

The Untold Story of Lake Rabon

By Edwin Eugene Ott

20210316

“WHEREAS, Furman Ott, former member and chairman of the Laurens County Water Resources Commission, devoted his time and energy to the development of all phases of water resources for the benefit of Laurens County and has given great leadership in unifying Laurens County in directing it towards the goal of having excellent water and sewer facilities for the whole of the County,

“And whereas, Furman Ott received only miniscule compensation for the long hours spent over the past 20 years and did not receive any reimbursement for the expense of travel and communications incurred by him,

“NOW, therefore,

“Be it resolved that the Laurens County Water Resources Commission Commends Furman Ott for his long and meritorious service and thanks him for bringing plans for the County to the point where they may now be implemented.”¹

The following is the story of how my father, Furman Edward Ott, Sr., came to receive this commendation.

My father was born into the family of a small South Carolina cotton farmer during the Great Cotton Depression of the 1920s.² He had the further misfortune to grow into a young man during the Great Depression. He was the third of six siblings. He was taken out of school during the seventh grade and sent to do paid work to help support the family. At the age of 18, he joined one of his older brothers in working at the Rogers Hosiery Company located on Catherine Street in Laurens, SC. This company later became known as the Laurens Hosiery Mill. There he met my mother to be, Lois Mildred Stewart, who had recently graduated from Clinton High School, Clinton, SC and gone to work at the hosiery mill. They married the next year (1941). My parents moved to Charleston, SC, where my father took a job working at the Charleston Naval Yard. My father’s uncle was a career Naval officer, and I expect he had something to do with my father getting this job. At the Naval Yard, he became a skilled welder. My two older brothers were born at Charleston. In May 1944, my father was inducted into the US Army and my mother and siblings moved in with Grandmother Stewart in Clinton. He spent ten months in training and stateside service. In early 1945, he was sent to Luzon, Philippines, where he served with the 1486 Engineering Maintenance Company. After the Japanese surrender, he was sent to Japan. During his military service he learned to repair and drive bulldozers and other heavy machinery. After separation from the military in January 1946, my father constructed a home and shop on South Harper Street Extension. My parents formed a business known as The Ott Company which they operated until 1965. The business began offering plumbing and heating services and added air conditioning, ventilation, and metal fabrication.

I have not found any record that my father’s parents ever owned any land they farmed or house they lived in. I think this lack of ownership spurred my father’s desire to own a farm. In 1957, my parents

¹ The Laurens County Advertiser (Laurens, South Carolina), “Water Resources Commission... Buford is executive director,” 19770204, page 1.

² Information about the Great Cotton Depression can be found at <http://www.teachingushistory.org/lessons/The1920s-NotRoaringinSouthCarolina.html>

bought a 330-acre tract of fallow land and forest located off Indian Mound Road west of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. He purchased a small used bulldozer and proceeded to turn the land into a farm and cattle ranch. The western boundary of this land was the lower stem of Rabon Creek. Rabon Creek was originally typical Piedmont creek or small river with a rocky bottom and fertile floodplain. As a result of hundreds of years of row crop farming of the surrounding land, the creek channel and floodplain were covered with many feet of sand and silt. I once found that I was able to manually push a steel rod ten feet down through the floodplain and never hit rock or subsoil. Following every large rainfall, the creek flooded and formed a wide lake. In the 1950s, the US Soil Conservation Service (SCS) offered services and grants to control flooding to local sponsors.^{3,4} My father began talking with other landowners within the watershed for Rabon Creek about forming an organization to work with the SCS to control flooding. In 1957, the Rabon Creek Watershed Conservation District was formed with Furman Ott as chairman.

The watershed into Rabon Creek begins in Greenville County, SC just below Hillcrest High School, extends southeastward into Laurens County, and ends at the junction of Rabon Creek with the Reedy River at a point that is now located within the upper reaches of Lake Greenwood. The watershed includes 12,500 acres in Greenville County and 73,000 acres in Laurens County. My father envisioned a project of large farm ponds, some channelization, and a lot of grubbing of trees and other debris that impeded flow in the main creek stem. He and others worked with the local Conservationist to obtain SCS help in developing a fundable workplan to the SCS. In 1964, the SCS began a preliminary investigation into developing a workplan. Because the project included portions of Greenville County, a Rabon Creek Watershed Conservation District of Greenville County was required to be formed to cosponsor the project. At a meeting at Hillcrest High School on February 19, 1964, the process to form the Greenville County

