

March 7, 2013

Minutes of Meeting of the Membership
LAKE HARDING LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

A meeting of the membership of Lake Harding Leaseholders Association, Inc. was held on Thursday, March 07, 2013, at 7:00 PM at the Georgia Power Company Land Office Warehouse.

President, Melanie Humphreys called the meeting to order.

Prior to the business meeting, Georgia Power's Land Department provided a great cookout for the membership. Mrs. Humphreys expressed appreciation to the Land Department on behalf of the membership for providing a meeting location and the cookout for the group. She then asked for all those interested to please stand and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Keith Hill welcomed everyone and then started the meeting by asking Arnold Lindsey, Safety Manager of the Chattahoochee Hydro Group, to review some of the basic safety information. Arnold stated he always keeps a fire extinguisher in his truck, along with a First Aid Kit. He informed us if we were to have a fire start while in the GP Warehouse building tonight, he had already assigned someone to call for emergency assistance and for us all to exit through the main double front doors. He also noted that in the event of any bad weather, like tornados, he has keys to a Safe Room. He then asked all those trained in CPR for a show of hands to identify people located all over the building with special training.

He also introduced Chief Richard McKinney from the Antioch Volunteer Fire Department, along with Sgt Lynn Chambers, her daughter Lizzie and sister, Leslie Witherspoon, and Susan Snider, the AVFD Treasurer.

The Beulah Fire Department was represented by Chief Jacob Geiger and Brent Bennett.

The Alabama Game and Fisheries representatives were Rick Smith and Brian Grice.

Keith also noted we had a special guest with us, Lee County Commissioner Robert Hamm and his wife, Elizabeth.

Keith then introduced Robin Gibson and Sara Jenkins from their support staff; Ricky Stearns and Bill Glisson who handle Shoreline Management; Mike Barnett, Parks Manager; Kym Partridge, their Forrester; and Richard Willis of the Land Management team; Wayne Hardy, supervisor of the Hydro Services group and Herbie Johnson.

He stated they had free tree seedlings at the door and asked everyone to please take some to plant along the shore line.

Keith noted that Blanton Creek Park had opened on March 1, and would be open through Labor Day. There have been many improvements made since last Labor Day and he encouraged everyone to check them out by visiting the location or their new web site at:
www.georgiapowerlakes.com

Other noteworthy items are Georgia Power has scheduled a drawdown for fall 2013. Good rainfall has been projected from now through-out summer, so if you have plans to build or repair, it is never too early to contact Bill Glisson for the Georgia side or Ricky Stearns for the Alabama side.

Keith introduced George Martin, Georgia Power's Relicensing Manager. This process started in 2008, and in December 2012, they filed the new Bartlett's Ferry project License application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), in Washington, D.C. They assessed needed improvements and presented items they suggested regarding water quality, recreation areas, and launch sites; and in fact they are about to open a new fishing pier near the Longbridge. Up to date information regarding the relicensing schedule can be found at www.GeorgiaPowerLakes.com. He thanked the Lake Harding Association for being so supportive by having such big turn-outs at the four meetings held last year to discuss FERC.

He then introduced Georgia Power's Environmental Field Services Team; Jim Candler, Tony Dodd and Tom Broadwell. He mentioned Joey Slaughter, who was unable to be there, but is one of their biologists who has been working closely with Tony, another biologist, to whom he turned the meeting over to discuss the aquatic growth which was first brought up at last fall's BBQ.

Tony began by explaining what hydrilla looks like by comparing it to plants you would put in your aquarium. He brought up the fact we were just coming off a five year period of low rainfall and high temperatures setting the perfect stage for this exotic, invasive, aquatic plant to take hold and spread. Hydrilla adapts to all habitats and left unchecked it can take over and destroy lake use. The drawdown scheduled for this fall will help control weed growth. This past summer they were treating for bushy pond weed when the contractor discovered hydrilla in Lake Oliver. Hydrilla has since been discovered elsewhere. Georgia Power surveyed other GPC lakes in the Chattahoochee system and mapped 6,300 acres in our area. About 10% of Lake Harding has hydrilla. Internally, Georgia Power has formed a weed committee to develop strategy to specifically address concerns about nuisance weed growth. GPC's integrated hydrilla management plan is designed to monitor and help manage hydrilla and other invasive plants that can interfere with our lake.

Last year Georgia Power reached the limits of their budget for treating these weeds. They plan a more proactive approach to monitoring the lake for weeds and they plan to start earlier in the year using the herbicide. And then the drawdown will be a big help in killing these weeds. They are working with Tom Broadwell who has 30 years of experience in this field. Through the FERC relicensing process for Bartlett's Ferry, GPS has committed to controlling hydrilla with similar actions there. And they plan on doing more to get the word out to more people on what we can do to help.

