

# Martin Issue Group Meetings

## Meeting Summary: September 26-27, 2007

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Meeting Location – Alexander City, AL

### **Attendees:**

A list of attendees for each of the MIG meetings is attached.

*These notes summarize the major items discussed during the meeting and are not intended to be a transcript or analysis of the meeting.*

Jim Crew provided an introduction to the meeting and reviewed the agenda for the day. The goal of the meeting was to review and collect any additional comments on the Martin Issue Group (MIG) sheets for each of the five resource areas and provide an overview of the 14 Proposed Study Plans to be included in the Martin Preliminary Application Document (PAD).

Each of the five MIG meetings included a review of the MIG Issue Sheet and a request for additional comments, an overview of the study plans for the MIG, a question and answer session for each study plan, a review of the FERC ILP study plan process, and a general question and answer period. The presentations will be posted on the Martin relicensing website.

### **MIG 1 – Fish and Wildlife**

#### ***Study Plans:***

- Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Surveys
- Striped Bass Study
- Migratory Fish – Tallapoosa Basin – Literature Review
- Lake Martin – Wildlife Management Plan
- Assessment of Fish Density and Species Composition Associated with Various Shoreline Types
- Fish Entrainment / Turbine Mortality
- Evaluation of Minimum Flows Downstream of Martin Dam

#### ***Comments on MIG Issue Sheet and Study Plans:***

- Stakeholder noted that a new species of nuisance aquatic plant (Najas) has been observed since the drought began. APC noted that they have detected this species and are treating it with approved aquatic herbicides.
- There was a question regarding inadequate nutrient levels for fish growth – can APC really fix this problem?
- Request to add current fisheries studies (Elise Irwin – Auburn University) from the area downstream of Harris Dam to the list of current data available. APC will add this study to the MIG sheet for Fish and Wildlife.
- Update the list of existing information with new additions in the APC library.
- Are otters endangered species? APC responded that no, river otters are not protected by federal law.

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- What are mooneye fish? APC responded that the mooneye is a type of migratory fish in the Alabama River.
- Was red-cockaded woodpecker habitat lost when timber was removed from the Sandy Creek area near Old Suzanna Road? APC responded that they will check on this.
- Do operations at Martin affect flows below Yates/Thurlow and how (from a hydrologic standpoint)?
- APC needs to have a hotline to report activities that may be illegal or detrimental to the Lake Martin environment. APC currently operates the 1-800-LAKES11 phone line that can be used to report lake issues.
- Can APC include hydrologic evaluation of minimum flows downstream of Yates and Thurlow in the Study Plan for Martin Tailrace Flows?

### **MIG 2 – Water Quality and Quantity**

#### ***Study Plans:***

- Water Quality Adaptive Management Plan
- Erosion and Sedimentation Study
- Location of NPDES Permits
- Water Quantity, Water Use, and Water Withdrawals

#### ***Comments on MIG Issue Sheet and Study Plans:***

- Erosion issues are in Sandy Creek not “Red” Creek.
- Erosion photography from the USDA may be available for historic comparisons of erosion around the lake.
- Update the list of existing information with new additions in the APC library, including all the ADEM info sources.
- Can APC surveillance contractors look for failing septic tanks (from vegetation growing during drought)?
- History of problems at each site (violations, etc.) need to be added to NPDES database
- Stakeholders mentioned that Lake Watch was in the process of applying for Outstanding Alabama Water status for Martin Lake. If this is approved, will the Study Plan criteria change? APC will address this issue as it develops.

### **MIG 3 – Project Operations**

#### ***Study Plan:*** Change in Project Operations – Rule Curve Modifications

Andy Sheppard and Ashley McVicar gave an overview of APC activities related to the current modeling efforts used to identify the potential range of rule curve changes that will be evaluated during relicensing.

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### ***Comments on MIG Issue Sheet and Study Plans:***

- Can FERC issue a short-term variance prior to the new license that will allow APC to keep the lake higher during the winter months? APC is exploring this issue with FERC.
- Need to address the economic impact to seawall /pier contractors as a result of changes in the winter rule curve elevation as well as the timing of drawdown and refill.
- Under Additional info/Study on the MIG sheet – existing sediment levels and aquatic plant info, add the following “to Highway 280 at the Norfolk-Southern Railroad Bridge” after “Irwin Shoals”.