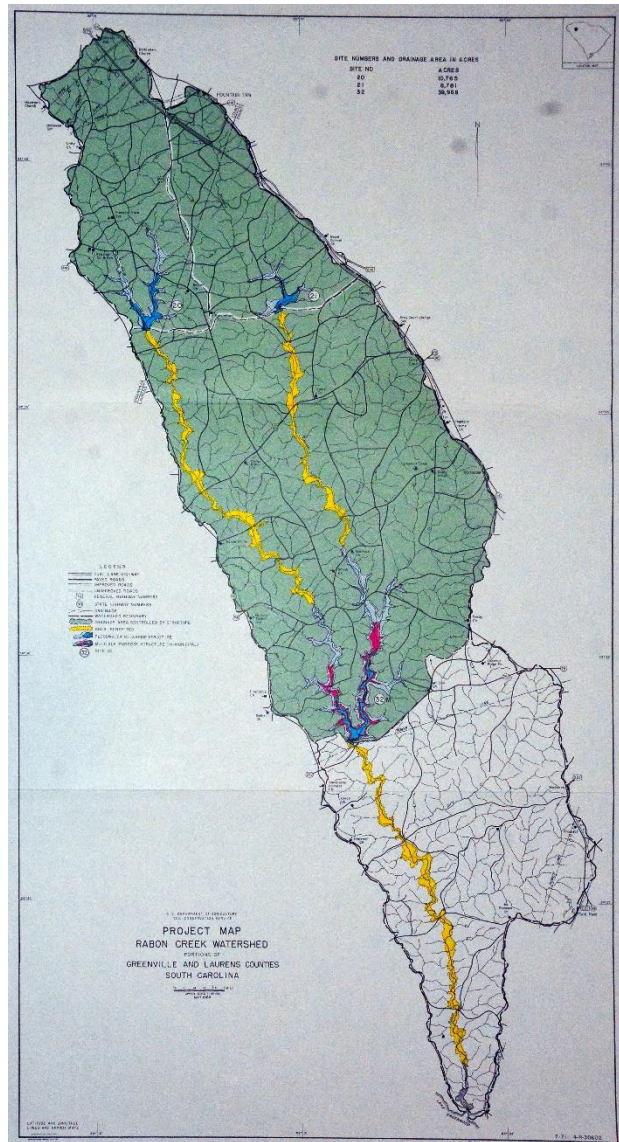


Figure 1. Rabon Creek Watershed Map

³ Information about this law, and subsequent updates, can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watershed_Protection_and_Flood_Prevention_Act_of_1954, accessed 20200815.

⁴ A copy of the law with updates can be found at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1042173.pdf.

district was initiated.⁵ Unfortunately, in April 1965, the SCS reported that no feasible project could be formulated, principally due to amount of rock in the main channel and tributaries.⁶ My father suggested consideration of municipal water supply to be added to the plan and appealed to the County's Congressional Representative. Again, in early 1966, the SCS reported that further investigations also revealed that a feasible project with municipal water supply would exceed the legislated maximum flood storage capacity limit, and without this benefit in the project, costs were higher than benefits.^{7,8} Most persons felt that the project was dead, but my father was not inclined to give up.

Circumstances changed on the national and local scene during the 1960s. The nation became more environmentally aware, especially concerning air and water pollution. Environmentalists complained that too many waterways were being channelized and too many major rivers were being dammed. Also, there was a movement toward more comprehensive planning of water resources. Projects with multiple purposes were being viewed more favorably. Locally, my father had been working with other small businessmen to establish the Republican Party within the county. Building the party was slow going until the elections of 1964 when the county and the state voted for the Republican presidential candidate.⁹ In 1968, both Laurens County and the state voted for Richard Nixon, the Republican candidate, who won the Presidency.

During the years following the disappointing assessments by the SCS, my father continued to discuss the advantages of municipal water supply for the City of Laurens and other parts of the county from an impoundment on Rabon Creek. On April 1, 1968 (no fooling), the SCS State Conservationist met with the Rabon Creek Watershed Conservation District of Laurens of County to inform them that due to a change in the enabling legislation the SCS could now consider projects which included a reduced flood control basis.¹⁰ With this change, a multiple purpose impoundment with municipal water supply storage was potentially feasible.

To restart the Rabon Creek Watershed project there were several actions which were required of the sponsors.¹¹ Some of the actions needed were:

1. Inform all landowners within the project area of the renewed project and the need for cooperation.
2. Have a free discussion of the local costs for construction and maintenance of the project.

