

R.L Harris Adaptive Management



Middle Tallapoosa River
Conservation Association

A cooperative effort of these and other allied stakeholders

May 28, 2009 Update Summary

Members of the Harris Adaptive Management stakeholder team met on Thursday May 28, 2009 for a status update. The agenda included:

- A Flow management update from Stacey Graham of Alabama Power
- Results of a qualitative survey on attitudes and perceptions of Lake, River and other stakeholders were summarized by Vern Herr of Group Solutions. This feedback will be plugged as a starting point for determining stakeholder satisfaction within the model.
- Katie Kennedy of Auburn University presented a research and monitoring update. Data analysis is expected to continue through the end of 2009.
- Future Direction alternatives were summarized by Elise Irwin of USGS
- Dan Catchings of AL DCNR summarized results of the Tallapoosa sport fish study
- A facilitated discussion

Key takeaways from the session included:

1. Erosion's importance in the model

Initially, modelers believed that erosion was an important element of the model. The availability of data and its importance to stakeholders appear to be less important than originally believed. Alternatives for GIS sedimentation measurement are currently being explored.

2. Data collection and analysis will be continuing through the rest of 2009. The next update is anticipated early in the first quarter of 2010

At that time another session will likely be scheduled to review findings, discuss communication requirements and consider potential management actions.

3. Improving river boating satisfaction may be possible

A continual frustration with river boaters is growing increasing interest in river kayaking and canoeing, but not knowing when releases are scheduled. While some releases are triggered by demands for power generation, there appear to be opportunities for increasing dialogue between boaters and the power company. In non-drought conditions, additional pulses may be possible that could increase weekend and holiday boating.

Stacy Graham from Alabama Power will be scheduling a visit to Wadley with the research team. Perhaps they can get her in a boat.

4. Volunteer Day (Sept/Oct)

The modelers are actively seeking stakeholders and willing hands who can assist with sampling work. Learning about the river by being on it is an opportunity that should not be missed.

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5. Open House for the general public

The pre-session survey indicated uneven understanding of the Adaptive Management process. Some get it; others don't. Increasing awareness is a stated goal. The team discussed hosting an open house intended to educate stakeholders and increase awareness about the process and its achievements. The concept was well received, but no dates have been set for this.

Updates will continue to be posted to www.rivermanagement.org

Session Participants

Name	Representing	Email
Nick Nichols	AL DCNR	Nick.nichols@dcnr.alabama.gov
Steve Sammons	Auburn University	samosm@auburn.edu
Glenn Dean	Alabama Scenic River Trail	Gypsy5262@aol.com
Tom Hoggle	APG Harris Dam	kwhoggle@southernco.com
David Waites	APCO	dgwaites@southernco.com
Willard Bowers	APCO	wlbowers@southernco.com
Stephen Gidiere	Balch Bingham	sgidiere@balch.com
Matt Bowden	APC	mwbowden@southernco.com
Jack Duncan	LWPOS	Duncan160@live.com
Dick Bronson	Lake Watch/Lake Martin	dbronson@charter.net
John Grogan	Alabama Power	jdgrogan@southernco.com
Stacy Graham	Alabama Power	sgraham@southernco.com
Stan Cook	AL DCNR	Stan.cook@dcnr.alabama.gov
Steve Rider	AL DCNR	Steve.rider@dcnr.alabama.gov
Mike Holley	AL DCNR	Mike.Holley@dcnr.alabama.gov
Dan Catchings	AL DCNR	Dan.catchings@dcnr.alabama.gov
George Traylor	Land Owner	George.ttraylor@msn.com
Charles Sut Smith	LWPOA	sutwiley@aol.com
John Cleveland	Land Owner	Jccleveland@gmail.com
John Hall	Land Owner	hallauctions@yahoo.com
Adam Harris	Land Owner	aharrisland@yahoo.com