

# Logan Martin Lake Protection Association

## Executive Committee Meeting

August 8, 2013

### I. Call to Order

President Mike Riley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Pell City Civic Center. In attendance were Mike Riley, Vice President Linda Ruethemann and Treasurer Charles Alexander.

### II. General and Board Meeting's Minutes (July 19<sup>th</sup>)

Mike Riley read minutes from full board meeting held on July 19th after the Summer General Meeting and election of 2013-2014 board members. They are as follows:

#### **July 19th Meeting of the Board of LMLPA**

Those present:

Mike Riley, Debbie Cearley, Tom Carden, Charles Alexander, Linda Ruethemann, Dick Franke, Larry Davis, Bud Kitchen, Isabella Trussell and Randy Smith

Election of the officers:

Nominations: Mike Riley, President  
Linda Ruethemann, Vice President  
Charles Alexander, Treasurer  
Debbie Cearley, Secretary  
Bud Kitchen, Member at Large

All were accepted by the board.

Discussion of Meetings of the board to be 2 weeks prior to general meeting. Discussion of the shirts. Talked of the need for shirts not in the immediate future and tabled. Discussion of October Meeting to include a "State of Our Lakes". Discussion of the wetlands project. Waiting on a bid by August 1 for evaluation. It was mentioned that the board should be represented at the bid meeting and tabulation. Also discussion on the composite noted in the plans. Bud raised the question of how much liability the LMLPA will take on for the wetlands project. Government Committee to review the letter to the Governor for AWW. Bud raised the question of how much liability the LMLPA will take on for the wetlands project

Meeting adjourned,  
Respectively,  
Debbie Cearley

**Voted and accepted by committee.** There were discussions concerning results of the speakers from the General meeting about flood zones and what options that was available. Upon realizing the final results using those options a possible article for a future newsletter demonstrating recommended solutions in reducing or eliminating the necessity for higher cost flood insurance.

### III. Financial Reports (See Attached Reports)

#### a. 7/1/2012 through 6/30/2013

- i. This is the same report that was shown at the July 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting which is YTD from July 2012 through June 2013.

#### b. July 2013

- i. This is financial report for the month of July 2013 only.
  1. Includes a high payment for printing (\$2,379.57) due to a larger than normal newsletter also \$250.88 for Water Testing Supplies.
  2. Pending is cost of business cards and additional chemicals for Water Monitoring training August 10<sup>th</sup> probably \$500 to \$600.
  3. Mike will submit expenses for trip to Alabama Water Watch annual meeting (board approved).

#### C. Wetlands Project

- i. This report is the total cost and commitment towards the Wetlands project cost estimates.
  1. Board approved \$20,000 for project
  2. APCO donated \$4,000 towards project from mitigation
  3. LakeFest donated \$2,000 this year
  4. The \$3,000 cost from Terracon was from Mike's assistants for testing as a result of two bids with inconsistent depth for the pylons.
  5. There was a charge of \$51.46 for a lunch with planners that Isabella said was paid however there is no proof of payment. Isabella confirmed the payment on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009
  6. Mike calculated an average cost of the project by averaging the cost of the two bids submitted. Discussions concerning the rebid process with the bid to go out in August and construction starting in November.
  7. Mike recently updated contribution due to grant from St Clair Soil and Water to help defray cost of the soil testing.
  8. The other line items are scenarios of cost and what LMLPA had in the bank.
  9. If cost are above what LMLPA can afford we have asked the city grant writer to request grants from the EPA called 5 Star in which Benjamin Moore have received funds for their wetlands project.
  10. Charles brought up concerning a minimum reserve fund so we do not put LMLPA at risk. Charles as Treasurer has made a motion to establish a \$10,000 reserve fund in which we cannot dip below without a called meeting and a full board approval. Motion was seconded by Linda and approved by committee.

11. LMLPA has the prerogative of turning down the project if it exceeds what we can pay for. LMLPA might look into additional fund raising to support this project. Mike met with Valerie Vaughn the PGA professional with Alpine Bay for possible tournament on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Several interested parties suggested a 5K run and it wouldn't be viable since there is a 5K run every weekend and participation may be limited. Mike submitted a request to Honda however was turned down since they don't do capital funding.
12. Approval of the Treasurers Report as presented by committee.
13. Mike has petitioned the St Clair Soil and Water for fall grant money to be used in the construction of the Wetlands Project.

