

Lake Hartwell Economic Impact Analysis

The Appalachian Council of Governments has worked closely with the Anderson Chamber of Commerce and its Water Resources Committee in developing a proposal to secure funding for a study that would help quantify the economic impact of Lake Hartwell. The purpose of this initiative is to develop an accurate picture of the economic impact of Lake Hartwell on Upstate South Carolina and Northeast Georgia.

Lake Hartwell is a tremendously valuable resource to Upstate South Carolina and Northeast Georgia in many ways. Its contributions to the region include the provision of water to numerous communities, assimilative capacity for wastewater treatment, power generation, flood control, support for aquatic life, recreation, and scenic beauty. While all of these benefits are significant, another key value of the lake that is often under appreciated is its economic impact on the region. Visitors to the lake generate revenue for local businesses and employment for residents. The lake also attracts residential development, which creates additional jobs and an expanded customer base for area businesses. In addition, development around the lake also produces significant tax revenues for state and local governments.

While the economic impact of Lake Hartwell is apparent through casual observation, its effect has never been quantified. As a result, economic impact is given little attention in establishing management policies for the lake. The tremendous impact of man-



agement decisions on the livelihoods of people, businesses, and local governments that are dependent on the lake is given little consideration. A comprehensive and accurate Lake Hartwell Impact Study will provide the tool necessary to make economic impact a priority in the management of not only Lake Hartwell, but the entire Savannah River system. Representatives and officials, from both South Carolina's and Georgia's public and private sectors, have expressed interest in supporting the initiative.

Please contact Shawn Colin at the Appalachian Council of Governments for additional information.



Did You Know?

The Appalachian COG was the first regional council formed in South Carolina. In 1965 it was known as the Appalachian Advisory Commission, which was created to advise the Governor on the use of Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds.

Development Corporation News

A \$580,000 loan to McLaughlin Systems, LLC, has been closed and funded. The funds allowed current management to purchase the assets of the existing business from the estate of the former owner. McLaughlin Systems will continue to manufacture boring tools. Fifty jobs will be retained because of this financing.

A loan of \$200,000 was made to Fire Protection Services. This Greenville-based company designs and installs sprinkler systems and sells and services fire suppression equipment. The funds will be used for working capital to allow the business to install sprinklers in some of the school projects in Greenville County. Thirty-six jobs will be retained or created.

A \$54,000 loan was made to Premier Garage of the Upstate. This Anderson-based business remodels garages throughout the Upstate. Three to four jobs are expected to be created.

ADC staff secured a Small Business Administration 504 loan for emedia Group, Inc., in the amount of \$705,000 to purchase equipment for a new printing company. emedia Group, Inc., a Greenville-based firm, will retain or create 37 jobs.

A loan of \$200,000 has been approved by the ADC Board for participation in funding a project in Gaffney for a new events center. Champion and Associates plans to build a 3,000 seat rodeo arena and stable on the outskirts of Gaffney. The project will create a dozen full-time jobs and several part-time jobs.

European and Asian Officials Visit ACOG



In August 2004, a delegation of 12 local government elected officials and administrators from **Ukraine** visited the **Appalachian Council of Governments** as part of a U.S.-Ukraine exchange program. The officials were briefed by ACOG staff on South Carolina local government and were treated to a demonstration of ACOG's **infoMentum** GIS/economic development system.

Ukraine is a newly independent nation struggling to distance itself from its former Soviet past. Ukrainians recently enacted a democratic constitution



Democracy in the making. The 1996 signing of the Ukraine Constitution.



The Peoples Republic of China (PRC) is in the midst of major cultural and governmental changes. The PRC is already an important trading partner of the United States.

and in the last few weeks elected a pro-western prime minister. The exchange visit was arranged by the University of Georgia's International Center for Democratic Governance (ICDG). The pur-

pose of such visits is to share American governmental practices and philosophies with local leaders and administrators of new or evolving nations.

The ICDG scheduled another visit in late January involving 20 public administrators and instructors from Shaanxi Province and the City of Xi'an in the **Peoples Republic of China** (PRC). The PRC is in the process of government decentralization and conversion to a market economy. The delegation received an ACOG briefing on South Carolina local government and got an overview of various training programs for public officials and employees.

Title V Changes

Effective December 31, 2004, the Appalachian Area Agency on Agency no longer administers the Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Through a competitive procurement process, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Office on Aging (LGOA) awarded an 18-month contract to Experience Works, Inc. (EW) for the state funded operation of the SCSEP in five regions of the state. Those five regions include Appalachia, Central Midlands, Santee Lynches, Pee Dee and Waccamaw.

Experience Works operates the largest SCSEP program, serving more than 29,000 seniors a year, primarily in rural counties in 38 states and Puerto Rico. Established as Green Thumb in 1965, and renamed in 2002, Experience Works is a national, nonprofit organization that offers training, employment, and community service opportunities for mature workers. This includes a variety of programs designed to help mature individuals enter the workforce, secure more challenging

positions, move into new career areas, or supplement their incomes.

