**Leesville Lake Association, Inc.**

**Board of Directors Meeting – November 14, 2024**

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

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order: 6:33 pm - Present- Roy Kelley, Dannie Smith, Pam McMilliam, Edwin Hanson, Chip Zimmerman, Charlie Hamilton, Dave Waterman, Cynthia Coleman, Glenn Coleman, Joe Humphrey. Absent – Mary Loiselle, Terri Thomas, Jeff Markiewicz, and Debra Kiraly
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
   1. September 12, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – were reviewed by all Board members, moved and seconded to approve. All approved.
   2. October 13, 2024 General Member Meeting Minutes – were reviewed by all Board members, moved and seconded to approve. All approved.
3. Treasurer’s Report: Edwin Hanson – Review of September and October Treasurer’s Report
   1. September Treasurer’s Report: Membership renewals, printing calendars, and closing out Pigg River Studies were our primary activity for September. We saw income of $580.83 and expenses of $8,932.10. Items to note on the Income side are: 16 renewal memberships. Items to note on the expense side are: quarterly software charge for APLOS, printing the calendars and settling the 2022 and 2023 Pigg River Studies with University of Lynchburg.
   2. October Treasurer’s Report: Reimbursement from TLAC, calendar sales and pontoon boat maintenance were our primary activities for August. We saw income of $8,442.75 and expenses of $1,149.27. Items to note on the Income side are: 13 renewal memberships; 1 new membership; and 29 calendars. Items to note on the expense side are: Reupholstery supplies for the pontoon boat.
   3. Since October, we have received our annual large optional donation of $4,000 and we secured a membership from Carter’s General Store

Motion to approve and second the September Treasurer’s report was given. All voted in favor of approving the report. Motion to approve and second the October Treasurer’s report was given. All voted in favor of approving the report.

1. Committee Reports: Roy Kelley – still looking for additional Board Members, and someone to take over being the chair of Beautification Day.
2. **Finance (**Standing Committee) –Edwin / Mary – 2023 Tax Return: Our financial records have been provided to Simpson’s Tax Service in Altavista. They are reviewing our records and preparing our 990-EZ.
3. **Nominating** *(*Standing Committee) – Teri Thomas (via Charlie Hamilton) –
4. Communicated with Tom Croteau and he stated that he may be interested in serving at some point next year.
5. Spoke with Tom Galvanek and he is interested in joining the board but he is not always in town by meeting time on Thursday evening. He commutes to the area from NC.
6. Curious if we have considered a way to include folks remotely with Zoom or something similar or if calling in on a more regular basis would be acceptable.
7. Spoke with Rob and Charlene Duckworth and they may have interest in volunteering next year as they are still settling into their new home.
8. **2025 Calendar status** – Calendar sales are ongoing:

60 sold to date

4-5 slated for new members

125 original order

We will be sending a request to have the website and Facebook updated to advertise “Calendars for Christmas”.

1. **Beautification Day** – Roy Kelley - 2025 BD will be June 14th  Still looking for a chair so Roy doesn’t have to be President and BD Chair
2. **Communications** – David Waterman – nothing significant to report. Roy shared his experience with a recent phone scam as a warning to remain ever vigilant.
3. **Debris –** Pam McMillan
4. Regular monthly surveys are typically scheduled in the beginning of the first week of each month April-October.
5. Unless there is a future High Flow event there will not be another scheduled monthly survey until next April.
6. Since October, the barge was seen occasionally on the lake collecting debris and according to AEP’s last proposed plans going forward, the crew or contractor will still collect debris throughout the winter months as needed and according to weather and crew availability.
7. The water levels were predictably kept low these past few weeks with few upper dam releases during that time. These conditions were favorable for the main channel. There was no evidence of clandestine archaeological excavations involving AEP’s assistance during this period as there was in the past 3 years.
8. There was only 1 debris report sent to TLAC in October.
9. There are still no updates on the Pigg River device or skimmer activities.

Dannie clarified that there was archaeological activity, but not on the islands. This time the team was working in the area of the dam. Discussion among the board members recognized that AEP did not notify us that they were going to keep the lake level low for about two weeks.