### **MIG 5 – Recreation Plan**

#### ***Study Plans:*** Recreation Study Plan

Dave Anderson gave an overview of the Recreation Study Plan and its relationship to developing a Martin Project Recreation Plan.

### ***Comments on MIG Issue Sheet and Study Plans:***

- Update the list of existing information with new additions in the APC library.
- Can the “FIMS Study” be updated or revised to accurately reflect that the current economy of the lake has changed? Yes, APC will develop a method to update the study.
- How many ramps does APC lease to the ADCNR?
- How, in the future, can we address the need for extending boat ramps further into the water in years of extreme drought? Walter Ramey discussed ramps where additional gravel has been added to increase the usability of that ramp.

### **MIG 4 – Shoreline Management Plan**

#### ***Study Plans:*** Shoreline Management Plan

Jim Crew provided a detailed description of APC’s proposed changes to lands within the project boundary. This included land additions to and removal from the existing Martin FERC project boundary, and reclassification of lands within the project boundary.

### **General Comments - Questions:**

- Stakeholders offered to provide help with field studies.
- What happens if the lake doesn’t come back up to full pool for field studies? APC will petition FERC for more time or modify field surveys to account for this.
- What if we need more data after the field studies are performed? We can collect more data in the following year(s).
- What if all issues aren’t in study plans? APC’s proposed studies will likely address many of the issues raised to date that are related to the continued operation of the Martin Project. If there are issues that stakeholders feel APC has not adequately addressed, stakeholders can petition FERC for an additional studies in the ILP Study Plan process.

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- Can APC start the field studies sooner than 2009? Yes, if we have consensus on the study plan prior to submitting the PAD and APC determines that there is low risk that FERC wouldn't approve the study plan as submitted.
- When will the MIG meetings start? We anticipate that MIG meetings will begin in late November or early December of 2007.
- What will happen if the license expires before you file the new license application? FERC typically issues an annual license that contains the same operating provisions as the existing license until a decision on the requirements of a new license is finalized.
- The drought may impact some of the studies. APC will try to account for drought impacts in the design and performance of the field studies in 2008/2009.
- Has APC contacted local community leaders about being more involved in this process, especially those related to having zoning responsibilities? APC has contacted local government leaders and invited them to be involved in the relicensing process. If there are specific issues that arise, APC will make attempts to encourage these entities to be actively involved in the activities and decisions in the Martin relicensing process.
- How are daily operations affected by power use?
- Real estate agents need to get more involved – tell the new homeowners the “rules” of the lake (e.g., permitting rules and regulations, etc.). A real estate agent was present at the meeting and will be discussing the realtors' role with other realtors to provide their clients with information on lake rules and regulations.
- The Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail Association has a strong desire for more property near the dam for trail use and other approved uses of “natural, undeveloped lands”. Many stakeholders present for this meeting commented on the great job the Cherokee Ridge Association has done in developing this trail network.
- What are the rules for public use on project and non-project lands? This will be detailed in the Shoreline Management Plan.

#### Specific Comments on Existing and Proposed Shoreline Management / Land Use Maps

- Jim Crew noted that APC will distribute copies of the proposed shoreline classification maps to Shoreline Management MIG members. These maps should be treated as **DRAFT and For Relicensing Study Purposes Only**.
- What are APC's short and long term plans for areas they intend to remove? Jim Crew noted that APC has general plans for future residential development, but no specific plan or schedule has been determined.
- What are the areas on the maps that are marked in yellow? These are lands that were previously owned by APC, sold and APC retained a 30 foot control strip within the Martin project boundary.
- John Glasier noted that the land around Sturdivant Creek needs to show the 30 ft control strip in yellow—right now, the map doesn't show that the land has this control strip. This will be corrected.
- John also recommended that in some areas, the control strip should be increased – for example, to 100 ft in the upper end of the Lake near Irwin Shoals because that area is at risk for water quality issues.