Experience Works:

- Serves more than 125,000 people each year;
- Has more than 400 employees and offices in 38 states and Puerto Rico;
- Is the largest grantee of the federal government's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which benefited nearly 29,000 seniors last program year;
- Is provided funding by more than 70 public and private sources; and
- Operates a total budget of more than \$100 million.

The largest program offered by Experience Works is the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). This program, funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act as well as state and local grants, helps thousands of low-income individuals, age 55 and older, throughout the United States. Through this program, seniors benefit from training, counseling, and community service assignments at faith-based and community organizations prior to transitioning into the workforce. Participants are placed at eligible host agencies (primarily faith-based and community organizations) for which they are paid the minimum wage for an average of 20 hours per week. Nationally, in the 2001-02 program year, Experience Works trained and placed nearly 30,000 Americans—age 55 and older—in more than 12,500 nonprofit and public organizations. They contributed more than 16 million hours of community service while living productive and independent lives. Thirty-eight percent of Experience Works' SCSEP participants found permanent jobs, notably as clerical assistants, customer service representatives, and care providers.

Individuals serving in the program must: be 55 years of age or older, and a resident of the state where he or she is enrolled in the SCSEP program; have annual family income not more than 125% of the established federal poverty income guidelines; and must be eligible to work in the United States. A

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Cherokee and Spartanburg On Board with On-Line Mapping

The Cherokee County Development Board and Spartanburg County have recently incorporated the web-based mapping application *InfoMap* into their web sites. The addition of interactive mapping provides cutting edge technology that will greatly enhance



economic development in those counties. The on-line tool, called *InfoMap*, is an extension of services provided through *InfoMentum*, a decision support system that aids regional marketing and industrial recruitment.

InfoMap allows decision-makers from anywhere in the world to run detailed searches of industrial properties, create custom demographic reports, and create customized maps of anywhere in the region.

The *InfoMap* application is now customized for access from the economic development organization web sites of the six ACOG counties, as well as the Upstate Alliance and ACOG.

ACOG staff tailored the graphic design of the *InfoMap* application to match the newly redesigned web page for the Cherokee County Development Board. The *InfoMap* site for Spartanburg incorporates design elements from the web sites of both Spartanburg County Planning and the Spartanburg County Economic Development Corporation (whose website is currently under construction), so that the application can be linked from both organizations.

Funded by a grant from the Economic Development Authority, ACOG worked closely with program-

mers from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to create a unique mapping application based on Arc Internet Map Server technology (ArcIMS). ESRI-Charlotte programmers designed the initial template and ACOG staff customized it to match the needs and web designs of the regional partners.

Look for the *InfoMap* link icon at The Cherokee Development Board mapping site (WWW.CHEROKEECOUNTY-SC.ORG) and the Spartanburg County Planning site (WWW.CO.SPARTANBURG.SC.US.)

All *InfoMap* sites are accessible from the InfoMentum home site: WWW.INFOMENTUM.ORG, by selecting the InfoMap link on the left.

For more information, please contact Carol Andersen at ACOG, andersen@scacog.org.



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host agency is either a private nonprofit organization (other than a political party) that is tax exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954, or a public agency operated by a unit of government.

If you are interested in becoming a host agency, contact Nedra Brooks, Field Operations Coordinator, at (864) 286-8462 for more information. Experience Works welcomes partnerships with public and private employers who have pressing and specific job vacancies. For more information, contact:

[Lita Levine Kleger, Manager, \(lita.kleger@experienceworks.org\)](mailto:lita.kleger@experienceworks.org)
Experience Works SCSEP.

The Pendleton District WIB Welcomes Melissa Cooper



The Pendleton District Workforce Investment Board (WIB) would like to announce the addition of Melissa Cooper to its staff. Melissa joined the staff on January 18, 2005, and will operate as the general office manager. She will assist the Workforce Investment Board Staff with clerical, administrative, and support services for the Workforce Investment Act program in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties.

Melissa received an Associate Degree in Business with a major in Office Systems Technology from Tri-County Technical College. She is a dependable, support-oriented individual, having over five years of experience in office administration. This experience, along with her ability to work quickly with detailed information, made her an excellent match for the position.

Melissa and her husband, Jeff, have a daughter, Sophie, age 11, and a son, Grayson, age 8. Her hobbies include reading and decorating her new home.

FACT

The Stumphouse Tunnel, located in Oconee County, was the result of an attempt to connect Charleston with the Midwest! Before the 1860s, the Blue Ridge Railroad started the tunnel as a rail link; however, work came to a halt when the contractor went bankrupt!

2005 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development

The S. C. Department of Commerce, as the designated lead agency for the state, has prepared the 2005 Annual Action Plan as part of the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. The Plan's purpose is to satisfy HUD's statutory requirements for South Carolina to receive funding for four HUD programs: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). The 2005 program year is April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.

The CDBG Program is administered by the S. C. Department of Commerce – Grants Administration. Local governments use CDBG funds to improve communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible CDBG activities include public infrastructure and facilities, affordable housing, downtown revitalization, economic development, and planning. In the 2005 program year, the state will receive approximately \$26.5 million in CDBG funds, a decrease of \$1.3 million from 2004.

