Leesville Lake Association, Inc.

**Fall General Membership Meeting – October 12, 2024**

**Location: Altavista Train Station – 10:30 AM**

1. **Call to Order** - the meeting was called to order at 10:35 am by President, Roy Kelley.

Board Members and Directors present: Roy Kelley, Chip Zimmerman, Edwin Hanson, Debra Kiraly, Cynthia Coleman, Mary Loiselle, Teri Thomas, Dannie Smith, Pam McMillian, and Jeff Markiewicz. Committee chair Glenn Coleman: Absent - Charlie Hamilton

1. **Introductions** – Roy Kelley introduced the two (2) guests that were present. Kristina Sage – TLAC Executive Director and Joy Manning Wake Education Taks force Secretary – Wake Education Task Force (of TLAC). Jeff Markiewicz noted that he has worked with Kristina Sage in his role as Water Safety & Education chair. Officers, Directors, and members and guests introduced themselves, and what area of the lake they lived in.
2. **Guest Presentation** - TLAC and Wake Education Task Force – Christina Sage opened the presentation by noting that TLAC is a governmental agency, focused on lake activities as assigned by the respective Board of Supervisors of the counties of Campbell, Pittsylvania, Bedford and Franklin – for Smith Mountain Lake and Leesville Lake. TLAC also focuses on the best interests of implementing the respective APCo and FERC requirements. Their budget is allocated by percentage of shoreline per county. TLAC has a Board of Directors, administrative staff, advisory committees and citizen representatives. Dick Grabowski was named as the Campbell County citizen representative (Runaway Bay). Their standing committees are navigation and environmental. TLAC has an Adopt the Lights and Adopt the Buoys program, Vessel pump-out program and a Take Pride in SML – like Beautification Day on Leesville Lake. The Wake Education Task Force was established in response to community concern. It is funded 50% by TLAC and 50% by the Smith Mountain Lake Association. Joy Manning then spoke regarding the Wake Education Task Force and the concerns brought forth were wake surfing, proper boat etiquette, speed, towing, erratic power turns and boats operating too close to the shoreline and docks. The main points the task force wanted to emphasize were to minimize repetitive passes by docks and homes, staying 200 feet away from docks, shoreline and swimmers, to avoid narrow courses of the lake and congested areas, and to avoid driving the boat erratically and unpredictably. Actions by the task force include signage, banners, and information in the rental packets when citizens rent power boats, and jet skis on the lake. The information was also distributed to real estate agencies, boat sellers and service companies on the lake. Ms. Manning noted the number of events that the task force participated in in 2023 and 2024, and that their meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Currently, wake boats are allowed on both lakes, and every boat is responsible for its own wake. If you see a boat operating in an unsafe manner, or causing an unsafe wake, try to obtain the registration/hull number and a picture of the boat and operator. The applications for establishment of a no wake surfing zone are currently on hold – TBD what will happen. One question was asked regarding the metrics the task force was using to measure success. Ms. Manning noted that most of the measurement was done via social media comments so far, as the task force has not been in existence too long.
3. **Treasurer’s Report:** Edwin Hanson – Edwin presented the Treasurers Report in detail with the following notes:

All pages: Top half is Income, bottom half is Expenses, where applicable, Income and Expense colors are connected (for example the yellows on the first page are all Water Quality, Purple is Beautification Day)

Page One: Note that these were handed out at the meeting and show a total income for the 2024-2025 budget year of $80, 606.23, and expenses of $78,187.23.

The focus on the first page is the two primary programs, financially. (Water Quality and Beautification Day). While it looks like the Lake Association is spending lots of money on these two programs, we bring in more income for these two areas than we pay out. In fact, Water Quality funds are provided by AEP and TLAC per regulatory guidance. We oversee the testing and report generation, but we are mostly a pass through for the funding. We are provided a small amount of funding from AEP to cover fuel and maintenance on the pontoon boat.

As for Beautification Day, we anticipate bringing in $10,000 in sponsorship and $500 through selling T-shirts and prints while our expenses for dumpsters, t-shirts, water, tarps, and the appreciation picnic come to around $8,000.

Page Two:

At the top of the page is a recap of the funds for Water Quality, Beautification Day, and all others which detailed the portion of income to programs. Below the two pie charts break out the Other Income and Expenses in more detail. The more orange colors show the portion of the income from those of us in the room, the membership and the gray wedge is interest from our savings account and CD. In the Expense chart we have three general categories of Recreational Use of the Lake, Communication and Administrative. In Recreation we have wedges for Navigation Aids and Boat Maintenance. Under Communication, we have our meetings, promotional items and communications expenses to get the word out. The Administrative wedge contains all our insurance, licenses, office supplies, rent, etc. Some of these wedges overlap with other areas, so not all of this is truly Administrative. (For example, Rent and food for our member meetings, insurance for Beautification Day volunteers.)