⁵ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Rabon Creek Watershed Plans Given 'Go Ahead,'" 19640220, Page 24.

⁶ Letter from SCS to Furman Ott, June 4, 1965.

⁷ Letter from SCS to Hon. Robert T. Ashmore, January 21, 1966.

⁸ Letter from Hon. Robert T. Ashmore to Furman Ott, February 11, 1966

⁹ In the 1964 election, SC's extremely popular senior senator, Strom Thurmond, supported the Republican candidate, Barry Goldwater. After the election, Thurmond officially joined the Republican Party.

¹⁰ On a multiple purpose impoundment, the flood release is from a structure within the impoundment through which water is released for planned and designed flood purposes. The flood storage pool is the water potentially impounded during a flood above the normal full pool level. During a catastrophic flood event, an emergency spillway is also included to prevent overtopping of the dam itself. By lowering the required flood impoundment volume, the project with municipal water supply storage could now fall within the legislated maximum impoundment volume.

¹¹ Letter from A. T. Chalk, State Conservationist, to Furman Ott, April 2, 1968.

3. The two county (Laurens and Greenville) watershed districts should be reorganized under state law into a single district.
4. Identify highways and structures required to be modified as part of the project and initiate discussions with the responsible agencies.
5. Consider the addition of recreational development in the project plan.
6. Obtain from the City of Laurens and any other applicable water supply agent a firm decision on the amount of supply and from which structure.

Efforts by the watershed districts were moved along expeditiously. By July 1968, both districts had agreed to reorganize into a single district under state law.¹² Furman Ott reported that the Laurens County Delegation and the State Highway Department had expressed their willingness to cooperate with needed changes in raising roads and bridges for constructing the watershed improvement projects.¹³ The Soil Conservation Service said they would send the Districts' request to restart planning to their Administrator for approval.¹⁴

While the Soil Conservation Service worked to develop a feasible alternative plan including multiple purposes, particularly water supply and recreation, the Farmers Home Administration (FHA) was offering low interest loans to rural communities to construct water filtration and supply systems. In 1971, the Rabon Creek Water Company, Inc., was formed as a nonprofit corporation with the objective of supplying public water to a small portion of Laurens County.¹⁵ The company solicited interested participants and eventually expanded its intended area of coverage to about two thirds of Laurens County.¹⁶ My father recognized immediately that two major infrastructure projects were in play in Laurens County at that time. First, the Rabon Creek Watershed Conservation District was working to construct a reservoir that could support the water supply needs of the county for many future years and second, the Rabon Creek Water Company had plans for providing public water to rural areas but had no water supply source.

¹² Laurens County Advertiser (Laurens, South Carolina), "Watershed Directors ask for work plan's completion," July 24, 1968, page 1.

¹³ Letter from David S. Taylor, Member of SC House of Representatives to T. J. Hendrix, State Highway Engineer, July 14, 1968.

¹⁴ Letter from A. T. Chalk, SCS State Conservationist to Furman Ott and Furman Ott and C. A. Parsons, July 26, 1968.

¹⁵ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Water Firm Officers Elected," 19710407, Page 17.

¹⁶ The Index-Journal (Greenwood, South Carolina), "Hundreds Attend To Sign Up For Rural Water In Laurens," 19710630, Page 11.

County leaders had been hoping to implement public water throughout the county at least since the late 1950s.¹⁷ The holdup against such plans was financing of the supply and distribution. The largest city in the county, Laurens, has a water filtration plant located within the City limits beside Reedy Fork Creek a short distance from its junction into Little River. The City originally pumped water from this small creek for its supply. After the needs of the City exceeded the supply available from Reedy Fork Creek, a cofferdam was constructed in Rabon Creek about ten miles away. Water was then pumped from the small impoundment to the filtration plant. Figure 2 shows the cofferdam which still exists today. The upstream soil erosion of sand and sediment continually filled this small impoundment and had to be repeatedly dredged and removed. As pointed out by the Laurens Commissioner of Public Works in 1959, their existing source of water supply could not meet the needs of the entire county.¹⁸ The Rabon Creek Watershed Conservation project would solve the supply problem for the city and the county.