#### IV. Planning

##### a. 2013 – 2014 Meeting Schedule (See attached)

- i. Discussion concerning Renew Our Rivers and timeline and discuss at full board meeting.
- ii. What would we like to see at General Meeting
  1. Fall General Meeting – Alabama Water Watch will give the “State of the Lake”.
  2. Asked Bud for Lincoln City Hall for Winter General Meeting (reserved Pell City Civic Center Banquet Hall as a backup) and e-mailed the State Toxicologist to speak.

##### b. Board Members and Committees (See attached)

- i. Aaron Roberts now heads the committee on public launches. (Side note: Mike talked to Rob Coyne concerning APCO utilizing the park by the dam for public launch, he will look into it and let me know)
- ii. Discussion concerning board members who are not on any committee. There are board members that have not attended any meetings.
- iii. Updated the list to show Larry Davis as the LMLPA representative to Choccolocco Creek Watershed Association representative.
- iv. Mike passed out potential committees and needs to get people on them.
  1. Charles asked if we should have someone other than himself that have knowledge concerning grant writing and fund raising. Linda pointed out the chair could have people that have those skills. However, we should help Charles locate people that have those skills.
  2. Discussed different committees and getting people to do different things.
  3. Discussed the need for Hospitality/Social Committee.
  4. Mike asked committee to take a look and make recommendations

5. Discussed replacing Dick Franke on the Solutia committee. The person will represent the lake and not LMLPA.

C. Directors and Officers Insurance (See attached)

- i. Mike had asked for quotes from 3 providers.
- ii. Joe Paul Abbott with Union Insurance has not given quote however he said that it was quite prohibited around \$1,500 per year.
- iii. Requested a quote through Metro Bank with the cost being \$578 per year for \$1,000,000 umbrella liability insurance. Most board members already have a personal umbrella policy.
- iv. Questions concerning why we need such a policy. The boardwalk at the wetlands was brought. Even though the city owns the property and have responsibility for it LMLPA could be named in a suit if injuries occur. Dick Franke has done a lot of engineering work on it and could be named in a suit. People sue for a variety of reasons and it is felt we need protection. LMLPA has had no insurance for 18 years however given the more involved the organization has become it is felt it is needed. Renew Our Rivers picnic is an LMLPA event and we could be blamed for any injuries occurred at it.
- v. **The committee recommends this to the board for approval.**

d. Watershed Conference August 14<sup>th</sup> Pell City Civic Center (See attached)

- i. Several board members attended
- ii. Mike will give a presentation to the conference on the How Lake Associations can Partner, Communicate and Benefit from Help of Federal and State Environmental Organizations. (See attached)
- iii. The board voted to sponsor for \$500.
- iv. LMLPA had a booth at the event.

e. Annual Alabama Water Resources Conference

f. 2014 Membership Notification (See attached)

- i. . In the past we sent out renewal cards at the end or beginning of the year with mixed results. We have sent the summer newsletter to our list and informing those people that they will be dropped if membership dues are not received. We have received around (I believe) 20 or so renewals and new memberships however it has not gathered as many dues as hoped. One suggestion I heard was sending a bill to those individuals with a result of being 1) they join, 2) they are not interested, 3) they have departed the area and the new homeowners might be interested or 4) they have really departed. Also, I just received a phone call from an individual who was uncertain of when to pay and don't remember getting a notice. He said he paid last year in July (obviously when he got the newsletter with his name not on the list) and

didn't receive the notice. He also said that he hadn't received e-mail notices about flooding or any information we transmit in that fashion. I show his e-mail address and explained to him he needed to unblock any e-mails from us (which I think is mostly what happens). I know we want to make sure we keep our expenses down since we have mailed over 700 newsletters and we only have a little over 280 members (as of today with one on the way via my previous phone call). Our next newsletter count will reflect the number of paid membership. I think that since we are in the second half of the year we not do anything until the end when we send a notice (card or brochure) for renewal to the entire list and our winter (January/February) newsletter going only to the paid members of 2013 and 2014. In the Spring newsletter (April) we should have a good count of members however we send a renewal card just to those who did not respond and not a newsletter. After that we purge our list by the time our summer newsletter is out and decide on if we need a membership campaign or not. There is an attached modified membership renewal card from 2009 to fit 2014 time-frame.

