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## Upstate Forever to meet with Keowee River developer

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By Carlos Galarza (Contact / Staff Bio)  
August 25, 2009 - 12:00 a.m. EST

SENECA — Top-level officials with Upstate Forever (UF) are looking to schedule a meeting with the developers of the \$200 million Keowee River mixed-used project to go over environmental concerns they have of construction plans so close to a river.

Local builder and developer Scott Vick unveiled plans for the 774-acre project Aug. 13.

Angela Viney, director of the sustainable communities program at Upstate Forever, said Monday that she reached out to Vick last week.

Viney said the initial meeting would be at UF's offices in Greenville and would include UF Director Brad Wyche and other officials with the organization. As of Monday, No date had been scheduled for the meeting.

Until now, everything that Viney and other UF officials know about the Keowee River project is just what they've read in published reports.

"He's interested in talking to us about the project," Viney said of Vick. "I believe that seeing the detailed plans would help."

Viney said concerns about the project center on how developers plan to manage the waterfront. She said UF would be interested in knowing the number of docks planned with the project and whether homes would abut the water's edge.

Viney said she is not aware of a mixed-use project the size of Keowee River that is on the river.

"That's the issue — the river," Viney said.

The Keowee River flows out of Keowee Dam and joins the Twelve Mile River near Clemson and the beginning of the Seneca River, which is a tributary of the Savannah River. The Keowee River is created by the confluence of the Toxaway River and the Whitewater River in northern South Carolina.

The master-planned community just four-miles north of Seneca would focus on active adult lifestyles and adventure tourism and promises to preserve the natural beauty of the property nestled between lakes Keowee and Hartwell with a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The grandiose plans call for an initial building of a new YMCA on the grounds, affordable homes, townhouses, villas and cottages, a complete retirement community, an onsite medical center, a waterfront park and pavilion, hotel & conference center, trails, outdoor amphitheater, restaurants, retail shops and more.

Viney said UF officials would like to know what the Keowee River developers consider as being "affordable housing."

In theory, Vick's vision for an eco-friendly development at Keowee River fits Upstate Forever's philosophy of conserving the region's natural treasures while promoting smart growth.

Viney said the conservation group would like to tour the project site sometime after the initial meeting with Vick in Greenville.

### Photo

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Jessica Nelms

News of the planned 774-acre Keowee River development nestled between lakes Hartwell and Keowee has piqued the interest of conservation group Upstate Forever. The group is looking to schedule a meeting in Greenville with Keowee River project principal Scott Vick.

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