**Leesville Lake Association, Inc.**

**Board of Directors Meeting – February 8, 2024**

**Location: Altavista Library – 6:30pm**

**Attendees – Roy Kelley, Chip Zimmerman, Edwin Hanson, Debra Kiraly, Cynthia Coleman, Glenn Coleman, Mary Loiselle, David Waterman, Dannie Smith, Dave Rives, Teri Thomas, Jeff Markiewicz, Charlie Hamilton**

**Absent – Bill Beckett, Pam McMillan**

**Guests – Leanne Hanson, Nancy Dalton, Linda Harding**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Roy Kelley. Guests were introduced. Roy noted that we had two high flow events – January 10th and January 28th. Surveys were done after each of these events by AEP.

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**:  December 14, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes and the January 13, 2024, General Meeting Minutes were approved via motions and seconds as recorded.

2. **Treasurer’s Report**: Edwin reported as of 1/31/2024, we have had $3,174.90 of income, which consists of dues, water monitoring, interest income and calendar sales. One new account was added – for the pre-paid cards which Edwin explained later in the meeting.

a.      **Latest status** - Edwin Hanson – there has been $1,100 set aside on the pre-paid cards currently. There were no further questions regarding the Treasurers report. Motions to approve and seconds to accept the January 13, 2024, Treasurer’s Report and the February 8, 2024, Treasurer’s Report were accepted as recorded.

3.     **Committee Reports**: Roy explained to the Board and guests what the committees were and noted that volunteers were welcome to join. We need to have some Organizational Succession Planning and volunteers to make that possible.  Teri Thomas introduced Nancy Dalton as a potential new BOD member.

1. Finance (Standing Committee) – Edwin Hanson / Mary Loiselle – Edwin noted that the $1100.00 was set up for the prepaid cards. He also noted that in searching for a good interest rate for the savings that we have that Select Bank in Lynchburg has the best current rate. Runaway Bay also uses this bank for their CDs in reserve funds. Discussion followed regarding whether the money should be placed in a CD, the availability of the funds if placed in a CD, the tax implications, and what other projects are upcoming that the funds may be needed for. Roy explained the upcoming boat repair, the need to keep APCO held to their responsibility’s vis a vis funding and we shouldn’t let LVL not invest the savings wisely. It was moved and seconded to put $50,000.00 into a CD at Select Bank, which may earn as much as 5% interest rate.
2. Prepaid cards – Edwin updated the policy, made a few small changes and the policy was discussed. Some Board members and some committee chairs will have access to the cards. There are 4 cards, 3 actual and 1 virtual. The 3 cards are for Membership, Outreach (calendars and mailing) and Event Host. Edwin will monitor and it will still be the responsibility of each card holder to provide receipts. Questions were asked about the policy and if when the members change the cards will be returned. Edwin will continue to control and monitor the cards, reimburse each card to get it back to the limit once expenditures are made. He noted there is an app for each person’s cell phone, which allows upload of receipts which are stored in Aplos. Edwin will restrict, as it is not the intention to pass the cards around. Chip and Charlie had questions and concerns regarding the limits and PINs – PINS are currently not assigned; however, Edwin can assign them for safety. Mary noted that with a PIN the card functions more as a debit card rather than credit card. Mary also noted that in the Financial Controls Policy expenditures greater than $100.00, that are not in the budget require approval. Discussion ensued regarding the approval limits for the cards, their restrictions, and one additional re-write of the prepaid card policy is required, which Edwin will complete and provide for the March meeting. The re-write will reference the Financial Controls Policy and other changes the Board agreed upon.
3. Edwin noted that he has requested $131.00 for printer ink, which was agreed upon. Mary noted that there is a tax-exempt letter that we have, along with accounts at Wal-Mart and Staples, Lowes, Home Depot, and English hardware. Cynthia noted that we need to have copies of this, as most employees/cashiers will not have this information at hand or be able to look it up. Edwin has a copy and will supply.
4. Edwin reported that the taxes have been completed and filed. A review by the Finance committee, with the Treasurer providing access to the records is needed for internal audit purposes.

