

Executive Summary and Lake Lanier Association Actions

Purpose: Lake Lanier Association (LLA) is asking for our elected officials' help in supporting Lake Lanier as part of the Tri-States Water War litigation and solution:

1. Congressional approval of recreation on Lake Lanier as an authorized purpose for the US Army Corps of Engineers;
2. Congressional support to raise the 'normal pool' of Lanier from 1071 to 1073 feet above sea level.

Discussion: 1. Recreation

- 50+ years of Lanier operation for recreation with an approved federal budget
- 35 permanent and 40 part-time Corps employees
- \$1-\$2 billion annual economic contribution to North Georgia
- Lake Lanier has the most visitors, docks, boats etc., of any Corps Lake
- Judge Magnuson did not rule against recreation
- Supported by law and historical documentation

2. New Reservoir

- Raising Lake Lanier two feet to 1073 above sea level
- Creates a new 26-27 billion gallon reservoir
- Provides additional water supply for Georgia and downstream users
- Lowest cost for new reservoir
- Corps refuses to study this proposal without congressional approval
- During recent rain, Lanier reached 1072.7 feet without any adverse results
- Email survey of LLA members resulted in 700 responses, of which 96% approved of raising lake level
- Raising Lanier two feet could be studied and implemented in one to two years.

Lake Lanier Association Overview - January 2010

“Committed to a clean and full Lake Lanier to enhance its economic value to Georgia”

- Established in 1966
- 1,800+ memberships - 4,500+ members
 - Recreational users
 - Area businesses
 - Property owners
 - Water users (fishing, sailing, boating etc.)
 - 20-person board of directors

Major Programs

- Adopt-A-Lake - Water Testing
- Shore Sweep
- Lake advocacy
- Educational and lake issue meetings
- Political forums
- Member outreach
- Lake litter prevention

Lake Lanier Association Tri-States Water Litigation Challenges

Tri-States "Water Wars" Ongoing for 20 Years

Florida and Alabama contend Lake Lanier does not have municipal water supply as an authorized purpose. U.S. District Court Judge Magnuson ruled in July, 2009, in favor of Florida and Alabama, that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers could not manage water levels and releases from Lake Lanier for municipal water supply to Atlanta and the region.

The judge also ruled that if the Corps, Congress and the states couldn't resolve the issue, then the management of Lanier for water withdrawals would be at 1975 levels. This would be devastating for the State of Georgia.

Florida and Alabama contend that recreation is not an authorized purpose for Lanier. Judge Magnuson did not rule on recreation

Georgia is appealing Judge Magnuson's decision. This could drag on for years through the appellate courts.

Governor Perdue has a four-pronged approach to the situation:

- 1.) Appeal Judge Magnuson's decision;
- 2.) Encourage congress to authorize Lake Lanier as a municipal water supply;
- 3.) Negotiate with the governors of Florida and Alabama to achieve an acceptable water sharing agreement;
- 4.) Determine steps Georgia should implement for additional sources of water, including new reservoirs, conservation, reuse etc.

Lake Lanier Association Actions and Legal Plans

Visits and dialog with political influencers

Proposed a two feet increase in the Lanier full pool level to 1073 from 1071 feet above sea level.

Intervener in Tri-States Water Rights litigation (6 cases)

Basic Facts

- Litigation has been ongoing since 1990
- Multiple lawsuits: over 50 lawyers are estimated to be currently participating
- Plaintiffs are primarily the states of Florida and Alabama
- Defendants are generally the Corps of Engineers, State of Georgia, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and the Lake Lanier Association (Intervener)
- Main issue is amount of water available for Florida and Alabama versus the amount needed for Georgia.

LLA supports the Georgia and ARC positions, with focus on recreation, economic contribution and safety.

LLA is the only entity in these lawsuits that is not a government organization or a monopoly.

Lake Lanier Association needs continued financial support from all Lake Lanier stakeholders for participation in the Tri-States litigation.