Figure 2. Cofferdam on Rabon Creek.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, federal government monetary assistance to states and local governments increased dramatically. In 1967 and pursuant to federal legislation, South Carolina's 46 counties were divided into ten planning regions for the purpose of coordinating application and administration of federal grants and loans. For each of these regions, a Council of Governments (COG) agency was established. Laurens County is in the Upper Savannah COG along with Greenwood, Saluda, Abbeville, McCormick, and Edgefield Counties. Federal grants and loans were being provided by many different federal agencies for use in development of housing, water supply and treatment, and wastewater sewers and treatment. Increasingly, the need for intra-county and regional planning was recognized so that future development did not duplicate or exacerbate services or costs. Furman Ott, being the visionary that he always was, recognized the need for planning and coordinating of physical services at the county level and worked with the Upper Savannah COG to develop a bill to create an agency to provide these services for all of Laurens County. The bill was signed into law in August 1972 creating the Laurens County Water Resources Commission (LCWRC).¹⁹ At the same time, a bill was signed recreating the Rabon Creek Water Company, Inc. into the countywide Rabon Creek Rural Water District (RCRWD).

The LCWRC consisted of ten members appointed by the Laurens County Council representing the following: City of Laurens Commission of Public Works, City of Clinton mayor and council, Town of Gray Court, Town of Waterloo, Town of Cross Hill, Rabon Creek Watershed Conservation District, Rabon Creek Rural Water District, Laurens Land Resources Soil Conservation Commission, and Laurens County

¹⁷ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Water Commission Sought At Laurens ,19590428, Page 3.

¹⁸ *Ibid* (see Note 17).

¹⁹ The Clinton Chronicle (Clinton, South Carolina), 19720810.

Industrial Commission. A tenth member is elected by a majority vote of the named members.²⁰ My father was appointed to represent the Rabon Creek Watershed Conservation District. He was selected as Chairman of the LCWRC and resigned his chairmanship of the RCWCD.

SCS engineers and planners presented three alternative plans for the construction of the largest structure planned in the Rabon Creek Watershed Conservation project. This structure was identified as Project 32; it is the dam and impoundment now known as Lake Rabon. The LCWRC voted to accept sponsorship of Project 32 under a plan for storage of municipal and industrial water supply and with limited recreational use (fishing).²¹

Because the Rabon Creek Watershed Conservation District project involved several sources of funds to be obtained from federal agencies, the Soil Conservation Service as the principal federal sponsor was required to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). EISs require thorough preparation and public review, a process which usually requires several years.

In late 1972, the Laurens Commission of Public Works was notified by the South Carolina Pollution Control Authority that the improvements to be made to the City's wastewater treatment plant were needed, but not sufficient, to meet the state instream water quality standards. The Commission was informed that it should begin development of a plan to meet the water quality standards, including regional waste treatment alternatives as well as upgrade of treatment.²² Such regional planning would also require evaluation of treatment needs and facilities of the City of Clinton. The LCWRC was selected to be the sponsor for development of this regional wastewater treatment plan. In September 1974, US Senator Strom Thurmond announced that the Laurens County Water Resources Commission had been awarded a grant of \$103,050 from the US Environmental Protection Agency to conduct an extensive study which would determine the present and future wastewater treatment facilities needed in Laurens County.²³

At a meeting of the Laurens County Water Resources Commission held February 19, 1973, the LCWRC announced that the Rabon Creek Rural Water District agreed to accept an offer made by the Laurens Commission of Public Works for the District to buy treated water. Bob Gleason, Regional Planner for the Upper Savannah Regional Planning and Development Council said, "If you work together on your projects, you will get funded. This could be looked on tonight as an historic moment for Laurens County."²⁴ Following a visit to Laurens on October 30, 1973 by the FHA Administrator, the RCRWD was awarded a grant of \$100,000 and a loan of \$3.9 million for construction of a water distribution system in Laurens County.^{25, 26}

²⁰ Calendar No. H. 3453, 19720615, amended to increase membership to ten.

²¹ Laurens County Advertiser (Laurens, South Carolina), "Laurens County Water Resources Commission selects development plan with limited recreation", 19720814, Page 1.

²² Letter from SC PCA to Laurens Commission of Public Works, 19721213.

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²⁴ The Laurens County Advertiser (Laurens, South Carolina), "Directors of Rabon Creek Rural Water District accept offer of Commissioners of Public Works," 19730221, Pages 1 and 14.

²⁵ The Laurens County Advertiser (Laurens, South Carolina), "National FHA administrator is coming to Laurens to discuss plan Rabon Creek Rural Water District", 19721025.

²⁶ The Laurens County Advertiser (Laurens, South Carolina), "FHA approves \$3.9 loan and \$100,000 grant Rabon Creek Rural Water", 19721101.

