Hundreds expected to attend unveiling for Keowee River

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SENECA — Between 300 and 400 invitees are expected to be on hand this evening as the Keowee River Preservation Group unveils its plans for a 774-acre development four miles north of Seneca.

Specific plans for Keowee River have been tightly kept under wrap, but according to Group spokesman Scott Vick, the development will focus on adventure tourism in an eco-friendly environment. It will also feature residential, commercial and retail segments.

It is expected to be an 18-20 year development with an investment of nearly $200 million. Vick said 2,000 jobs could be created over the full term of the venture.

"This is all about Oconee County. It's all about Oconee County's future. It's all Oconee County folks who are working on it," Vick said.

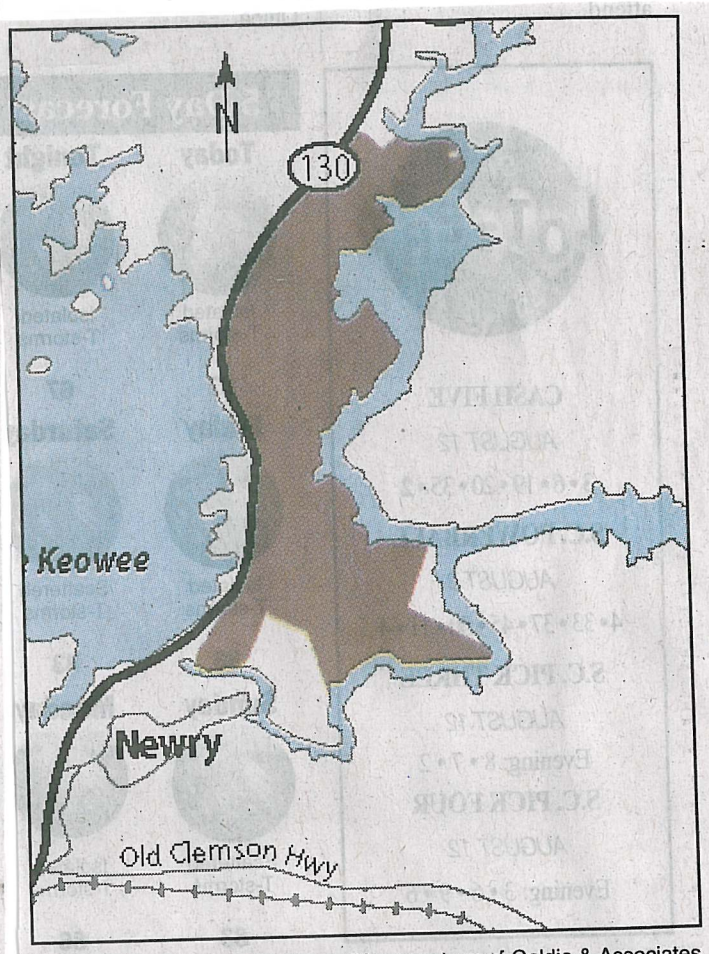
Vick himself has been a local builder and developer for 15 years. He said his wife watched the lakes that border Oconee County being built, and he "married into the region." He is currently completing work on The Vault in Seneca, a conference and events center in the former Oconee Federal Savings Bank.

Vick said the Preservation Group is made up of local business leaders who are invested in preserving the culture and scenic beauty of the area. He described the development as an "adventure-based, master-planned community with conservation and family as core values." He said it is being designed to protect the environment using low-density techniques, while supporting tourism, business and residential growth.

The Keowee River parcel runs for 3.2 miles along S.C. Highway 130, starting just north of Newry. The property itself is described as "gently rolling," but offers clear vistas of both the Blue Ridge Mountains and lakes Hartwell and Keowee. There are five miles of waterfront on what used to be the Keowee River and is now the Hartwell reservoir.

"We believe this is a unique parcel in that it is only 3.6 miles from Seneca, eight minutes from Clemson University, 10 minutes from Oconee Medical Center and borders the 17,500-acre Issaqueena Forest," Vick said.

Vick said local business and civic leaders have been invited to attend tonight's event, at which details of the entire development will be unveiled.



Map courtesy of Goldie & Associates

The shaded area of this map along S.C. 130 represents the 774-acre Keowee River development. Details of the development plan for the property will be announced at an invitation-only event this evening.