**Leesville Lake Association, Inc.**

**Board of Directors Meeting – June 13, 2024**

**Location: Altavista Presbyterian Church – 6:30pm**

**Agenda**

1.      **Call to Order** – the meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. In attendance were Roy Kelley, Edwin Hanson, Chip Zimmerman, Dannie Smith, Teri Thomas, Jeff Markiewicz, Glenn Coleman, Cynthia Coleman, Charlie Hamilton, Dave Waterman, Debra Kiraly and Pam McMillan. Absent – Bill Beckett, Mary Loiselle and Dave Rives.

2.     May 9, 2024, Board minutes were approved via first and seconded motion.

3**.      Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer's Reports for April, May and June were postponed pending a revision to the Water Quality portion of the FY 2023-24 Budget that will be retroactive to March 2024.  We will vote on the Revised FY 2023-24 Budget and the Treasurer's Reports for April, May and June 2024 at the July General meeting.

Edwin Hanson presented the budget and discussion ensued regarding the amount of money that AEP provided for water quality surveying and monitoring. Charlie Hamilton was concerned that the budget accurately reflects what we received from AEP, versus what was budgeted. Charlie had asked for an 8% increase from AEP for both 2023 and 2024. AEP provided that requested increase in 2023, but not in 2024. At that time the MOA with the University of Lynchburg was adjusted to reflect the decrease in funding from AEP, and it thankfully did not change the amount of work that the University did on our behalf. Charlie’s concern is that whatever AEP provides LLA is the actual budget amount, as it is a pass through, and after discussion it was determined that we should separate the TLAC and AEP budget pass throughs as separate line items in the budget. It was motioned, seconded and approved to do this going forward. Edwin will make the necessary adjustments/creation of new line items in the budget and send them out for review and approval. Additional discussion followed regarding what our policy should be if we spend over a budgeted amount, along with whether e-mail voting is acceptable per our bylaws. If it is not in our By-Laws, we will need to look at a policy addressing e-mail voting by the Board

Edwin provided additional information regarding the broader liability insurance policy that we needed to obtain before Beautification Day. He explained that for the coverage we received, up to 335 households would be covered. Charlie asked that as a Board we review our insurance portfolio and the bidding of our insurance and provide the Board with an understanding of all the coverage that we currently have

4**.      Committee Reports:** – Roy Kelley provided the information that the Board terms are set up as two (2) year terms. Currently the following Board members have served their two (2) year terms as of 31 August 2024 – Dannie Smith, Dave Rives, Pam McMillan, Charlie Hamilton, Chip Zimmerman and Roy Kelley. Dave Rives will retire from the Board at the end of his term, and all the others above have agreed to continue. Bill Beckett will be contacted by Roy Kelley to determine his interest in continuing to serve. We could increase our Board to 19 if we choose to do so.

**Finance** – Mary Loiselle was not available for the meeting, and the Audit report is still outstanding.

**Nominating** – Teri Thomas - Nothing new to report. During the Succession Planning discussion, we determined we have several director positions that are available. Plan to approach new and old members to find those interested in serving. Calendar Subcommittee: a) Photos are trickling in. Planning to ask for photos from the membership at the July general meeting. b) Upon request Dave Waterman updated the photo upload process to send me a copy of the photos.

**Beautification Day** – Roy Kelley reported that had the following:  Volunteers – 76, Boats – 11, Chainsaws – 14. Overall debris collected was 53.53 tons, with the Barge – 30 tons, Tri-County Marina –11.45 tons, Leesville Lake Marina –over 7 tons, with an outstanding amount not yet known, as they needed a third dumpster, and Runaway Bay – 4.87 tons. This was an increase over 2023 debris collection on Beautification Day. LVL received feedback from the barge operators that indicated they did not have enough time to offload at Three Pipes, and they had one load of 30 tons and were maxed out by 2 pm. It is hoped that next year the skimmer will be utilized and then the barge will be able to get to more debris. Pam and Gary McMillian were feeding debris to the barge as they could. It was noted by Pam that this was the first time she thought the barge had been above MM 9 since January.