Be on the look-out for hydrilla. Never introduce any aquatic plant in to Lake Harding. Do not dump your aquariums in to the lake. Clean your boats, PWCs, trailers, vests, and any other boating equipment before putting them in the lake. Do not dump your grass clippings in to the lake. If you have a Koi pond on your property and you notice any unusual plant growth call your state Extension Office to determine what it is and find out how to get rid of it.

Keith then introduced Adam Goins from the Alabama Marine Patrol and Sgt Jim Bradfield, Ranger Russell Epps, and Cpl Jeremy Bolen of the Georgia DNR.

Cpl Bolen took the stand to say that there is proposed legislation under review for Georgia that will possibly cause some changes to take place. Last year over the state of Georgia there were many boating accidents. Fortunately there were none on Lake Harding, but several on Lake Lanier. Part of the proposal includes lowering the blood alcohol level from .10 to .08. He noted they already have the authority to make a judgment call on whether to arrest someone with a .08. They are pushing to have the boating under the influence law to mirror the driving under the influence law.

Someone asked about the law in Alabama regarding alcohol. Currently in Alabama the limit is .08 and if you receive a BUI it only affects your boating license and not your driving license. When asked who to contact regarding not changing the law, we were told to contact our local representatives. He was asked about the legality of hunting and shooting of ducks on Lake

Harding. Jeremy stated it was legal. The hunters are responsible for their shots so unless their shots are hitting your docks, decks, or property they have the right to be there and shoot as early as safe light and as much as they want. When questioned about the home owner's right to peace and quiet, he stated then the homeowner should call their Sheriff's department and file a complaint.

Jeremy was asked if air boats are allowed on Lake Harding and he said they are. And when questioned about the noise, he stated it would be the same as the noise with the duck shooters; you need to call your local Sheriff's office.

At this point, Melanie Humphreys took back the floor. She stated everyone had been emailed a copy of last year's Annual Membership Meeting minutes and a copy of the Treasurer's Report. She asked for a motion to accept the minutes. One was given, seconded and approved.

Treasurer, Mary Lynn Webb had sent out a report showing a balance of \$ 11,809.04 as of December 31, 2012. She noted 57 new memberships had brought in \$ 4,262.60 and Annual Membership Renewals of 395 had brought in another \$ 9,662.60. Melanie asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. One was given, seconded and approved.

Melanie then mentioned we had two board members step down, Janylle Koren from Alabama, and Robert Archer from Georgia. The two replacements nominated were Dave Jacob and David Hawkins, respectively.

Mrs. Humphreys presented the nominees for Board Members commencing for the year 2013:

ALABAMA	GEORGIA
Connie Stinson	Mary Lynn Webb
Don Neal	Melanie Humphreys
Dave Jacob	David Hawkins
Jim Duncan	Susan Tompkins
Joel Donovan	Tommy McKenzie

Melanie then presented the slate of officers to serve for 2013:

Melanie Humphreys, President
Susan Tompkins, Secretary
Mary Lynn Webb, Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved that the slate of nominees proposed by the Board be accepted.

She then thanked the entire board for their hard work and gave special thanks to Don Neal and Joel Donovan for all their work on FERC.

Melanie then asked if there was any old business and there being none, she proceeded with the meeting by introducing Roger Martin with the Chattahoochee RiverWarden.

Roger began his presentation by explaining his use of a walking cane. On January 16, he fell and broke his hip. Luckily, Arnold Lindsay, Manager of Georgia Power's Chattahoochee Hydro Group was there and immediately went to Roger's aid. Roger thanked Arnold for probably saving his life, as he examined Roger and instructed him to lie still because he could tell Roger had such a serious break that the slightest movement might puncture a main artery.

Roger then proceeded to say he was extremely pleased with the FERC license request filed by Georgia Power on December 4, 2012. He stated it was an excellent plan that calls for the lake

levels to be at the 518 – 521 mark 99% of the time and from the 517 to 521, 100% of the time. He stated “the people from up north seemed to have disappeared”, and he credited part of that to the fact we had all shown such a great turn out at the four meetings held last year. He also stated that the letters written by business owners and our representatives had helped.

He reminded everyone about last summer when the Corp of Engineers announced they were closing the three locks below us on the Chattahoochee and how a lot of people, including representatives from the Chattahoochee RiverWarden had gotten involved and got them to reverse their decision. He stressed the importance of “Use it or Lose it”. And so far, we have not been using the locks. Recently at the Lake Eufaula Home Owner’s Association they were asked how many had been through their lock. Only two people out of a 150 raised their hand.

Even now, the locks are only open on certain days and times. Whereas, in the past, two of the locks operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Now, if you want to plan a down river trip through the locks, you should call The Corps of Engineers in Eufaula or email Roger for their operating schedule.

The Georgia Lake Society is coming out in early May with an Adopt-A-Lake program and they need volunteers.