Page Three:

This is the detail of the budget line accounts. Each of these accounts is reflected in the pie charts. You will find on all three pages the Expected Income Total is $80,603.23 and the Expected Expenses Total is $78,187.23. Leaving us a net return of $2,416.00. Keep in mind, a budget is an estimate or prediction for the next 12 months. All sorts of factors can make these numbers fluctuate and that is why your Board of Directors meets each month to review where we are at with our earnings and spendings. If anyone has questions throughout the year, my email can be found on the LLA webpage, or you can probably remember that it’s - treasurer@leesvillelake.org

Following Edwin’s presentation of the budget, there were no questions asked by the attendees. motion was made and seconded to approve the 2024-2025 budget as presented. It was approved.

1. **Abbreviated** **Committee Reports:**
   1. Executive (Standing Committee) – Roy Kelley – Roy noted that there is room for additional members to the Board of Directors. We have openings for two (2) more positions. It is important that we have enough members to have a quorum. Dave Rives and Bill Beckett have departed the Board
   2. Beautification Day – Roy Kelley noted that Beautification Day for 2025 will be June 14, 2024 – Save the date. We need a chairperson, boats, chainsaws, and committed members.
   3. Debris Update –Pam McMillan - Our region was fortunate for the aftermath of hurricane Helena as it was expected to be worse. There were three high flow events in September and early October. On September 26, 2024, the Pigg River exceeded its trigger of 8.88ft. On September 27, the Roanoke, Blackwater exceeded their triggers and the Pigg River reached 8.41ft. Finally on October 1st, the Pigg River briefly exceeded its trigger at 6ft. Because of the short notice from AEP, none of our committee members were available to participate in the October 3rd. high flow survey. However, based on results received this week from AEP, it is evident that additional debris came into Leesville Lake from the Pigg River and other sources. Most of the debris identified as large logs and other various sizes were reported above MM 7-14. The Smith Mountain Lake crew is currently working at other Appalachian facilities caused by hurricane Helene and while they are away, the contractor will focus all his efforts on removing debris in their place. We should not expect to see the contractor here for quite some time. AEP will assign Leesville Lake crew a few days a week working on areas between the Leesville Dam and MM 8. In the month of September, the Leesville Crew worked 9 days and the contractor 0. The crew collected 190 tons (SM-60). Total debris collected since January-2705 (SM-1060). And finally, in / last month’s AEP survey report, our committee had replied with several questions, and they were answered in this current report as follows: Responses to questions posed by LLA in a reply to the August/September 2024 Debris Report

Q.) …it’s been many weeks since the new Skimmer has been seen on the lake and our committee would appreciate an update on its location and current use or intentions to utilize this equipment and when.

A.) The skimmer has been in limited use, with permission from DWR, while the application for registration is being processed.

Q.) We would also appreciate clarification on why the contractor or crew have not been working above MM 10 specifically knowing and reporting debris hazards of this amount compared to the lower half of the lake, are still present.

A.) Anchored woody debris is typically not removed. Please refer to the “Beneficial Debris for Habitat” on the Smith Mountain Project website.

Q.) LLA would appreciate knowing if there are any updates on the permit process for the proposed debris capture device submitted in May.

A.) The permit application has been submitted and will require review from the appropriate agencies. This is a very long-term project.

* 1. Membership Update – Cynthia Coleman – we have 212 member households at present.
  2. Navigation – Glenn Coleman – the pontoon boat is being worked on. Pam and Gary McMillan (along with a little help from Debra Kiraly) have cleaned the boat, replaced the seats, added seats, recovered seats and there are additional items to work on.
  3. Water Quality Update – Charlie Hamilton (absent) presented by Roy Kelley. In addition to August sampling by both University of Lynchburg and the LLA WQ Team, APCo Water quality monitoring data was collected from August 1to August 31, 2024. Results show data from Instantaneous DO values ranged from 3.3mg/L, with an average of 4.5 mg/L (threshold 4.0 mg/L). Daily average DO values ranged from 3.8 mg/L to 5.7 mg/L with a median of 4.4 mg/L (threshold 5.0 mg/L). Recorded instantaneous DO concentrations met the Virginia water quality standard of 4.o0 mg/L 74% of the time in August. The daily average standard or 5.0 mg/L was met 7 days in August (23% of the time in August). Preliminary September data suggests that DO concentrations were mostly below threshold values. Water quality was also impacted by the response to Hurricane Helene (water level management for flood control). Bottom line – Leesville Lake water quality is ok and getting better as we go into the fall season.