1. **Membership** – Cynthia Coleman –
2. Roy opened a conversation about our policy of taking members off the rolls for non-payment of dues. Roy stated he is more inclined to give them grace and leeway, but our bylaws state otherwise. – How should we handle this? The conversation did not result in any decision to change the policy.
3. As of 14 November 2024, we are down to 197 households. We gained a few members but lost a lot. On October 31st, 18 households had the Current Member status removed from their accounts.
4. An issue has come up regarding who is and isn’t on the membership list. In accordance with the Membership Policy:

“The official membership register will be the responsibility of the membership committee chair or executive committee chair designee in the event of no membership committee chair. The membership committee chair designee and treasurer are responsible for maintaining and updating the membership register in compliance with the above policy. The membership register will be updated on the following schedule and at other times, it's deemed appropriate by the membership committee chair, designee or treasurer: October 1 through 31, review and update any non -paying members in **Active** status to **Former** status. Remove check from **New Member** checkbox on all contacts.”

I have done this and the current membership roster is updated.

Roy added that the membership committee chair is in charge of maintaining membership status and we can’t make any assumptions and should defer back to the chair to make sure a person is in good standing or not before we take somebody off the rolls or we take them off an email list. We need to have one person that’s in charge and one person making the call.

1. There was discussion about the policy of not sending the newsletter to non-current members, even though anyone can read the newsletter on the website. There was a question about whether a former member would assume they were paid up if they received the newsletter.
2. It has been noticed that our annual due date for renewing membership (August 31) is only included in mailed invoices and in the policy documents. It was also pointed out that anyone who pays their dues prior to the picnic never receive an invoice. Cynthia and Dave will review the website to determine best places to include this information.

Further discussion led to a review of the notification process. Members are first notified that membership renewals are due in the Summer newsletter; then invoices are printed and provided to members at the picnic; following the picnic the remainder of the invoices are mailed in late July; in September/October members who have not renewed yet are sent a reminder email. At the end of the month, any who have not paid are moved from the Active Member List to Former Member list. Chip offered to call the remaining 18 to talk to them and Cynthia agreed to reach out one more time with a phone call to confirm if they are or are not interested in continuing their involvement.

1. Roy suggested offering a complimentary one-year membership to new residents moving into the area. This was further expanded to reviewing GIS records to identify all of the homeowners who are not members. If we are successful in creating this list, the board should generate a letter to invite them to join the Association with descriptions of things we do. Also, if the board approves, offer a one-year complimentary membership.
2. For the January Member Meeting, we are planning on getting can koozies to offer up as a giveaway and ball caps for door prizes.
3. **Navigation –** Glenn Coleman – At the request of TLAC and the Wake Education Task Force, the committee has started to create a Recommended Safe Towed Watersports Operating Area map with recommended shore buffer (red) and caution zones (yellow), like the one that was developed for Smith Mountain Lake.
4. The map is designed to be a guideline for people who are interested in towed watersports. Without it, boaters may think they have more space. There were several additional yellow zones identified by the board. There were several discussions on the pros and cons of providing this map to TLAC. Some saw this as an invitation to try towed watersports on Leesville Lake, while others saw this as a way of showing there is very limited space and would serve as a deterrent. There was also concern of property owners getting upset with board members if we mark a portion of the lake near their dock as a preferred area (green).

A motion was made to provide the map to TLAC with footnotes, similar to: “Be advised that lake fluctuates 13 feet, that there's floating docks on the lake, and debris has been reported.” There should be no reference to Leesville Lake Association recommending or warning, simply advisements on the map. The motion was seconded and the subsequent vote was 7 yeas and 1 abstention.

The final map and footnotes will be made available to the board for a final review prior to releasing the map to TLAC.

1. Cynthia suggested we use a USGS US Topo map as the base map for the foldable lake map that will be used for promotional purposes. That will eliminate the concern over copyright protections and Cynthia can add landmarks and features, similar to the AEP map. The board approved and decided not to seek any sponsors to help alleviate the cost of printing.
2. **Property** – Glenn Coleman – Thank you to Pam McMillian and her crew for the great job on the pontoon boat.
3. Joe and I found out the boat was listing due to a leak in one of the pontoons. The pontoon boat has been transported to C&C for repairs. We also found water in the lower gear on the outboard. We noticed a small indication last year, but this year it’s at least doubled. Most likely a problem with the seals. There was a Recommendation to raise the outboard out of the water next summer to help reduce the risk. We do not have a preferred provider so after some discussion the decision was made to contact Hughes Marine Service in Danville.
4. We also cannot locate a title or registration for the boat trailer that we purchased with the pontoon boat back in 2018. None of the board members could confirm one way or the other so Glenn is going to go to the DMV to get that straight. If they require an inspection, we may have to wait until C&C is done repairing the pontoon.

A motion was made to spend up to $1500 on the repair of the pontoon leak, repair of the lower unit of the motor, and the title, inspection and registration of the trailer. The motion was seconded and voted on. All approved.