**Communications** – David Waterman -Website: We are currently running the latest Wordpress (6.5.4) release. Also several plugin updates (sub-modules)since the last meeting and numerous break-in attempts 1/3 order of magnitude more – the firewall is in place, which causes a necessity to block the offending IP address(es).

Newsletters & Emails: Newsletters and email reach out are going out as scheduled. Newsletters and out of band email announcements are both prepared and sent by Diane Hewett who can be reached at newsletter@leesvillelake.org. We need newsletter articles, and an announcement ASAP regarding the July appreciation picnic. Cynthia will provide this to Dave for publication. Their will be a sign up required for the picnic.

 Facebook: If you follow us on https://www.facebook.com/leesvillelake.org we always welcome new commentary pertaining to our association or life on the lake. If you have anything we need to post on Facebook, let me know and send the update to Christine Beckett at facebook@leesvillelake.org

**Debris** – Pam McMillan - Debris Committee update ⁃ At the last board meeting on May 9th, 2024, members in attendance voted unanimously to support AEP’s proposed containment/collection device at the confluence of the Pigg River. Appalachian requested that LLA submit a letter of support to be included with their engineering plans for the log boom project to the joint application agencies for permit approvals. Roy submitted this letter on May 30th on behalf of the LLA. (Chip noted that his father, Sherwood Zimmerman had similar plans in his files from 2011, and AEP never followed through).

AEP and the debris committee conducted their monthly survey on June 4th, 2024. Details of this survey are available upon request. However, in general, the lake had mostly clear main channels with the exception of 3-4 areas of mid-size and mulch type debris more suited for a skimmer as opposed to barge operations. Our committee sent in a request to AEP to update us on the expected skimmer arrival on Leesville Lake. ⁃ In the month of May AEP crew worked 13 days at the lake and removed 225 tons of debris. Contractor-0. As of June 4th, total debris removed since January from Leesville Lake is 1905 tons (SML- 780 T). ⁃ Also in May there were 19 debris reports processed by TLAC. ⁃ AEP’s proposed plans for the remainder of June is for crew to work 1-2 days a week and utilize contractor when available. The debris committee responded that we believe this is not adequate and recommended they continue at the previous 2-3 10 hr. days a week especially since the contractor did not work at all during the month of May. ⁃ There were no high flow events in the month of May.

It was discussed to present the containment/collection device at the July volunteer appreciation meeting, and Roy will print our approx. 45 copies using out Staples account.

**Membership** – Cynthia Coleman - As of June 13, 2024, Leesville Lake Association has 216 Household members. Two give-away items will be ordered as the framing for the map will be more expensive than thought. The two items will be key floats and floating waterproof phone pouches, both personalized for LLA. There should be more than enough for everyone at the Annual Picnic to pick up both items. Cynthia will print name tags for the July meeting after receiving the RSVPs.

At the August Board Meeting, the board will consider increasing the Membership Committee budget to $4000.00 for one year, as requested by Chair, Cynthia Coleman. This is for the purpose that the Chair can purchase the giveaways in a bulk manner and in the most efficient manner. Cynthia would like to add a separate budget line item for promotional items.

Older year Beautification Day T-shirts will be done as a raffle at the July picnic,

Edwin Hanson, Treasurer, and Cynthia Coleman, Membership Chair, will work on putting together the invoices for this year, 2024. Each has to have a letter that is personalized, to give out at the meeting, and Edwin has the ability to help Cynthia with this. Edwin will handle the invoicing and receipt of payments at the picnic and merge the lists as required. Cynthia also needs volunteers to help her at the July picnic, as she has to check-in attendees, etc.

