

Army Corps agrees to review drought contingency plan

Staff Reports

CLEMSON — The 2,000-member Lake Hartwell Association (LHA) is calling on the Army Corps of Engineers to continue reduced outflows from Lake Hartwell until the lake is back to full pond and also to add an earlier trigger for reduced outflows in the future.

Those suggestions were among three interim recommendations made by the LHA and other interests groups in an April letter to Colonel Edward J. Kertis, commander of the Savannah District, Corps of Engineers.

Recently, the LHA received a favorable response from Kertis, indicating that the Corps will begin to review the Drought Contingency Plan for revisions once the drought is over.

Kertis also responded to the other recommendations, which included a call to expedite an environmental assessment

of the entire Savannah River Basin.

Such a comprehensive study of the entire basin would involve both South Carolina and Georgia, environmental interests, public and commercial users, the Corps of Engineers, power generation companies and many others.

"It is an expensive and time-consuming process, and at this time such a study has not been approved — primarily due to federal funding issues. The states have, however, agreed to support part of it," the LHA reported in its most recent newsletter.

LHA also has been informed that Congressman Gresham Barrett's office is moving for-

ward with plans to support federal funding of a Savannah River Basin study.

"It is critical to understand that Lake Hartwell is part of a much larger system ... and that needs and events upstream and downstream impact our lake. Because of this, LHA has established active working relationships with many other organizations here and in other parts of the basin who have best water management practices as their goal." The newsletter said.

The association will host Kertis as a guest speaker at its first regional meeting from 7 p.m. — 9 p.m., Thursday, at the new Holiday Inn Express in Lavonia, Ga.

