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THE SAVANNAH VALLEY AUTHORITY

Progress

FALL 1990

A publication of The Savannah Valley Authority of South Carolina—a State Agency responsible for economic development in the Savannah River Basin.

SVA SEEKS INPUT ON LAKE RUSSELL PROJECT

The Savannah Valley Authority has created a six-member, non-voting, public policy committee comprising two members each from the Abbeville County Council, the Calhoun Falls Town Council, and the SVA Board of Directors. The group will provide guidance on policy issues related to the proposed Lake Russell development. It is designed to ensure continuous and consistent communications among these policy-making bodies for the duration of the Lake Russell Project.

The SVA and its consultant, Edward Pinckney & Associates, are seeking comment from interested persons and organizations. The Authority already has held meetings with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Calhoun Falls Town Council, and several State agencies with a direct interest in the project. Additional meetings will be held with interested citizens, town and county officials, and environmental groups. If you are interested in receiving information on SVA's involvement with the Lake Russell site, please contact Bill McLaughlin at 391-2410, or watch for notices of public meetings.

LAKE RUSSELL PROJECT STUDIES UNDERWAY

Edward Pinckney & Associates is in the process of providing SVA with an environmental research, land-use planning, and market feasibility study for a 2,500-acre development site on Lake Russell, partially within the town limits of Calhoun Falls. The first phase of the study, called a "Level One" report, is now being finalized for presentation to SVA and the State Budget and Control Board. The balance of the study is expected to be complete by the end of the year. The final document will identify the most appropriate use of the site and will guide SVA as it proceeds with development, including the solicitation of private investment interests. Edward Pinckney & Associates is a nationally-recognized land planning firm with offices in Charleston and Hilton Head.

SAVANNAH LAKES VILLAGE PROGRESSES

This beautiful residential and recreational development on Lake Thurmond in McCormick County continues to set sales records. Lot prices range from approximately \$6,000 to well in excess of \$100,000. As of the first of September, \$7,545,000 of property has been sold in 1990. Sales for 1989 (partial year) amounted to more than \$7 million.

An 80-room lodge and a dining facility are already in operation; the country club is scheduled to be completed by October 1; and the 18-hole championship golf course will be open for play in the spring of 1991. The Savannah Valley Authority is proud of its role in bringing this new community to South Carolina, and of its continuing role in funding construction of roads and utility systems for McCormick County.

ABBEVILLE NEARS WATER SYSTEM VOTE

SVA staff members continue to work with a committee of the Abbeville County Council and the Abbeville County Administrator to gather and analyze information related to an upcoming referendum on a countywide water system. SVA Chief Engineer, Lee Haines, is now determining the level of interest that each of the water systems operating in and near Abbeville County has in participating in a countywide system. The Abbeville County Council enlisted help from SVA this year in determining the advisability of expanding the water mains throughout the county to connect most of the existing water supply systems into a regional network. The Authority also will help the county inform the public on the question prior to the November referendum.

The question to be presented to Abbeville County voters is drafted as follows: "Shall the County Council of Abbeville County, South Carolina, be authorized to acquire by initial construction or purchase, establish, implement, operate and maintain a water system or systems?"

GOLD MINING TO BEGIN SOON

The Land Resources Conservation Commission of the State of South Carolina has approved a mining permit covering a proposed open pit gold mine to be located south of the Town of McCormick. This mine will be operated by Gwalia USA, Ltd., of Denver, Colorado. The mining permit covers a total of 326 acres, and the company is currently prospecting for additional ore.

SVA hopes that a balance can be reached between the economic development benefits of this operation and some environmental concerns about the mining process, since various cyanide compounds are used. Runoff from the entire mining property via Hawe Creek (which in turn enters a bay of Lake Thurmond) will be sampled and monitored by SVA.

The Water Resources Commission has cooperated with SVA in setting up proper background studies of the current water flows in Hawe Creek.

During the past year, several state agencies (including DHEC) have made exhaustive reviews of the many important environmental issues surrounding the gold mining proposal before giving approval toward the permit.