**Navigation** – Glenn Coleman

1. The new hazard buoy for the mile marker 9 rock hazard arrived last week.

2. This morning (June 13) gave an ideal set of weather conditions and low lake level to attempt the replacement of the buoy. Joe Humphrey and I took the pontoon boat and the new buoy to the rock on mile marker 9. We found that the chain tethering the old buoy was bound to an object deep in the water and could not be extricated. We disconnected the old buoy and left the chain as it was unsalvageable. The old buoy was full of water indicating a leak, so we took it with us for possible repair for temporary use elsewhere. Joe will purchase materials to build a new tether and anchor for the new buoy. Installation will follow in the next week or two. (Since we have an account with English Building Supplier in Altavista, Joe will check there and charge the needed tether and anchor supplies there.)

3. We left mile marker 9 to inspect a stump hazard buoy near mile marker 15. We found that the strong water current there had moved the buoy beside the stump rather than upstream. We were able to raise the anchor of the buoy and move it upstream of the stump at a distance to provide adequate warning to boats.

4. Joe and I observed that the registration card for the association’s pontoon boat would expire on June 30, 2024. Edwin informed us that the registration had been paid, but he had not received the needed card or stickers for the boat. While we await the arrival of the card and stickers, Edwin will print out his receipt for the registration to be put on the boat. It will be kept in the cubby under the steering wheel.

5. Navigation chair Glenn Coleman recommended that the board consider some cosmetic upkeep on the pontoon boat, since much of the upholstery is damaged and torn and the carpeting is worn out. Pam and Debra volunteered to look at the boat and perhaps fashion some changes to fit the utilitarian purposes for which the boat is currently used.

**Water Safety & Education** – Jeff Markiewicz - Gerry Caprario will probably not be able to continue this service in 2024. Jeff Markiewicz has completed the process of getting qualification as a Vessel Safety Examiner with the SML Sail & Power Squadron. He is now available for Vessel Safety Checks and is willing to make house calls. Jeff has scheduled to perform Vessel Safety Check at Leesville Lake Marine and Grill on Jul 13 (same day as Membership Appreciation Picnic) from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Two additional Vessel Examiners from the SML Sail & Power Squadron will also be there.

2024 Boater Safety Classes – The LVL Association continues to leverage training provided from VA Dept of Wildlife Resources, US Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Local US Power Squadron (now known as America’s Boating Club). Jeff Encourages all LVL members to take advantage of these courses, some of which are free of charge

Continue to refer to VA DWR

Upcoming Classes (from DWR website, link is on LLA Website on Water Safety Committee, and under resources, Boating Safety) 1. Sat 15 Jun, 13 Jul (at SML Association office 400 Scruggs Road, Moneta VA) 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. Course is Free to US Power Squadron members. Question call Randy Stow 540 588-0270 2. Sat 20 Jul Montgomery County Government Center 755 Roanoke St, Christiansburg VA, free Course, Dave Gruber contact dgruber@biomon.com 3. Online Courses a. Virginia Boating Safety http://www.boat-ed.com/virginia/ b. America’s Boating Course http://www.americasboatingcourse.com/ 4. SML Sail and Power Squadron Hands on Boat Handling Course Starting Tuesday 28 May 6:30-8:00 for 6 weeks only open to Squadron Members.

Based on a review of the 2021 2022 and 2023 Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) boater incident summary reports there were no reported incidents on Leesville Lake in those year. During both those years Smith Mountain Lake had the largest number of incidents in Virginia. Based on information from the Smith Mountain Lake (SML) Water Safety Council that Jeff has been attending some of the limitations of the Data in the Annual Boater incident reports. An example of this is that deaths from drowning after falling from a dock or the shoreline are not included as they are not in VDWR’s jurisdiction and are reported separately by the local law enforcement and are reported to the State Police. The SML Water Safety Council is looking into getting more updated information.

Youth Fishing Day Status – Currently there are 6 youths registered for the event. Hopefully in addition to those that pre-register more may join in on the day of the event especially if the weather is good. To support the event Jeff made the following proposal: Request up to $200 to support the Free Youth Fishing Day at Leesville Lake Marine and Grill on June 22nd, 2024. The Money will be to Purchase Fishing Rods, Life Jackets (to supplement the life jackets available in Loaner station and personally owned life jackets). Live bait. Fishing rods will be held over for next and follow year free youth fishing events. Life Jackets will be marked and donated to Leesville Lake Life Jacket Loaner Stations at Leesville and Tri-County Marinas. Monies to be taken from 5000 General Expenses. The motion was moved and seconded and was approved.