The Hydrilla that showed up in Lake Harding last summer is a big concern. Lake Seminole is 80% covered with it and it has very negatively impacted the people who live on the lake, the businesses, and those wanting to travel through the area.

Roger’s office and Georgia Power have been working together to try to head it off on Lake Harding. However, this past summer created a perfect storm with the record temperatures and low amount of rain causing water flows to cease that helped foster its growth. Georgia Power and Chattahoochee RiverWarden drafted a letter about the problem and sent to all Lake Harding Leaseholders.

Roger stressed the importance of everyone practicing Shoreline Management. Be very careful about using fertilizer anywhere near the lake. Be conscious of the fact that even fertilizer used away from the shoreline runs into the lake when it rains. This causes the Hydrilla to grow like wild.

Chattahoochee RiverWarden is a non-profit organization and they need all the support they can get. He encouraged everyone to see Jenn Collins to join and also to receive a quarterly email keeping you informed about things on which the RiverWarden group has been working.

Someone asked about adding Grass Carp to eat the Hydrilla. The Grass Carp is an invasive fish. The Corp of Engineers put them in some of their lakes in an attempt to kill their Hydrilla and they managed the aquatic plant life and destroyed the fisheries.

So, the Georgia DNR, AL Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Auburn University, University of Georgia, have all agreed this is not a viable solution. Georgia does allow Grass Carp be used in closed system lakes and ponds.

They can repeatedly treat the Hydrilla until they think it is gone, but it has tubers that run under the sediment 6 – 15” deep, and when the conditions get right, they jump right back up.

In 1997, on Georgia Power’s Lake Juliett they treated the Hydrilla, and have not located any since then. It is just hard to tell if and when it will re-appear plus how severe it will be.

Mike Jones asked how this eradication is being funded and could home owners help finance this effort.

Georgia Power and GA DNR are working up a draft to outline a way to issue permits to home

owners to allow them to go to a state certified herbicide distributor and pay them to treat if the Georgia Power team can't get to your dock area in a timely manner.

This summer Georgia Power paid for enough herbicide that sprayed 60 acres and killed it back.

Landy Thompson mentioned how you can see the hydrilla as you are driving on I-185 at West Point and asked why it hasn't been treated since it is up-stream from us. Roger stated it was because West Point Lake is owned by the Corp and they have not been treating their lake.

Don Neal asked how much per gallon and how much area will a gallon treat. George Martin said they had used Floradorm this past summer and it cost \$1,500 per gallon and covered about 5 or 6 acres. There is a cheaper brand that runs about \$190 – \$230 per gallon, but it is much less effective. What you should do if you notice a weed problem around your property is to call the Georgia Power Land office and they will try to come out as soon as possible to treat the area. When the better quality herbicide is used, you can usually start seeing the weeds begin to look sick within a few hours.

When asked how toxic these herbicides are to swimmers and fish, we were told they only use EPA approved products and apply only as directed. They sometimes use a type that requires you to stay out of the water for 24 hours after it is applied. When this is done, they notify all the homeowners in advance and post warning signs.

Eric Reutebuch from Alabama Water Watch mentioned that hydrilla can grow from 20' up to 30 feet deep.

Mike Jones asked why 1 or 2% of our lease fees not be applied to purchasing enough herbicide to kill the hydrilla.

Roger also wanted everyone to know the locks at the Woodruff Dam are broken. They are still working on getting them repaired, but should be re-opened in a few weeks. Roger can be reached at criverwarden@gmail.com or 706-649-6326.

Melanie thanked Roger and introduced Eric Reutebuch (Read-A-Boo) with Alabama Water Watch (AWW).

Eric thanked us for inviting them to join us and stated how impressed he was with the size of our group. He remarked that it says a lot about our commitment to the lake.

AWW provides training to volunteer citizens to teach them how to monitor water quality. They teach people how to do water chemistry testing, bacteriological (E. coli) monitoring and stream bio-monitoring. This educational/outreach organization started in 1992, and held its first training in 1993.

Once you have completed your training you can load your data into the AWW online database via your PC at home or you can mail in your written data. AWW currently has 72,000 records in their online water quality database. Their methods are EPA approved. And the reason you should consider monitoring water quality in Lake Harding is to insure we maintain a healthy fish population, healthy aquatic life, and our own human health. It takes about three hours to get trained as a bacteriological monitor and about six hours to be trained as a water chemistry monitor.

Eric then asked who knew how many square miles of watershed Lake Harding has. The guesses ranged from 696 to 75,000 square miles. Robert Gnann won the cigar for closest guess of 696. The answer was about 800 square miles. Eric emphasized that lake stewards need to be vigilant of potential threats to the lake throughout its 800 square mile watershed.

