# Warpath project barely surviving

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A 10-year-old proposal to build a grandiose tourist destination attraction on 63 acres of the Pickens County side of Lake Keowee barely has a pulse, but the project still appears to be holding on and stubbornly refusing to give up the ghost.

When plans for Warpath Landing surfaced in 2006, it won the hearts of Pickens County elected officials, who embraced the concept of a marina with hotel and conference center, fishing and swimming access, restaurant, cabins, campground and other amenities.

By early 2007, the project had the blessings of Pickens County Council, Duke Energy as the overseer of Lake Keowee and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to whom Duke answers.

Initially, the project was scheduled to

SEE WARPATH, PAGE A3

# WARPATH: Still no construction started on Keowee project

FROM PAGE A1

be completed by this New Year's Eve, according to a Duke letter last week updating FERC on the status of Warpath Landing.

The project's fast track alarmed lake stakeholders, most notably Friends of Lake Keowee Society.

FOLKS protested that "putting anywhere from 220-440 more boats into the waters of an already crowded lake is irresponsible." The group also opposed the project on the grounds that it is against "the commercial development of any of the current lands put aside by Duke as part of their license."

Other voices in the community would like to see commercial development on Lake Keowee that would add jobs and increase the tax base not just in Pickens County, but Oconee County as well.

Although FOLKS could not derail the project, it effectively lobbied to have conditions placed on it, including requiring the developer to initially treat sanitary waste onsite, before pumping it to a 30-acre parcel three miles from the lake for final treatment, instead of discharging effluent into Lake Keowee.

The developer was also told he'd be required to utilize pervious parking areas to capture, filter and treat stormwater runoff from the site prior to its discharge into the lake.

In its letter to FERC last week, Duke said Warpath Landing has not gotten off the ground.

"To date, (Warpath Development Inc.) has not started construction of the proposed facilities which were scheduled to be completed by Dec. 31, 2015," the letter states.

According to Duke, a meeting was held earlier in the month to discuss the project status. At Duke's request, Warpath representatives provided additional information that Duke is currently reviewing, After the new information is reviewed, Duke said it would provide FERC with a status report for the Warpath Access Area no later than March 7, 2016.

Duke Energy and Warpath Development Inc. signed a lease agreement on the 63 acres in 2007 that expires Sept. 12, 2046.

FOLKS executive director Ben Turetzky said Monday that the group and other stakeholders had no idea there are still 30 years left on the lease agreement. They were all under the impression that the developer had until the end of this year to get the project completed.

However, Turetzky said whatever happens in the future with the project, it will again need approval from Pickens County Council, because the county's original approval of it expired.

Additionally, Turetzky and FOLKS would like all stakeholders to have a say on any new plans for Warpath Landing, which should conform to an updated shoreline management plan under the Keowee-Toxaway relicensing agreement for Duke that FERC is expected to approve in late summer 2016.

carlos@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6684
Follow on Twitter @cgvnewsupstate