4.   **Nominating (Standing Committee)** – Teri Thomas introduced Nancy Dalton of Runaway Bay as a potential committee member. Teri is waiting for an updated membership role from Cynthia to begin soliciting members for positions. 13 calendars are left, we will reduce the price and bring them to the April and July meetings. (Half-price at the April meeting and free at the July meeting/picnic) We have made a little bit of profit in past years but lost money this year with the printing prices. Teri will look at next year’s pricing – to break even and we may have to charge more to mail the calendars and find a cheaper source of printing. Continue to send in photos, and we need to advertise the cut-off date for photos. We have not included advertising in the calendars, but there is a demand for lake maps, which did include advertising. Cynthia will research.

5. **Beautification Day** – Roy Kelley noted that he sent out sponsorship requests to previous year’s donors, he will provide a list of those he sent to, so Board members can also pass sponsorship requests to other local businesses. Board members are asked to update Roy with any local businesses they contact. Sponsors providing $300.00 get their name on the T-shirt.

Keep the debris reports coming – we are gaining momentum. We should include this request in the next e-mail blast, and make it a monthly drumbeat, building up to Beautification Day.

6.  **Communications** – Dave Waterman noted that he is looking for updates to the website from committee chairs – please get these to Dave.

7.  **Debris** – Pam McMillan was absent but provided a report. Keep sending in debris reports. The barge is currently working (as of meeting date) up to MM2, as there is an accumulation of debris at the dam. TLAC is helping to coordinate. 270 tons were collected last week and this week so far 190 tons were collected. However, it was noted that this is certainly not all the lake debris.

The Pigg River had a high flow event on January 9th, 2024, and crested to 19.63 feet on January 10th.

AEP performed a high flow survey on January 15th, however weather conditions for independent LLA Committee survey comparison was not feasible. The details of their report (1/25/24), appear questionable to the amount of debris reported or at the time of survey, the debris had not fully finished being expressed out of the Pigg River. In their summary, Appalachian proposes to continue removing debris from Leesville Lake, as encountered, as traveling upstream from the dam, as weather permits. A revised work plan will be forwarded to the TRC upon completion of the proposed debris assessments. Specific details regarding the assessments will be provided to TRC members as soon as the times and dates are confirmed.

At the time of this report submission, our committee had not received any updates.

Pam requests that the board discuss the ways and means of using our social media resources (newsletter, Facebook), to bring attention to the severity of our lake’s condition and if in agreement, get our statement out as soon as possible.

There were 33 debris reports submitted in January.

There are no updates on the Pigg River collection/diversion device and no updates for the Myers Creek off load site.

 8**.   Membership** – Cynthia Coleman reported that we have a total of 210 members, no new activity, and talked about the raffle we did at the January membership meeting, and if there was any better way to do this. We can post a picture of the raffle winner if they agree – on the website. Cynthia will get the membership roll to Teri. Cynthia found a 1951 vintage map of the land before the lake was made (a US Geological Survey topographical, contour, waterways) and requested to purchase this for $75.00 as a raffle item. She will get estimates for framing. Other suggestions were that we needed an updated lake map, window decals, key floats, a phone holder that floats, cushions with handles that float. Cynthia will research these items.

 9.    **Navigation** – Glenn Coleman - Glenn reported that on January 30, 2024, Joe Humprey and Glenn Coleman responded to an invitation from Elizabeth Parcel, Process Supervisor for American Electric Power, and remotely attended the meeting of the Smith Mountain Project Aids to Navigation Technical Review Committee. In addition to the AEP officials the meeting included representatives of the US Coast Guard, the VA Department of Wildlife Resource, and others who supplied expertise in GPS mapping.

The group spent most of the approximately two hours of the meeting on navigation issues at various locations on Smith Mountain Lake. While this process was interesting, Joe and Glenn were interested in the navigational aids proposals for Leesville Lake. We found that the Leesville Lake navigation proposals were last and least on the agenda. No new proposals were introduced and only after we requested, were we able to set a tentative appointment with the Coast Guard representative to visit the lake with us and formulate navigational aids recommendations. We secured a commitment to meet with us on the lake when he is available on a date sometime in May of 2024.