Eric pointed out Carl Badger who he referred to as the "Friend of Halawakee Creek" for the

water monitoring he has been doing for the last five years. Eric stated Carl has also been monitoring Osanippa Creek, and pointed out the water quality is not as good there as in Halawakee based on Osanippa's recurring low dissolved oxygen (DO) readings (that occur in the summertime). When examining the water quality data for these streams, DO readings above 5 parts per million (ppm) will support a healthy fish population, while readings less than 5 ppm will not.

AWW is sponsoring a Rain Water Harvest Workshop on April 4, at the Auburn University Davis Arboretum, and a Bacteriological Monitoring Workshop on April 5, and a Water Chemistry Monitoring Workshop on April 6. For more information and how to register you can contact AWW at: 888-844-4785. You may also find this information on their web site at: www.alabamawaterwatch.org and also on the Lake Harding Association web site at: www.lakehardingassociation.com.

Lastly, Alabama Governor Bentley has established a Governor's Task Force to develop a statewide water management plan by this December. If you are an Alabama resident and want to have input into the plan and how our water is managed, you should attend the Alabama Water Policy Symposium on May 10th at the Auburn University Campus at Comer Hall (for more info, go to: www.alabamarivers.org/current-work and click on Water Policy). Eric said that he would love to see you there!

Melanie thanked Eric and then told everyone we had been given three t-shirts from Kimberly Lewis, the owner of the Chattahoochee River Trading Company for door prizes. The three winners were picked from the sign in sheets and were; Linda and Hugh Dicks, Stella and Allen Daugherty, and Elizabeth and Robert Hamm. Melanie then introduced Chief Richard McKinney.

Chief Richard McKinney of the Antioch Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) started off by sharing some good news with us. Effective March 1, 2013, the Insurance Safety Office (ISO) changed the AVFD's ISO rating from a 6 to a 4.

The ISO has a rating scale of 1 – 10, with 10 being the worse score. Classes 1 – 8 represent a fire suppression system that includes a Fire Suppression Rating System (FSRS), a credible dispatch center, a fire department and a water supply.

The Insurance Safety Office collects and evaluates data from fire departments and the community on the last three year's operation to rate the department's structural fire suppression delivery system. They rate the department's structural fire suppression by evaluating the following categories: (1) Receiving and handling alarms; (2) Department Operations, and (3) Having sufficient water supply.

In the United States, ISO rated 47,242 fire departments. Of those, 1,038 were rated in Georgia. In the US, only 61 fire departments received a class 1 rating; 592 received a 2; 1,998 received a 3; and 613 received a 4. In Georgia, none received a class 1; 20 received a class 2; 56 received a class 3; and 126 received a class 4. Country-wide only 9% of fire departments have an ISO rating of 4. In Georgia, only 12% have an ISO rating of 4.

To retain this rating, they need more people to volunteer, either in the office or to go through the training to learn to be a fire firefighter. Since it can take several months for the ISO to get all this information updated and relayed to all the different insurance companies, Chief McKinney recommended we each contact our individual insurance company who we have our homeowner's policy with and ask them to please contact the ISO in order to have your insurance premium reduced now, rather than later. Chief McKinney can be reached at: 706-576-5559.

We owe a big round of thanks to Chief McKinney and his staff, who includes Sgt Lynn Chambers, who was also present at the meeting and assisting with the sale of weather alarms which members had asked for last year. Sharing her duties were her daughter, Lizzie, and sister,

Leslie Witherspoon. The alarms are \$35.00 for a stationary model and \$40.00 for the mobile ones which can be taken with you when boating, or wherever.

Remember, this new and better ISO rating is only beneficial to those with property on the Harris County side. Those with properties on the Lee County side should contact the Beulah Fire Department if you have any questions regarding their ISO rating. Their number is 334.742.0090.

The following donation amounts were proposed, approved and seconded:

\$ 2,000 – Antioch Volunteer Fire Department

\$ 2,000 – Beulah Volunteer Fire Department

\$ 2,000 – Fireworks

\$ 1,000 – Chattahoochee RiverWarden

\$ 1,000 – The Cross Committee

Joel Slocumb, representing The Cross Committee, stood and thanked everyone for the donation that helps keep this historical landmark going.

Melanie let everyone know they will be receiving a new member directory soon and to be sure to review their information to insure everything is correct, and if not, contact Susan Tompkins. Also, a Blood Drive is scheduled for Saturday April 13 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM EST in the parking lot of Shoreline Grill. Contact Joel Donovan for more information. We have new boat flags with a new design. The annual Bar-B-Q will be held in September and the date and location will be announced at a later time, but will most likely be held at the Condo Point on the Georgia side. She reminded everyone the \$25 Annual Membership Fees are due April 1 of each year and asked they please send them in a timely manner to help cut down on the amount of administrative time and effort required to handle this.

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There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Tompkins, Secretary