***Water Quality*** *–*Charlie Hamilton - The WQ Committee conducted its June 2024 WQ sampling on Wednesday 12 June. Water quality was good, and effects of the Beautification Day cleanup was apparent and positive. Representatives of the WQ Committee participated in the APCo WQ TRC on 13 May 2024. Results highlighted in separate TRC summary report. Our WQ focus remains on Dissolved Oxygen (currently good) and the outflows of the Pigg River. The Lake is currently in great shape for the summer season.

5. **July Picnic status** - Chip Zimmerman – the sound system is reserved, with two (2) speakers, 600 watts, at a cost of $55.00. Tables and chairs are reserved at English Hardware, the pool will be closed during the LLA picnic meeting so we can all hear the meeting at a cost of $250.00. A motion was made, with a first and second to approve closing the pool at an expense to LLA of the $250.00 If we want to utilize a new concrete pad that was poured at the marina, we could rent a tent (30 x 60) at a cost of $275.00. Help will be needed to set up the day before, July 12th, from 12-2pm.

Lisa Zimmerman and Pam McMillan will coordinate the menu, Terri Kelley will also help, tablecloths will be purchased at the Dollar store, the count will be needed two (2) weeks before, with a hard and fast count one (1) week before.

Roy will call on each committee chair for reports, and we will brief the diversion/collection plan from AEP. Barge workers have been invited to attend

6. Technical Review Committee Update(s) –Appalachian Power Company Smith Mountain Project No. 2210 Water Quality Technical Review Committee Meeting May 13, 2024, 10:00AM Rocky Mount Service Center/Teleconference Rocky Mount, Virginia

Participants: Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian) Liz Parcell, Nicholas Sink, and Ed Brennan, Leesville Lake Association (LLA) Charlie Hamilton (virtual), Tony Capuco, Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) Tom Hardy Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission (TLAC) Kristina Sage, Ferrum College Clay Britton EnviroScience, David Czayka (virtual), Cory Fox (virtual), University of Lynchburg Thomas Shahady (virtual), Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) Elizabeth Gallup (virtual), Eric Seavey, Jason Hill (virtual) HDR Jen Huff.

Liz Parcell opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and having them introduce themselves. Ed Brennan presented a safety topic on the importance of notifying law enforcement when suspicious activity is observed and on ticks. Tony Capuco requested that future meetings be scheduled with more advanced notice and with input from the participants regarding availability.

Smith Mountain Dam Tailwater and Forebay 2023 Water Quality Monitoring Summary

Dave Czayka with EnviroScience presented a slide summary of the 2023 water quality monitoring results for the Smith Mountain Dam tailwater and forebay.

1. The data collection period was from June 1 to November 30, 2023 (17,572 total readings).

2. There were no data gaps; Logger A had a fifteen (15) minute period where it was offline, but Logger B was still functional.

3. Ed Brennan explained that the gaps in the “Smith Mountain Hydroelectric Project daily average dissolved oxygen plot during generation…” graph were periods of time where generation was not occurring, and not gaps in the data.

4. LLA representatives expressed concerns that Appalachian is not meeting the state dissolved oxygen (DO) targets. Liz Parcell maintained that Appalachian is complying with its Virginia Water Protection Permit requirements. Engineering options have been reviewed but none have been identified that would result in DO levels that would meet state standards all the time. Therefore, replacing the current turbine runners which are still within their life cycle with autoventing turbines (AVT) is not being considered at this time. Appalachian will continue to evaluate other remedial measures to enhance water quality downstream of the Smith Mountain Dam that may be applicable to the Smith Mountain Project.

5. Appalachian representatives deferred to the VDEQ to elaborate on the permitting process. VDEQ representatives indicated they would have to review the permit application with their water quality team.

