

Duke donates \$1.04M to water protection group

BY NORM CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A newly formed group tasked with protecting water quality in lakes Keowee and Jocassee recently received a donation from Duke Energy to support its work.

Steve Jester, Duke's vice president of water strategy, hydro licensing and lake services, presented the check last week to members of the Lake Keowee Source Water Protection Team. The team is a newly created nonprofit corporation that will lead long-term protection of water quality at the two lakes. He called the donation "seed money" for the new organization.

The financial support of the team's work to keep the quality of water in the lakes high was one of the commitments Duke Energy made in the Keowee-Toxaway Relicensing agreement signed by Duke and 16



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Pictured during the presentation of a \$1.04 million donation from Duke Energy to the Lake Keowee Source Water Protection team, from left, are: Linda Hannon, Duke district manager for government and community relations; Rick Jiran, Duke South Carolina vice president of government and community relations; Ben Turetzky, team chairman and executive

director of Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS); Steve Jester, Duke vice president of water strategy, hydro licensing and lake services; David Bereskin, CEO of Greenville Water; Bob Faires, director of utilities for Seneca Light and Water; Jeff Lineberger, Duke director of water strategy and hydro licensing; and Alan Stuart, Duke Keowee-Toxaway Project licensing manager.

other parties in 2013. Jester said the lakes were created more than 40 years ago with "very good water quality," and those involved in the agreement wanted to make sure the quality of the water remained high.

"We collectively worked to make sure the

water quality stays very good," he said. "We look forward to supporting this important work and can't wait to see the outcomes that will be produced."

Ben Turetzky, chairman of the water protection team, said the money will be used "in a number of areas."

"The important thing is

finding areas where there are problems (with the water quality), identifying them and getting them fixed," Turetzky said. "And one of the pieces is going to be doing that with septic tanks also."

The team will oversee the program and decide how the funds will be invested, consistent with language in the relicensing agreement, according to a statement from Duke Energy.

Officers of the water protection team are made up of officials from FOLKS, Seneca Light and Water and Greenville Water. Others who signed the agreement will comprise the remaining board members. Duke Energy is not eligible for board membership.

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