The HOME Program, which is administered by the State Housing Finance and Development Authority (SHFDA), targets activities and policies aimed at expanding the supply of affordable housing and increasing the number of families with access to affordable housing. Eligible HOME activities include rental housing construction or rehabilitation, homeownership/homebuyer assistance, tenant-based rental assistance, and owner-occupied replacement housing. The SHFDA expects to receive about \$13.44 million in HOME funds in 2005, a decrease of about \$1.3 million from 2004.

The ESG Program is administered by the Governor's Office, Office



of Economic Opportunity. This program, through local governments and non-profit organizations, assists individuals and families in the transition from homelessness to independent living by promoting housing with supportive services. Eligible ESG activities include renovation/rehab/conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelters for the homeless, provision of essential services to the homeless, preventive services designed to prevent the incidence of homelessness, maintenance and operations, and operational staff costs. The Office of Economic Opportunity expects to receive \$1,473,397 in ESG funds in 2005.

The HOPWA Program is administered by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) - STD/HIV Division. The program provides housing services and other assistance to low-income persons with AIDS or related diseases and their families. The HOPWA allocation is based on population and the number of reported AIDS cases. DHEC expects to receive \$1,356,000 in HOPWA funds in 2005.

The Plan is available for review at the Council of Governments and on the Internet at <http://www.sccommerce.com/consolidatedplan.html>. A 30-day comment period began on January 12, 2005. Forward any written comments or questions about the Plan by February 10 to Bonnie Ammons, S. C. Department of Commerce, Grants Administration, 1201 Main Street, Suite 1600, Columbia, SC 29201 or e-mail bammons@SCCommerce.com.

Silver Haired Legislature to Hold Elections

The South Carolina Silver Haired Legislature (SHL) will hold its biennial elections throughout South Carolina on March 8, 2005. The SHL was created by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1999 to identify issues, concerns, and possible solutions for problems faced by the citizens of South Carolina, with special emphasis on issues related to seniors. The SHL also makes recommendations to the Governor and to members of the General Assembly relative to those concerns.

This non-partisan body is composed of representatives and delegates elected from every county in the state on a ratio of one each per 10,000 residents over age 60. Any registered voter age 60 or older is eligible to be a candidate for the Silver Haired Legislature. Prospective candidates may not be an employee of the Area Agency on Aging, a local Council on Aging, a paid lobbyist for any group, or a candidate for or current member of the S. C. General Assembly.

For organizational purposes, the state is divided into 10 caucuses. The Appalachian Caucus is made up of Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg counties. The election for representatives and alternates from this caucus will take place at the S. C. Appalachian Council of Governments' office in Greenville at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2005.

All individuals interested in this election are urged to obtain filing papers from the SCACOG Area Agency on Aging (phone # 864-242-9733; fax # 864-242-6957) or the Council on Aging in their respective county. There is no fee for filing to become a candidate for this volunteer organization. The deadline for filing is February 25, 2005.

VIEWPOINT

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Helping Families Cope

It is a difficult time to admit a loved one into a long term care facility, no matter what the situation is. It is up to the facilities to make the families comfortable with this decision. Ask the family how you can help meet their needs. You can do this during visits, at care planning conferences, through a phone call, or with a questionnaire sent to the family's home. Start a "Family Network," introducing new families to veterans of the facility. Families of residents who have been at the facility for a long time will be helping themselves in trying to help others. Such efforts can snowball into a family support group. Important discussion topics for the family support group might include dealing with loss, getting more out of visits and talks with staff, life after placement, and asking for help.

Encourage families who are really distressed to seek counseling from a social worker, pastor, or out-

side counselor who can listen and reassure them. Another option would be to refer them to the local Ombudsman Office for guidance in facility matters. Start a family resource center in the facility with information about Alzheimer's and facility care. Have each staff member take responsibility for a small group of families. This helps the families to have their questions answered quickly. Immediate service equals happy families, which results in a positive atmosphere.

Suggest rituals: Many residents and families have a strong faith and take comfort in rituals that mark changes in one's life. A ritual marking the move to a new home that includes readings, poems, and prayers can ease healing. Invite families to social events or facility holiday gatherings. Some facilities offer dinners outside the facility for new families to get to know staff in a more neutral setting. Finally, suggest personally meaningful volunteer opportunities for family members who have the time and interest.

A family- and resident-focused facility will have less problems than those

that are only fixated on the business aspect of long term care. People want to feel important, feel needed, and feel that they are being listened to. Get in touch with the families in your facility and watch the atmosphere change, for the better!

Information gathered from:
"Caring For People With Alzheimer's Disease: A Manual For Facility Staff, 2nd Edition," by Lisa P. Gwyther, 2001.

Your Local Ombudsman:
Nancy Hawkins, Jamie Guay, Rhonda Monroe, Celia Clark and Sandy Dunagan; Phone: 864-242-9733.