Appalachian Power Company VDEQ Virginia Water Protection Individual Permit No 09-0572 (Permit) (which expires on March 31, 2025) renewal request is under review by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and associated Agencies. It can be found in the Permitting Enhancement and Evaluation Platform (PEEPS) system under PEEPS Request # 24-1547. <https://portal.deq.virginia.gov/peep-search> Agency coordination ended on September 23rd. The project was then submitted for internal modeling, which could take up to 45 days. Once modeling is received, the draft permit will be finalized, which could take potentially another 45 days. After the draft is finalized, it will be sent to the applicant for review. Draft negotiations can take an indeterminate amount of time. Once the applicant has accepted the draft, it will be out for public notice (likely late February 2025). LLA will participate in the Public Comment opportunity.

Continued thanks to Debbie Oliver, Kathleen Giangi, Leanne Hanson, Tony Capuco, Dave Waterman and Tom Shahady (University of Lynchburg) for their efforts to maintain Leesville Lake water quality.

* 1. Water Safety & Education – Jeff Markiewicz -2024 Vessel Safety Checks

The Vessel Safety Check 2024 season is winding down as Safety Check Stickers are for calendar year 2024. The 2025 Safety Check season will start up in April after the Safety Examiners complete training on rules changes for 2025. Jeff will continue to be available to perform vessel safety checks by request at least into December and looking to have more opportunity to perform checks on Leesville Lake in the 2025 season.

2024 Boater Safety Classes – The Boater Safety in person class season is ending soon, however there are still online classes that will be available throughout the off season. 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)

Saturday Nov. 2 8:30-5:00pm Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, VA, free Course, Trevor Ruble contact trevor.ruble@dwr.virginia.gov

Tue Dec. 3 and 10, Thurs Dec 5 and 12 6:00-8:30 PM Virtual Class must have own device/computer, free Course, Trevor Ruble contact trevor.ruble@dwr.virginia.gov

Tue Jan. 21 and 28, Thurs Jan. 23 and 30 5:00-7:30 PM Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, VA, free Course, Trevor Ruble contact trevor.ruble@dwr.virginia.gov

Tue Feb. 25 and Mar. 4, Thurs Feb 27 and Mar. 6 6:00-8:30 PM Virtual Class must have own device/computer, free Course, Trevor Ruble contact trevor.ruble@dwr.virginia.gov

Online Courses

Virginia Boating Safety <http://www.boat-ed.com/virginia/>

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

Dock Electrical Safety – Franklin, Bedford and Pittsylvania are currently working in a collaboration with private sector electrical contractors to provide uniformity with inspections for residential docks, with a goal to ensure safe, code compliant installations. Two Reference sheets are now available the link is available on the Leesville Lake Association Website under Association/Committees/ Safety and Education Committee. A few copies were available at the meeting.

Nominating – Teri Thomas is planning to speak with Tom Croteau before the next board meeting. Will also be sending out another email to our newer members.

Calendar Subcommittee:

First, thanks to everyone who submitted photos. We included as many photos as possible and though we were not able to include them all we endeavored to include something from each family submission. We also did not include photos that appeared to be taken at Smith Mountain Lake.

Calendars have been printed and are available for online and in person sales. As we used Bright Images in Lynchburg, we had no shipping charges, and they completed the calendar per our schedule.

Many thanks to Melissa Croteau for her help in getting the task completed and picking up the finished product. Many thanks to Phyliss Garlick for again taking on the online orders and fulfillment process.

1. TLAC Update from October 8 meeting: Roy Kelley noted the following:
   1. Pigg River Diversion Device Update – it will likely be sometime early 2026 before we will see this in place due to review, permitting and actual construction.
   2. LVL Skimmer Status – the LLA has been advocating for purchase of a skimmer since 2018, and it has been purchased and arrived at the lake. It will not be used exclusively for Leesville Lake but be shared between the two lakes.
   3. AEP Maintenance Dates for LVL – usual maintenance is done in November. Roy has asked that APCo notify him when this will take place. APCo is keeping the water levels higher right now for flexibility regarding the weather.
   4. Claytor Lake Status (post Helene, 20 acres of debris/ lake is closed due to debris and water quality)
   5. Child life preserver for Virginia – it is interesting to note that there is no state law that a child must wear a life preserver, it is federal law only.
2. Old Business – the 2025 calendars have arrived and are for sale for $12.00. Teri Thomas and her committee have done an excellent job on the calendar for 2025!
   1. New Business - Next General Meeting – January 11, 2025, at 1030, Altavista Train Station

Board members will do a chili cookoff, other members are asked to bring a side or dessert.

Meeting Adjourn – 12: 13 pm