SVA convened a meeting of concerned local citizens and government officials and representatives from the S. C. Land Resources Conservation Commission and the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control on August 14. The primary concern expressed at that meeting was the fear that the cyanide used in the gold extraction process would get into the ground water or Lake Thurmond. The representatives from Land Resources and DHEC explained the monitoring system and the chemical properties of cyanide that prevented the ground or surface water system from being contaminated, even in the case of a significant spill or leak.

SVA/CLEMSON TO CONDUCT FOREST PRODUCTS STUDY

Clemson University and the Savannah Valley Authority will be joining forces over the next eighteen months to investigate the opportunities for forest products manufacturing to enhance the economy of the Savannah River Basin. Mr. John Syme of the Forestry Department, and Dr. Charles Duke of the Marketing Department, Clemson University, will be the principal researchers, with the assistance of two graduate students and the on-going support of SVA staffer Fred Catchings.

The purpose of the project is to identify potential secondary manufacturing opportunities to complement the timber production of Abbeville and McCormick Counties. Mr. Syme and Dr. Duke note that the difference between this and other studies is that previous studies simply identified manufacturing opportunities without any real understanding of the market forces at work or the potential of any particular area to capture a portion of that market. The teaming of Syme and Duke creates a unique blend of forestry and marketing skills.

The project will be financed by a combination of funds from SVA, Clemson University, the participating counties, and a \$20,000 grant from the U. S. Forest Service. As important as the initial study itself is the long-term commitment by Clemson University to assist SVA in implementing the findings of the study throughout the Basin.

COE TO IMPLEMENT NEW SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Corps Of Engineers has announced its intention to enact a new rule applicable to the shoreline management programs at Hartwell and Thurmond Lakes. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on August 3, 1990, and was available for public review and comment until September 16. It affects the fees charged for shoreline modification and boat dock permits and reflects an effort by the Federal government to recover a greater portion of the actual costs of administering the shoreline management permit program. Current permit fees have not been increased since they were set forth in 1974. The fee schedule follows:

<u>Type of Permit</u>	<u>One-Time Fee</u>	<u>Periodic Fees</u>
Facilities:		
New Facility	\$400	\$15/year
New Owner	\$200	\$15/year
Facility Modification	\$100	\$15/year
Permit Renewal	0	\$15/year
Vegetation Modification:		
New Permit	\$200	\$15/year
New Adjacent	\$100	\$15/year
Permit Renewal	0	\$15/year
Erosion Control	0	0

POWELL RETIRES; WEST REJOINS SVA BOARD

Robert E. "Gene" Powell, SVA Vice-Chairman, has retired as one of three at-large members of the SVA Board of Directors. A member of the SVA policy board since 1980 and Vice-Chairman since 1988, Powell cited heavy work and travel demands as the reason for his decision.

The Governor named former Board member John R. West of Abbeville to fill Powell's term. West is Editor of the Abbeville *Press and Banner*.

ABBEVILLE COUNTY TO ANALYZE LAND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Abbeville County will undertake a countywide land use analysis in October for the purpose of updating its land development standards. The Palmetto Conservation Foundation, a not-for-profit policy and planning organization that recently has been working closely with Fort Mill, S.C., will perform the analysis and recommend modifications to the County's zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations. Ken Driggers, Director of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, will be the primary researcher.

The work is being designed to coordinate with the Savannah Valley Authority's analysis for the Lake Russell development project and with the development needs of Calhoun Falls.

SVA is funding the \$20,000 study because of its direct bearing on development plans for Lake Russell.

PALMETTO TRUST FORUMS SUCCESSFUL

The formation of the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation was announced at a series of five forums across the state in late May and early June. The forums were well-attended and generated about 100 charter members of the new organization. One forum, held in Abbeville on June 3, drew a crowd of sixty people.

The Savannah Valley Authority has been involved in the planning for this organization, which will operate a revolving fund to purchase and resell endangered historic buildings and sites. When it becomes operable, the Fund will provide another means to preserve and enhance the Savannah Lakes Region's cultural heritage.