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- It was noted that for Manoy Creek, the area is already high density and if APC sells the land and the residential area is enlarged, it could cause congestion problems.
- There were also discussions about how removing land affects FERC jurisdiction. APC explained that all lands currently in the project boundary are under federal jurisdiction by FERC under the operating license for the Martin Project. Lands removed must be analyzed for any effects associated with the land going from federal jurisdiction to private ownership. Also, on any lands removed from the project, the 30 ft. control strip is maintained and included in the project boundary.
- Is there a chance that additional lands could be added to the project? Yes, but any proposal would undergo an evaluation by the Shoreline Management MIG.
- A question about Acapulco Rock was asked. Jim responded that it is land owned by APC but is not in the Project Boundary.
- Is there a 30 ft control strip at Stoneview/Sunset Point?
- There was a recommendation to add more “natural undeveloped” land to the project boundary just below Irwin Shoals, around mile 31. APC does own additional property in that area and stakeholders noted it would be useful for scenic value and water quality protection.
- What is the future of the Smith Mountain Fire Tower? What are APC’s plans for this tower? APC noted that they believe it is an historical property and they have no plans to remove the tower. That area will be added to the project boundary as natural undeveloped lands.
- It was noted that “natural undeveloped” lands are used for primitive recreation including hiking and primitive camping. No fires, vehicle access, or 4-wheelers are permitted on natural undeveloped lands.
- There was some discussion that the scenic overlook area is getting trashed by some users.
- Does the shoreline management process include installing additional buoys now that the water is so low? APC referred stakeholders interested in this topic to APC’s compliance division (Mr. Barry Lovett).

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**MIG Attendees**

**MIG 1 Fish & Wildlife**

Judy Takats	World Wildlife Fund
Gary K. Woodsmall	Lake Watch, Lake Martin HOBOS, Stillwaters Yacht Club
Candy Hayes	APC
Dick Bronson	Lake Watch
Jesse Cunningham	Lake Martin HOBO
David C. Winsor	Lake Martin HOBO
John D. Grogan	APC
Joe Addison	ADCNR-WFF
D.L. Abernethy	ADCNR-WFF
Jim Bain	Lake Martin Resource Association
John Triplett	Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association
Bob Childers	Lake Martin HOBO
Charles Darwin	Dadeville Area Chamber of Commerce, Stillwaters Yacht Club
Carl Scardina	AL State Parks
Buddy Eiland	APC
Charles Ogburn	
Steve Krotzer	APC
Brian Barr	World Wildlife Fund
Rhett Hanks	APC
Roberta Klass	
Larry Klass	Lake Watch
Ericha Nix	ADCNR
Nick Nichols	ADCNR
Angie Segars	APC
John Glasier	Lake Watch
Cindy Lowry	Alabama Rivers Alliance
Barbara Young	City of Alexander City
Marsall Griffin	APC
Franklin Horn	APC
Floyd E. Davis, Jr.	LWPOA
Chris Greene	ADCNR
Mark Tuggle	APC

**MIG 2 Water Quality & Quantity**

J. Carey Mullican	Lake Martin HOBOS
Francis E. Allred	Lake lot owner
Joe Addison	ADCNR-WFF
Ericha Nix	ADCNR
Nick Nichols	ADCNR

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Dick Bronson	Lake Watch
Bob Childers	Lake Martin HOBO
Chris Greene	ADCNR
Charles Darwin	Stillwaters Yacht Club, SWRA, Chamber of Commerce
Brian Barr	World Wildlife Fund
H. Wayne Freeman	Lake Martin HOBO
Roberta Klass	
Rhonda Watson	Russell Lands Real Estate
Marshall Griffin	APC
Cindy Lowry	Alabama Rivers Alliance
Jesse Cunningham	Lake Martin HOBO
Walter Ramey	APC
John Glasier	Lake Watch
Davis Gardner	
James O. Williams?	Lake Watch
John Durr	Lake Watch
Lynn Sisk	ADEM
Barbara Young	Alexander City
Don Dunnivan	
Candy Hayes	APC
Franklin Horn	APC
J. Charles Borden	Property owner
John Triplett	Lake Wedowee Property Owners Association
Charles Ogburn	Homeowner
Carl Scardina	AL state parks
Gary K. Woodsmall	Lake Watch, Lake Martin HOBOs, Stillwaters Yacht Club
Jim Hancock	Balch & Bingham
Ashley McVicar	APC
Judy Takats	World Wildlife Fund
John Coley	Coley Real Estate
Jim Bain	Lake Martin Resource Association
Larry Klass	Lake Watch
Rhett Hanks	APC
David C. Winsor	Lake Martin HOBO
Mimi Rush	Russell Lands Real Estate
Don Hawkins	Lake Martin HOBO
Floyd E. Davis Jr.	LWPOA
Ronda Walker	Resident
D.L. Abernethy	ADCNR
Steve Krotzer	APC