6. LLA expressed concerns regarding the responsiveness of Appalachian and the FERC to their comments on past water quality monitoring reports. Ed Brennan stated that Appalachian provides copies of all review comments and its responses to those comments in the filing of the annual reports with the FERC.

SMLA’s 2023 Water Quality Monitoring Program and Results for Smith Mountain Lake

Clay Britton presented a slide summary of the 2023 SMLA Water Quality Monitoring Program results for Smith Mountain Lake.

1. Total Phosphorus was at its fourth lowest lake average in the last ten years (29.0 ppb), Chlorophyll-a was at its highest average since 2020 (11.1 ppb), Secchi Depth average was the same as 2022 (2.0m), and the E. coli average was 29.1 MPN per 100 mL.

2. There has been increased attention on the algae given the harmful algal blooms (HABs) that occurred last year. Tom Hardy reminded the committee that E. coli and bacteria are still important to track given the aging septic systems at lake-front properties. SMLA is considering future species source tracking of E. coli.

3. Tom Hardy stated that SMLA has started the SMLA Dock Watch, where volunteers collect year round water samples from their docks to assess the presence or absence of five algal species. In addition, SMLA has started a Desktop Investigation in an effort to identify the source of algal blooms.

4. SMLA has been pursuing support through local government for a multi-year study at SML via its Government Relations group.

5. Also, SMLA participates in the Smith Mountain Lake Water Quality Alliance.

LLA’s Water Quality Monitoring Program and Results from 2023

Thomas Shahady presented a slide summary of the 2023 Leesville Lake water quality monitoring results.

1. Several concerns were identified and are as follows:

i. Low DO concentrations during the summer months in the Smith Mountain Dam tailwater and upper reaches of Leesville Lake.

ii. Degraded water quality of the Pigg River regarding bacteria, sediment, and nutrients (i.e., phosphorus).

iii. The movement of the water in a pump-storage operation; potential release of nutrients and methane from sediment.

2. Oxygen levels in the Smith Mountain tailwater is correlated with temperature and not precipitation.

3. Nutrients, turbidity, and Secchi depth is correlated to precipitation in headwater regions.

4. Water from the Pigg River is degraded, but because Smith Mountain Lake releases higher quality water there is generally a positive effect on Leesville Lake.

5. Oxygen depletion is problematic and exacerbates:

i. Nutrient release from sediment

ii. Loss of fish habitat

iii. Generation of methane

Virginia Water Protection Permit Renewal Update

1. The permit renewal request is due July 3rd

2. VDEQ has a 15-day review period, after which the application goes to various agencies for comment. Those comments are assessed, then the VDEQ’s modeling team models the releases, and it goes out for public comment. The entire process takes about 270 days.

Confirmation of Contacts for Smith Mountain Surcharging Notification

1. The notification list was reviewed with those present to ensure the listed individuals were still correct. Appalachian is to follow-up with the SMLA to ensure contact information is updated.

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Follow up post WQ TRC with VDEQ

Tom Shahady met with Courtney Priddy (VDEQ) Friday 24 May 2024, who is a permit writer for DEQ. She mentioned she was not writing the permit for AEP but was aware of it and knows who is writing it in their office out of Roanoke. Bottom line is that DEQ does not have a Dissolved Oxygen Criteria written into state environmental code so they cannot hold AEP to some standard that does not exist.

The LLA WQ Committee will continue to press both APCo and VDEQ on the discontinuity between the Permit and State Environmental code concerning Dissolved Oxygen during the Public Comment period.

 7**. TLAC Updates** – Roy Kelley – The county supervisors for each of the four (4) counties associated with TLAC had all approved the diversion/collection device plan. The Smith Mountain Lake Shoreline Management Plan inputs have been submitted and bundled, and AEP did not incorporate the majority of the inputs. TLAC has provided a response to push the inputs and it was ignored by AEP.

With respect to the addition of a citizen representative from Campbell County to the TLAC Board, this will require a change to the TLAC by-laws and take some time to manage.

8. **Board of Directors Meeting,** August 8, 2024, 6:30pm, Altavista Library. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.