SVA staff member John Blythe serves on the Steering Committee for the organization. The committee is expected to appoint a provisional Board of Trustees this summer and then disband. Anyone interested in becoming a member or in obtaining additional information about the Trust and its programs may contact Blythe at the SVA office or write to Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 12547, Columbia, SC 29211.

SVA EXPLORING SUPPORT ROLE FOR RESEARCH PARKS

Over the past several months, SVA has been in contact with Westinghouse SRS and the Savannah River Research Park Authority to determine a proper support role it might play in assisting the development of one or more research parks within the Savannah River Basin. The purpose of such parks would be to generate technology transfers from the activities at the Savannah River Site (SRS) and to stimulate state and regional economic development as a result of the research at SRS.

FRESHWATER COAST™ PROMOTION CONTINUES

The Freshwater Coast™ Association, composed of ten organizations in the eight-county Freshwater Coast area, continues to promote the region to tourism, economic development, and retirement organizations. Recently, two tourism districts that serve the region published a brochure that lists historic sites, museums, scenic spots, cultural opportunities, colleges and universities, festivals, hiking trails, parks and campgrounds, marinas, golf courses, accommodations, and boat access areas. The brochure also has profiles of the three Corps of Engineers' lakes and seven other lakes.

The Association has produced T-shirts and sweatshirts with the four-color logo of the Freshwater Coast™. The brochure is free, and the shirts are available at a nominal cost. Contact Barbara Ware, Association Chair, at 984-2233, or John Blythe at 391-2410, for additional information.

SVA AD GENERATES INTEREST IN FRESHWATER COAST™

The South Carolina Retirement Communities Association presented its Marketing Efficiency award to the Savannah Valley Authority at its annual meeting in April. The award recognizes the organization whose advertisement in *South Carolina Mature Lifestyles* magazine generates the most inquiries. The SVA advertisement, "Escape To The Land Of Unlimited Opportunity," in the 1988-89 issue generated 728 leads for the Savannah Lakes Region. A slightly modified ad in the 1989-90 issue has generated nearly 700 leads to date.

SVA responds to the inquiries with an information folder containing a general statement about the Savannah Lakes Region and seven single-sheet inserts about specific topics. A reader response card allows people to contact SVA with personalized requests for information.

The 1990-91 advertisement is built around the "Freshwater Coast" theme. Copies of the new magazine should be available this fall.

Copies of the "Unlimited Opportunity" information folder are available from the SVA office.



GEORGIA/SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENT GROUPS FORM ALLIANCE

Representatives of four South Carolina councils of governments and four Georgia regional development centers, the Institute of Community and Area Development at the University of Georgia, the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson University, the Lake Hartwell Association, the Friends of the Lake, and the Savannah Valley Authority are forming an economic development alliance to cooperate on issues of mutual concern within the Savannah River Basin. A steering committee is looking into the idea of conducting a series of working sessions to address development issues facing the citizens, the businesses, and the governments of the basin, without regard to the state boundaries.

"The environmental and economic interests on both sides of the Savannah River have more in common than they have differences," said Morrison Parrott, Executive Director of SVA and chairman of the steering committee. "Our aim is to focus on those similarities, develop a consensus, and inform the state and federal regulatory powers about our needs as citizens of the Savannah River Basin. Only then can we speak with a powerful rather than a powerless voice."

The initial meeting of this proposed alliance will be held late this fall. The agenda will focus on user needs (within the context of federal regulations and environmental concerns) and any activities that may affect the quality or flow of the Savannah River. We will ask that agencies having an interest in such issues participate in subsequent meetings.

SVA TO PRESENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH REVISED BOARD MEMBERSHIP PLAN

In conformance with the SVA's expanding role in economic development for the western part of South Carolina and in compliance with direction from the General Assembly, the SVA Board of Directors will present a plan to modify the current membership structure of the Board. The plan will be presented to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee no later than October 15, 1990.

According to SVA's legislation, the Authority is responsible for economic development activities in the Savannah River Basin, a 13-county area comprising almost 25% of South Carolina's geographic area and 15% of its population. The traditional location of SVA's projects has been in Abbeville, Anderson, and McCormick Counties, those counties adjacent to Lakes Thurmond and Russell.



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