

Executive Board Meeting

July 10, 1997

President **Don Greer** called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM. In attendance were **Lynn Batemon, Stan Batemon, Don Greer, Isabella Trussell, Ron Vaughan, Ellis Wanninger** and **Dick Whatley**.

Treasurer **Ellis Wanninger** provided a financial statement showing a bank balance on hand of \$4,664.48 as of 6/30/97.

The committee discussed the annual meeting scheduled for July 24 at the Pell City Recreation Hall. **Don Greer** noted that arrangements for additional chairs and an overhead projector were still pending. He also expressed a desire for a banner to advertise the event. **Isabella Trussell** asked if there would be a moderator for the question and answer period, and **Don Greer** replied that **Dennis Brooks** has agreed to moderate "if he is in town." Executive Committee members were made aware that the Nominating Committee has nominated **Stan Batemon** and **Ron Vaughan** for director positions replacing two current directors who will not seek reelection. A draft of the meeting announcement was provided by **Ron Vaughan** and reviewed by committee members. It was agreed to send this announcement to all active and inactive members, to the ex-officio members and to all pertinent organizations (a total of 373 mailings).

Don Greer stated that a *Media Event* with the Alabama Fisheries Association (AFA) scheduled for August 3 at the Pell City Civic Center might be moved to Birmingham's East Lake Park to coincide with a children's fishing program sponsored by Bassmasters. However, **Lynn Batemon** noted that the Chamber of Commerce calendar does not show any Bassmasters events on that date. The location of the Media Event was left open pending further clarification. The committee then reviewed a water quality monitoring resolution that the AFA has developed and is asking the LMLPA and other similar organizations to sign. Because the resolution is somewhat vague and contains no specific standards, the committee voted to sign the resolution only "in principal."

Executive Committee Members discussed the recent Birmingham newspaper article written by **Mike Bolton** which implied that the waters of Logan Martin were not safe for swimming. It was agreed that this article was misleading and damaging to the area. **Don Greer** (LMLPA) and **Lynn Batemon** (Pell City Chamber of Commerce) were tasked to write editorials refuting this article in the hopes that the newspaper will publish one or both. **Dick Whatley** suggested that the LMLPA could use a good public relations person to help counter negative publicity such as this, even if it means hiring such expertise.

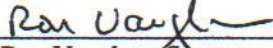
Stan Batemon reported that the Personal Watercraft Safety Course scheduled for June 14 was canceled due to inclement weather, but a video was shown to the 4 people who attended. He stated that Cowan Water Sports and the Marine Police use this same video in their safety programs.

Don Greer briefly discussed the development of an Economic Impact Statement for Lake Logan Martin. He stated that he has talked with representatives of organizations who have performed similar studies, and is in the process of investigating possible funding sources. However, he cautioned that nothing is firm and more investigation needs to be done.

Isabella Trussell reported on the activities of the Water Quality Committee and provided copies of a written report.

Don Greer confirmed with Lynn Batemon that the LMLPA brochure currently under development will be included in the information package available at the Pell City COC booth during the Bassmasters Fishing Tournament. **Isabella Trussell** recommended including a handout on the zebra mussel as well. **Lynn Batemon** informed the committee that the new LMLPA brochure will also be made available to the "Gracious Greetings" (welcome wagon) organization for distribution to new area residents.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Prepared by: 
Ron Vaughan, Secretary

Approved by: 
Don Greer, President

Water Quality Committee Report
July 9, 1997

Recertification of Alabama Water Watch monitors:

- 1 received QA/QC training to implement local recertification
- 4 local recertification sessions
- 20 recertified monitors]
- 2 "brush up" training on bacteriological monitoring only (no recertification procedure available)
- 28 currently active monitors, 2 more to return in late summer

At the recertification sessions, the monitors were encouraged to write the Savannah District Corps of Engineers to express their concern about monitoring for PCB's downstream of the silt curtain to be used in the proposed Mayo's Bar Lock & Dam project below Rome, GA.

4 monitors attended the annual Alabama Water Watch picnic in Auburn on June 22: Donette Bower, Dorothy DiMattia, Don Greer and Isabella Trussell. Isabella received the "Titration Award" for her efforts regarding quality, credibility, and use of citizen data. Don put this in the local paper in an effort to get our organization some publicity.

Don contacted the State Health Dept. in response to *The Birmingham News* article that implied that there were areas of Logan Martin unsafe for swimming. There are not any swimming advisories issued at the state level for Logan Martin. The local health dept. also has no local swimming advisories.

Mayor Mack Abercrombie and Councilmen James McGowan, John Abbott IV, Guin Robinson, Forest Walls joined LMLPA monitors Charles Lanier and Donette Bower on July 9 as they prepared to participate in the annual Great Secchi Dip-In to measure the clarity of the country's waters. This is the second year that LMLPA monitors have participated in this event. We didn't have the council members dip-in as planned, as the weather was inclement. (Donette dipped-in before she left, rain or no rain!)

We used this opportunity to get more publicity for LMLPA and to express our concern to the city council about the nutrient problems in Logan Martin. They were given copies of the *News* article, as well as brochures describing Alabama Water Watch and the Great Secchi Dip-In. All expressed concern about the article. Many had also seen the segment on NBC Channel 13's 5 o'clock News on July 8 in which Don Greer and Andy Hawkins (Aqualand Marina) commented on the problems with houseboats discharging raw sewage into the lake, adding nutrients to our very eutrophic lake. The mayor plans to get our area state legislators together with us next week for a discussion of the problem and possible legislative remedies in regard to houseboat discharge. The council was also advised that the issue of nutrient standards for Alabama's water is a difficult one to tackle, as point sources (those coming from a pipe) are more easily regulated than nonpoint sources (diffuse areas, such as the runoff from my backyard). The *Daily Home* was represented during the discussion. The *News-Aegis* reporter came after the council left. He was briefly informed of the discussion.

Mayor Abercrombie reported that there had been adverse reaction to the News article in regard to the offering price of a local home. All those present were dismayed that there was such a speedy negative response. Don called reporter Mike Bolton to suggest that any future articles make clear that Logan Martin is a swimmable lake without any state health swimming advisories.

Conversation with James MacIndoe of ADEM's water division on July 10: high nutrient levels are not a concern for immediate physical health, but a concern for recreational uses by boat owners and swimmers when algal blooms or nuisance weeds occur. The precaution against swimming in the immediate area--a few hundred yards--is a common sense one: that there is the potential of harmful bacteria. (LMLPA monitors Dye Creek at the sewage outfall and there has been no indication of high levels of bacteria during last summer's intensive testing, nor this summer's monthly testing.)

FYI: Ed Poolos of ADEM would be our best source of information regarding pump out legislation and the difficulties this issue presented in previous efforts to have legislation passed. He may be reached at (334) 272-7989.