Following the meeting Glenn contacted Ms. Parcell to suggest a remedy for a problem marking a navigational hazard that was highlighted during the meeting. Glenn received an email thanking him for the helpful information and her plans to implement the suggestion.

On January 31, 2024, Ms. Parcell emailed our Navigation Committee to inform us that the hazard buoy for a rock near MM8 was missing. Glenn paddled over to MM8 and 9 to locate the buoy but was unable to locate it. He found that the high-water event that occurred late in January had dislodged a large number of water-soaked logs and debris that were floating just below the surface. The conclusion reached is that the submerged debris tangled with the buoy and pulled it down. The site will be revisited when water levels are low enough to possibly find the missing buoy and dislodge it from any entanglements. Glenn noted that we need to be aware of the submerged logs well after a high-water event and assume there are submerged logs if the water is brown. We should be the first to know when there is a high flow event. Pam is tasked with advertising on the website when she gets a high-water event notification. Glenn is tasked with writing an article for the website regarding debris below the surface. The pontoon boat will need service earlier than usual.

10. **Water Safety & Education** – Jeff Markiewicz noted that Gerry Caprario probably not be able to continue will continue this service of safety vessel inspection in 2024. Jeff Markiewicz will be getting qualification to perform in 2024. If Vessel inspection is desired Jeff will work with SML Sail and power squadron and/or US Coast Guard Auxiliary to support.

a. 2024 Boater Safety Classes - Continue to refer to VA DWR and Upcoming Classes (from DWR website, the link is on LLA Website on Water Safety Committee, (noted to President it can be difficult navigating from link to course registration and class search page on DWR so Jeff can maintain some awareness of upcoming classes). Classes are as follows:

1. Sat 24 Feb 2024 8:00-5:00 Virginia DWR, Central Virginia Community College, 136 Carver Lane, Appomattox contact Patrick Morgan at patrickfranklin269@gmail.com Course Full, Free Course

2. Sat 24 Feb 2024 Virginia DWR, Smith Mountain Lake State Park, Discovery Center, 1235 State Park Rd, Huddleston trevor.ruble@dwr.virginia.gov Course full, Free Course

3. Sat 16 Mar, 13 Apr, 11 May, 15 Jun, 13 Jul and 17 Aug 8:00-4:30 SML Water Treatment Facility, 1500 Radford Church Rd, Moneta VA. $40 Course. US Power Squadron Course materials include 270 pages with supplemental chapter on piloting and intro to Navigation question call Randy Stow 540 588-0270

4. Online Courses - Virginia Boating Safety http://www.boat-ed.com/virginia/

5. America’s Boating Course http://www.americasboatingcourse.com/

The committee is in the process of organizing a rescue service. Most of the effort will be to assist boaters in trouble due to a breakdown or other similar issues. Currently two of the Board of Directors members are providing this service on an individual basis. Most of the time the issues they respond to are not life threatening but occasionally they are life threatening. The committee is looking for additional volunteers who are comfortable going out to tow another boat or otherwise provide boater assistance. They are also looking for volunteers who have a view of the lake. Jeff will be looking at Google voice or other similar services to have a central call-in phone number that can notify the group of a call.

 All four lake counties with Leesville and Smith Mountain Lake shorelines have the same requirements for structural and electrical building requirements. The requirements sheet is attached and the following is the Franklin County Link: https://www.franklincountyva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/333/Dock-Require-Guidelines-PDF

11.    **Water Quality** – Charlie Hamilton noted that since our high water event on January 10th, the suspended sediment in Leesville Lake has turned the water chocolate milk brown and a secchi disk disappears at about 6 inches depth. The water quality effects which accrue from almost a month of high turbidity include:

* + Suppression of phytoplankton and production of oxygen in the water.
	+ Turbidity brings in a bunch of bacteria and complicates fish feeding and behavior.
	+ Turbidity disrupts the ecology of the reservoir. In February aquatic life is not very active but is still dependent on water quality. The cooler temps will also help allow the turbidity to persist for a while due to viscosity. Water density is strong at cool temps making it behave more like oil than water for things like turbidity.

