



## Annual Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2023

### 1. Meeting was called to order by President Lee Snow

“Our Home. Our Lake. Our Mission”  
70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HRLA  
Relaunch of website by 2024

### 2. Financial report, AnnMarie Clark, Chair

Treasurer's Report:

- + Income - \$11,000 in dues and online store received in the past 11 months
- + Expenses – Mailings, insurance, community activities and chamber memberships, PO Box, and membership drive, i.e., koozies and decals
- + Total Assets \$209,649 (\$150,000 moved to CD)

### 3. Current Business Discussions (Committee Reports with Chairs denoted):

#### A. Membership – AnnMarie Clark

- + Membership - 578 Active paid addresses.
- + In 2002, the membership was at an all-time high of 1,200 due to the water level. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join. We NEED a larger voice to make a difference. There are 5,000 pier permits on HRL.
- + Members are encouraged to join the monthly board meetings

#### B. Nominating Committee – AnnMarie Clark

Ann Marie along with Barry Childers and Toni Wooten-Wright have identified two board members for the 2024 – 2026 term: Rick Wagner (returning member) and Greg Edds.

#### C. Events/Activities: Barry Childers & Joyce Caron-Mercier (co-chairs)

- + HRL CleanSweep is 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September, collected more than 9,400 lbs.
- + Annual Rowan Chamber Dragon Boat Festival, last Saturday in July is a branding and engagement opportunity for HRLA at Shrine Club

### 4. Current Priorities of HRLA

#### A. FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) & Cube Hydro

- + FERC regulates natural gas, hydro power, electric, and oil to ensure reliable, safe, secure, and economically efficient energy for consumers at a reasonable cost
- + Licenses Eagle Creek Renewable Energy/Cube Carolinas [Cube Hydro] to utilize the water
- + Natural debris (trees & logs) is a navigation hazard as agreed to in 2022, Cube is required to remove from reservoir, not merely sink has been the case
- + The Dec 2022 planned drawdown was not a success as many completed unpermitted work
- + Meeting scheduled with Jody Smet of Cube to review possible changes to Shoreline management Plan to get clarification on Pier designs. Many approved pier permits have now been reversed or rescinded due to Cube Management's new interpretation. SMP is not being interpreted and applied the same at Badin Lake. Same SMP should allow for same pier designs at both High Rock and Badin.

- ✚ Meeting scheduled for mid-October with Jodi Smet to review SMP and process for approvals. If meeting is not satisfactory, the Government Affairs Committee will get FERC involved (items of concern: regulatory approvals, pier lights, guidance documents on their website and boat lifts)
- B. Shoreline Management Plan** is the administrative rule book for pier permits, lake levels, etc.
  - ✚ Not less than four feet of full pond – April 1 – October 31st (Badin Lake at 5 feet)
  - ✚ Not less than ten feet of full pond – November 1 – March 31<sup>st</sup>
  - ✚ The public recreation area in Rowan County must be completed by 2026 and will include boat ramps and handicapped dock. Location deeded for Leonard Road, but not ideal for several reasons including lake level, lack of paved road, etc.
- C. N.C. Drought Management Committee**  
We have a seat at the table
- D. HRL Water Nutrient Strategy** - AnnMarie Clark and Jim Crawford  
Invited to join the Yadkin Waterkeeper and other stakeholders to discuss, analyze and problem solve the multi-use of the river and lake
- E. Navigation Aids** (in water markers) has been removed as a priority, since recreational users have GPS on their cells
- F. Sediment Obstruction Removal – Greg Edds**
  - ✚ 60,000 residents draw water from or recreate on High Rock Lake
  - ✚ Plant seed with state and federal representatives for level of concern
  - ✚ Monthly meeting for a team effort – Rowan and Davidson Counties, DENR [dept of Environmental and Natural Resources], Army Corp of Engineers - review of 2002 study, Rowan County Manager initiated a request for qualification and received several responses
  - ✚ Met with Geosyntec Consultants – [Geosyntec.com] selected and fee structure @ \$300K project to include the study, analysis, and management of process through construction, likely a 9-month project
  - ✚ Grants are being identified due to multi-county project – 1 state and 1 Federal with submission dates of Sept & Oct, working with Rowan Co grant writer
  - ✚ Greg has asked for a letter of support from Cube i.e., the process and financial.
  - ✚ HRLA Board to draft resolution and financial contribution.

### **Geosyntec Consultants of N.C. – Corey Platt (scientist) & Brian Weir (engineer)**

A consulting and engineering firm that works with private and public sector clients to address new ventures and complex problems involving the environment, natural resources, and civil infrastructure. Founded in 1983, offices in Raleigh, Charlotte, Asheville, and Wilmington. 119 staff across 7 offices in the Carolinas.

A wide range of sediments projects including investigation, dredging, remediation, and restoration. At the forefront of beneficial reuse of sediments across a wide range of projects in the US.

Lake Experience: Lake Mattamussett, Western Piedmont/Yadkin River Valley, Miacomet Pond/Nantucket, MA and Lake Springfield, MO.

### **Presentation:**

Step 1 – Data Compilation: review of relevant existing data to create functional data visualization tool

Step 2 – Listening Sessions: forge relationships and understand problem areas, how conditions have changed and what defines success for the stakeholder group

Step 3 – Prioritizing Practical Alternatives: Matrix development to identify high priority areas

Step 4 – Securing Funding: Potential for multiple sources based on area to be dredged and use of material

Step 5 – Implementation: Permitting, engineering design, bid support, construction oversight

### **Best Practices:**

What to do with the material? (ideally 15 miles is most cost effective)

Equipment needed and area of marketability

Benefit of resource – fertilizer for agriculture (6 months to dry), (community, developers, contractors)  
– who can pay?

Protect habitats – deeper water/footprint helps oxygen for fish, helps mitigate algae blooms

Increase storage (dead water storage – does not go through turbine)

**What you will see on the water:**

Surveying – bathymetry & shoreline topography

Coring – pollutant & chemical analyses, physical (texture) and nutrient

Bench tests for beneficial reuse

**Focus:**

I-85 bridge to Swearing Creek and Crane Creek (2 footprints over a one-mile survey)

**Success:**

FEMA Grants based on pre-disaster mitigation i.e., natural dam

**Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Caron-Mercier, Secretary

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 7, 2023**