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**MIG 3 Project Operations**

Nick Nichols	ADCNR
Ericha Nix	ADCNR
Joe Addison	ADCNR-WFF
Rhett Hanks	APC
Candy Hayes	APC
Marshall Griffin	APC
Ronda Walker	Resident
David C. Winsor	Lake Martin HOBO
J. Carey Mullican	Lake Martin HOBO
Carl Scardina	AL state parks
Judy Takats	World Wildlife Fund
Bob Childers	Lake Martin HOBO
Gary K. Woodsmall	Lake Watch, Lake Martin HOBOs, Stillwaters Yacht Club
D.L. Abernethy	ADCNR
Davis Gardner	
Dick Bronson	Lake Watch
Francis E. Allred	Lake property owner
Frank Comensky	Lake property owner
Joe Addison	ADCNR
Ericha Nix	ADCNR
Larry Brantley	Lake Martin HOBO
Brian Barr	World Wildlife Fund
Chris Greene	ADCNR
Jesse Cunningham	Lake Martin HOBO
George M. Uhrin	Lake Martin HOBO
John Glasier	Lake Watch
J. Charles Borden	Homeowner
Jim Bain	Lake Martin Resource Association

**MIG 4 Shoreline Management**

David C. Winsor	Lake Martin HOBO
Judy Takats	World Wildlife Fund
J. Carey Mullican	Lake Martin HOBO
George M. Uhrin	Lake Martin HOBO
John Glasier	Lake Watch
Jimmy K. Lanier	Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail
Judson Edel	Homeowner
Ricky Ayers	Henderson & Coker
John D. Grogan	APC
Bob Childers	Lake Martin HOBO
D.L. Abernethy	ADCNR



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Larry Brantley	
Jim Bain	Lake Martin Resource Association
Mimi Rush	Russell Lands Real Estate
Will Denton	
Nick Nichols	ADCNR
Candy Hayes	APC
Mark M. Tuggle	APC
Dave Heinzen	CALM
Charles Ogburn	Dadeville Area Chamber of Commerce
Bill Gardner	APC
Rhett Hanks	APC
James O. Williams?	
Jesse Cunningham	HOBO
Brian Barr	World Wildlife Fund
Dick Bronson	Lake Watch
Roberta Klass	Lake Watch
J. Charles Borden	Homeowner
Larry Klass	Lake Watch
Marian Edel	
Mitch Henderson	Henderson & Coker Inc.
Joe Addison	ADCNR-WFF
Chris Greene	ADCNR

**MIG 5 Recreation**

Nick Nichols	ADCNR
Ericha Nix	ADCNR
Joe Addison	ADCNR
John Glasier	Lake Watch
J. Carey Mullican	Lake Martin HOBO
Charles Ogburn	Dadeville Area Chamber of Commerce
Marshall Griffin	APC
Francis E. Allred	Lake property owner
Gary K. Woodsmall	Lake Watch, Lake Martin HOBOs, Stillwaters Yacht Club
Bob Childers	Lake Martin HOBO
Dave Commander	Russell Lands
Wayne Carroll	CRATA
Brian Barr	World Wildlife Fund
J. Charles Borden	Lake Martin HOBO
Rhett Hanks	APC
Candy Hayes	APC
Jesse Cunningham	Lake Martin HOBO
David C. Winsor	Lake Martin HOBO
Carl Scardina	AL state parks

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Jim Bain	Lake Martin Resource Association
D.L. Abernethy	ADCNR
Ronda Walker	Resident
Chris Greene	ADCNR
Walter Ramey	APC
George M. Uhrin	Lake Martin HOBO