The WQ Committee will continue to monitor the turbidity for longevity, and potentially address concerns with APCO and VA DEQ. Questions were asked by guests regarding what TRC was, TLAC and APCO comments to FERC.

The Leesville Lake Annual Water Quality Report draft will be circulated to the WQ Committee next week for review and comment. Expect the final report at the end of February, where it will be posted on our LLA Website. The Pigg River annual report will follow a similar pattern in March.

 Members of the WQ Committee will participate in a Public Meeting to Develop a Water Quality Cleanup Plan Development for The Pigg River, Poplar Branch, Frying pan Creek, and Beaverdam Creek in Franklin, Pittsylvania and Bedford Counties on February 29th. DEQ is seeking input to restore water quality in Franklin, Pittsylvania, and Bedford Counties’ watersheds. Kimberly Romero, Nonpoint Source Coordinator Department of Environmental Quality (540)-759-9075 Kimberly.Romero@deq.virginia.gov is the host.

APCO will host the WQ TRC in late April/early May.

Questions were raised regarding whether we should approach VDOT about the bridge washout at Snow Creek Road. caused by debris from the lake. Dave Rives suggested using TLAC as VDOT may not be aware of the ramifications of removing the debris only to have it come own into the lake.

 12. **TLAC**:  Roy Kelley noted that the newly elected county supervisor for our Altavista is a boater on the lake and is interested in lake issues. His name is Tom Lawton and he contacted Chip regarding issues. It was noted that TLAC does not have a citizen representative from Campbell County, and that it may require bylaws change by TLAC to do this. Debra offered to engage Mr. Lawton to see if this was possible, as Runaway Bay has the largest amount of shoreline, that is Campbell County. TLAC noted that the 4-month dredging ban is coming up. Dave Rives noted that we need to continue to bring up the presentation items that LVL made to ensure that Neil must address these at TLAC meetings. We want to ensure the counties stay in front of these issues. Dave also noted that there is a FERC site to file complaints – and that we need to find out what that site is and if we can get a link put on our website to it.

Technical Review Committee Update(s) – nothing coming up.

Lights on bridge –Do we need to ask for lights on the Tolers Ferry Bridge, if so, who do we coordinate that with?

12.     **Old Business** – The Chamber of Commerce is dissolving and looking for someone to manage the Train Station. The Spark Center is too small for a General Membership meeting, the Booker building has restrooms, but no kitchen – both venues are about the same price. The YMCA has a full kitchen, and is fully supplied, is $125.99 to rent with a deposit required. The motion was made and seconded to use the YMCA for the April meeting. Roy Kelley is a member and can reserve for the meeting.

13.    **New Business** – It was recorded that we have the following:

 April 13, 2024 – Mary (Dark Sky guest speaker)

July 13, 2024 – Cynthia – but need topics and guest speakers, something positive, maybe invite AEP but not to speak. If we do the marina, we need speakers all around and we need to change the configuration so that everyone can hear. Even if we must rent speakers. Chip asked if we need additional hard surface area, potentially a projector. We had a projector, questionable as to location, Edwin has one we can use if needed. Agenda to be determined at next meeting. Note that closing the pool is a negotiable item for Chip.

           October12, 2024 - Teri

Confirmation of next meetings – Roy has reserved the library for the next Board meeting which will be March 14, 2024, 6:30pm, Altavista Library. Our General Membership Meeting is April 13, 2024, 10:30am, YMCA Altavista.

 Cynthia will investigate lake maps to replace the 2008 ones; these are useful, and we need to see how we can get printed. We can get more maps of the lake from AEP for the picnic if needed.

Everyone was reminded to send their soft copy reports to the Debra for inclusion in the minutes.

**Adjourn**