potential risks to human health, courses of action and partners (government agencies and municipalities) with whom we can address the problem.

1. The Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) advisory is no longer in effect for Blackwater River arm of Smith Mountain Lake

1. **TLAC Update:** Dave Rives, not present; however Roy stated the Dave will continue to attend the meetings through this cycle. The date of the next meeting was unknown at the time of the meeting. The Leesville Lake Shoreline Management Review Public Meeting is on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the Altavista train station.
2. **AEP Technical Review Committee Updates**: No report
3. **Old Business:** None
4. **New Business:** **Speakers from APCo**: Neil Holthouser, Eli Meador

Neil Holthouser and Eli Meador from APCo joined our meeting to provide insight from APCo on the Shoreline Management Plan for Leesville Lake and topics of interest to the board.  Most of our questions and answers were focused on our concerns for the amount of debris in Leesville Lake.  Neil offered to attend our BOD meetings when invited in the future and would take our concerns back to APCo management.

1. **Confirmation of next meeting:** Membership Meeting, October 14, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., Altavista Train Station, with the Speaker still undecided. Pam, Mary, and Cynthia will handle the tables of pastries and sweets, with coffee and tea available.
2. **Adjourn: *Motion: Mary made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:30 PM. Cynthia seconded. All approved.***