- ii. We have been publicized in the local papers on a regular basis however most people believe that LMLPA is an official function and there for their convenience. Should we advertise? Mike will talk with the Daily Home and New Aegis about an article however when talking about Lakeside Magazine or Discover St Clair it could be a different ball of wax. Shown the ad that Discover ran which was beautiful. Most people pick up the magazines. Charles recommends to try simple stuff first.
- iii. Linda recommended that the ad has across the top "Time to Renew Your Membership" (See Attached).
- iv. Members are confused of when and if to renew.
- v. Discussions on the list of 700 names we have and it is used.
- vi. Discussed on best method of notifying members.
- vii. Recommend send out membership renewal cards on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Be sent to the 700 people list and not the 3,000. We could modify the card to be a reminder in the spring.
- viii. **Committee recommended to full board.**

**g. State Toxicologist**

- i. Dr. John Guarisco State Toxicologist from the Alabama Department of Public Health delivered the state of the lake in January 2012 at the winter general meeting. Mike sent an e-mail to him to see if he would be willing to come back in January 2014 and do the same again. The department is the one who give the warnings on fish consumption which have an effect on Logan Martin. The department has a new app for smart phones and Mike was interested if it was viable for LMLPA. Have not received an reply at this time. LMLPA has notified via newsletter about Red Cross

app for First Aid. There is a new app for Tornado by the Red Cross and we will publicize that app during our fall newsletter during the second season for tornado weather.

- h. Support of Alabama Water Watch with Letter from Government Committee to Governor.
  - i. Provided Isabella with copy of letter from Government Committee to the Governor however before it can be sent members of the Government Committee must approve. AWW would like to ride our coat-tail on the success of the letter sent by LMLPA.
- i. Coordination of Testing with Pell City on e-coli testing at Lakeside Park. LMLPA takes 3 samples at 100ml where the city takes a full sample then takes to Guardian in Leeds for analysis. The comparison between LMLPA and Pell City are completely different; we are showing high count and Pell City shows negligible count. They are supposed to be doing the testing at the same time. Isabella wants to expand our samples to equal the sample size of Pell City. There should be around 10 vials and then take an average of them to get the results. We have to conduct this validation to verify that are results are accurate.
- j. Smart Phone App for Water Safety
  - i. Isabella will review and has been recommended by AWW. AWW wants our water monitors to keep it update. This could be a good deal for us and the area for tourism. Questions concerning about LMLPA's liability on publishing that information. However Isabella and AWW will make the decision on that. Charles would like to be part of the discussion on whether we should do this or not. Review this by full board in October upon Isabella's recommendation.
- k. Canada Geese Issues
  - i. Mike gets calls and e-mails from individuals who are not members of LMLPA. LMLPA has addressed this and had a meeting concerning this with recommendations. The committee recommended referring people to our website and we have done everything we know we can do.
- l. Flooding
  - i. Dealing with unusual flooding after Lake Cleanup was discussed. Mike talked with Doug Powell to see if a situation like we had in May happens again can we request a APCO barge to help remove large material from lake. The second flood had been more damaging to local streams and creeks and very large trees and debris in channel and sloughs causing possible danger to boaters. Mike's recommendation is that APCO needs to pull off any Renew Our Rivers campaign to resolve this due to a dangerous environment. Charles recommends that maybe we have a meeting with APCO to address this issue and discuss with Justin Hogeland.

### m. LMLPA Visibility

- i. Pell City Chamber of Commerce had nominations for Non-Profit of the year which included the Civitan's, Rotary, Community Action and the Pell City Line Dance Club. As far as we know LMLPA has never been nominated. As much as LMLPA has done for this community it is disappointing that it has not been recognized. The consensus is that it maybe that most people doesn't associate LMLPA being a non-profit but an agency. Committee believes we need to work on the visibility issue and make the community aware that LMLPA is total volunteer non-profit organization.

### n. Christmas Boat Parade

- i. The idea of a Christmas Parade was introduced by Mike. Most communities located on a river or a body of water has something along that line. Mike went to a Christmas festival in Natchitoches, Louisiana (a town the size of Pell City) in which the festivities was a week-long however it drew over 300,000 people. The Cane River flows through the town and one of the best fireworks displays he ever seen. Mike talked to Erica Grieve (Pell City Chamber) about tying it in with the Christmas parade and she loved it. Mike also talked with Alan People about raising the lake two feet for one weekend. There would be entrance fees to cover the expense and awards based on boat class. There used to be houseboat parades several years ago in which the boats spared no expense in decorating their boats. Will introduce to full board in October.

## V. Other Issues Facing LMLPA for 2013 – 2014

### a. Army Corp of Engineers

Mike is debating sending a petition to Army Corp of Engineers contesting the lake level. Was discouraging after APCO representatives said that the issue was not worth acting on.

### b. FERC

- i. ALCO has filed an appeal on license.

## VI. Adjournment