1. **Water Safety & Education** – Jeff Markiewicz was not able to attend, but submitted the following report:
2. 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. I 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.
3. 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.
4. 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).
5. 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
6. 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
7. 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
8. Online Courses
9. Virginia Boating Safety: <http://www.boat-ed.com/virginia/>
10. America’s Boating Course: <http://www.americasboatingcourse.com/>
11. Wake Education Task Force – Participated in first meeting in Oct. The Task Force is continuing to look for outreach in 2025. This will include working with some of the local schools to get the message to students. They are also looking at a Mascot to get the message out. I will be working with the Task Force to develop a “Recommended Safe Towed Watersports Operating Area Map for Leesville Lake similar to the one for Smith Mountain Lake.
12. **Water Quality** – Charlie Hamilton – Two non-water quality related items of interest
13. Appalachian Power has just filed for a modular nuclear power plant in Campbell County, a little north of Lynchburg. I don't think it directly affects the lake, but they filed this paperwork to build and operate a small modular nuclear reactor. <https://www.supertalk929.com/2024/11/14/appalachian-power-files-paperwork-to-build-and-operator-small-modular-nuclear-reactor/>
14. In Chatham, there is a data center and a power source that initially had a Leesville Lake connection, but now apparently does not. Original plan was for a 3.5 gigawatt natural gas power plant and they now want approval for a smaller 300 megawatt generating unit. There was discussion about the water for this power plant will be pulled from the Staunton River downstream from the Leesville Dam. <https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/news/revised-gas-powered-300mw-data-center-campus-in-the-works-for-pittsylvania-county-virginia/>
15. APCo Water quality monitoring data was collected from 1 to 30 September 2024. Results show data from Instantaneous DO values ranged from 2.2 mg/L to 8.3 mg/L, with an average of 4.2 mg/L (4.0 mg/L threshold). Daily average DO values ranged from 3.2 mg/L to 6.6 mg/L, with a median of 4.1 mg/L (5.0 mg/L threshold). Recorded instantaneous DO concentrations met the Virginia water quality standard of 4.0 mg/L 56% of the time in September. The daily average standard of 5.0 mg/L was met 1 day in September

This is mostly pre- Hurricane Helene, (made landfall Sep 26th, 2024) which killed 230 people and devastated western North Carolina amongst other places. APCo was managing water levels as part of a larger flood control effort (with some DO effects) 27-30 September.

Bottom line – Leesville Lake water quality is ok and getting better as we go into the Fall season.

1. The Water Quality Committee met on Friday 8 November 2024 to finalize the Pigg River Water Monitoring Plan for 2025. The Plan has been submitted to TLAC for review.
2. 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.
3. We have seen an increase in the Bryozoan Species around the lake: the jelly-like blobs attached to docks and partially submerged trees. At first glance, they appear to be brown fish egg sacks, but in fact these area colony of the freshwater bryozoan [***Pectinatella magnifica***](https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=2335). Freshwater bryozoans are microscopic aquatic invertebrates that live in colonies that can form into jelly-like clumps, and are often found attached to docks or sticks. Bryozoan colonies can be as big as one foot (30 centimeters) in diameter. The base of each tiny bryozoan is attached to a surface. Its body has an outer sleeve-like structure called the cystid, and a mass of organs called polypide that moves inside of it.

Bryozoans live in colonies, and they’re filter feeders, so they eat algae and other small creatures. They’re native to our region – and even better, they require clean water, signaling that we have a healthy aquatic environment.

A close-up of a large round object

Description automatically generated

1. 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.
2. **July Picnic feedback/lessons learned** - Chip Zimmerman – no report, all is good.
3. **AEP** – Roy Kelley -no updates from theTechnical Review Committee.
4. **TLAC Updates** – Roy Kelley – no current report. Next meeting is on 10 December.
5. **Old Business** – nothing current
6. **New Business** – Roy extended an invitation to come over to his house again on December 8th from 3:00 to 5:00 on Sunday afternoon. We'll have some coffee tea and desserts and if you've got some specific things that we can put on the menu then let us know what that is.
7. **Confirmation of next meeting** – Board Meeting, December 12, 6:30 PM, Altavista Presbyterian Church and General Membership Meeting, January 11, 10:30 AM, Altavista Train Station, Wake Education speakers will attend with a short program. We plan to have the chili cook-off in January, along with a speaker on dock electrical safety. Members will be invited to bring side dishes in the newsletter. Roy will coordinate the January meeting; Debra will coordinate the April meeting.

The Altavista Presbyterian Church has invited us to use their fellowship hall for our general member meetings should we not be able to get into the train station. They have a kitchen and plenty of space.

1. **Adjourn** – 8:07 pm