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Tuesday, July 14, 2009

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Crowd hears about Lake Greenwood damage

By CHRIS TRAINOR/ ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Wednesday, July 15, 2009 12:46 AM EDT

NINETY SIX -- The increasing presence of sediment and phosphorous that seeps into Lake Greenwood from upstream continues to be a concern for some residents.

Dozens of those residents gathered Tuesday night at The Depot in Ninety Six for a presentation from Upstate Forever titled "Saving Lake Greenwood" and to hear from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and local legislators.

Upstate Forever has delivered the "Saving Lake Greenwood" presentation in Greenwood County numerous times during the last year, including addresses to Greenwood CPW, Greenwood County Council, Greenwood City Council, Greenwood Rotary Club and just last month at the clubhouse at Pucketts Ferry, among other appearances.

Local elected officials at Tuesday night's meeting were S.C. Rep. Mike Pitts, S.C. Rep Gene Pinson, S.C. Rep Jeff Duncan and Greenwood County Councilman Patrick Moody.

Upstate Forever's Lisa Augustine talked about the negative effects of sediment, from Upstate development, that flows downstream from the Reedy and Saluda rivers and into Lake Greenwood.

"The water is getting shallower in some places, it's going to heat up faster and it is going to lead to more algae blooms in the future," Augustine said.

She also addressed the economic impact sediment has on the lake, noting that, several years ago, a Clemson University master's degree candidate did his thesis on the economic impact of sediment and algae bloom on Lake Greenwood residents on the Greenwood County side of the lake.

"What they found was that there was a loss of property value of \$7,000-\$10,000 (per property) due to sediment infill," Augustine said. "You buy a house on the lake because you want a lakefront house, not because you want a freshwater wetlands house or a swampy area. It's not attractive."

An audience member asked whether sediment could simply be dredged from the lake. Lake Greenwood management's Julie Davis said the county is not allowed to dredge the lake because of its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.

FOR MORE ON THE MEETING, READ TODAY'S PAPER.



A large crowd gathered Tuesday night at The Depot in Ninety Six to hear a presentation on Lake Greenwood from Upstate Forever and to discuss water quality issues. (Staff photo by Chris Trainor)

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Reader Comments

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643 DP wrote on Jul 15, 2009 8:28 AM:

" Has or is anyone going to raise the question about how much rock dust the quarry has placed into Lake Gwd.? I think the sediment from the quarry should be a huge concern. For years I have boated Lake Gwd. Ten years ago you could drive your boat half way to the back of the quarry cove as I call it. Now that is impossible. One day last fall the water was very clear, I got out of the boat to walk and investigate the botom. What I found, it was like walking down a paved street. I took a paddle and dug into the sediment. 100% rock dust. The quarry has got to be responsible for a huge percentage of sediment. And I am so tired of the so called lake management office always saying it's because FERC requires it!!!!Duke never seemed to have these problems. Why now? Is it because it is Larry Smith and Chuck Watson's lake and we don't know it. "