In July 1973, the Laurens County Soil and Water Conservation Commissioners presented Furman Ott with their **Distinguished Service Plaque**.²⁷ In June 1974, the SCS submitted the Environmental Impact Statement for Rabon Creek Watershed Project and a draft Work Plan for the Rabon Creek Watershed to the US Council on Environmental Quality. In July 1975 following public comment, the SCS released its finalized EIS for the Rabon Creek Watershed Project.^{28,29} In September 1975, the funding for the Rabon Creek project was cleared by President Ford's Administration.³⁰ In April 1976, the Rabon Creek Watershed District Plan was given final approval by the Department of Agriculture.³¹

For 20 years my father had been the driving force in Laurens County to get a major soil and water conservation project within the Rabon Creek Watershed. He had worked voluntarily and tirelessly to bring county, state, and national interests together make such a project feasible. In doing so, he became a voice for implementing countywide planning of water and wastewater services in Laurens County, including the formation of the Laurens County Water Resources Commission and, indirectly, the formation of a countywide water service provider, the Rabon Creek Rural Water District. He had served as chairman of the LCWRC since its creation. The implementation of some of these plans would soon move into the construction stage. He and the other members of the LCWRC now believed that the Commission required a fulltime, paid executive director and office. To implement this crucial step, the municipalities and County were being asked to provide modest funding.

My father thought that he had demonstrated the skills and knowledge to perform the job of executive director. On Saturday, January 22, 1977, at a special meeting of the LCWRC, he announced that he was giving up his position on the LCWRC and applying for the position of executive director.³²

On the following Tuesday, January 25, 1977, the Laurens County Council reluctantly committed \$30,000 to the LCWRC to establish an office for a director of the Commission. The director would oversee the operation of the Joanna Water and Sewer Company, which the Commission had voted to buy, as well as the construction of the Rabon Creek Reservoir, and the design and construction of a new wastewater treatment plant on Bush River.^{33,34} In a newspaper story the following day, it was reported that the LCWRC was expected to name Furman Ott as temporary executive director while advertising for applications for the job.³⁵

On the following Saturday, January 29, 1977, at a special meeting the LCWRC voted to hire an employee of the Upper Savannah COG to be the Commission's Executive Director. When asked about Furman Ott, the commission's attorney said that he did not apply for the position.³⁶ The commission's

²⁷ The Laurens County Advertiser (Laurens, South Carolina), 19730725.

²⁸ Federal Register, Vol. 40, No. 150, Monday, August 4, 1975, Page 32772.

²⁹ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Watershed Statement Submitted", 19750904, Page 10.

³⁰ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Project Cleared", 19750925, Page 54.

³¹ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Rabon Creek Plan Approved", 19760424, Page 1.

³² The Clinton Chronicle (Clinton, South Carolina), "Ott Resigns Commission Post," 19770127, Pages 1 and 11A.

³³ The Clinton Chronicle (Clinton, South Carolina), "County Council Approves \$30,000 For Water Resources," 19770127, Page 1.

³⁴ The Laurens County Advertiser (Laurens, South Carolina), "Funds are committed by County Council," 19770126, Page 1.

³⁵ The Laurens County Advertiser (Laurens, South Carolina), "Commission is now at crucial stage," 19770126, Pages 1 and 6.

³⁶ *Ibid* (see note 1).

attorney announced on Wednesday, February 3, 1977 that an executive director had been hired and would be starting fulltime the next Monday, February 7, 1977.³⁷ The attorney also commented that Furman Ott had provided the commission great leadership during the commission's founding months.

On February 14, 1977, the Laurens Commission of Public Works agrees to increase retail water charges by \$0.05 per 1,000 gallons to support the LCWRC.³⁸

EPILOGUE

Years of hard work by many others followed. There were some difficult times. Parochialism had begun to surface even during the meeting in which my father announced his resignation from the Laurens County Water Resources Commission. The representative from the Laurens Commission of Public Works expressed concern that wastewater funds were going to the lower portion of the County, and the representative for the City of Clinton expressed the need for greater voting power to be given to the cities.³⁹ In November 1979, the Laurens County Council reduced the size of LCWRC to six members to provide greater voting power to the cities.⁴⁰ The members represented the following entities: Laurens County Council, Laurens Commission of Public Works, City of Clinton, City of Gray Court, Rabon Creek Rural Water District, and one member at large.

The next several years were focused upon developing a plan and finances for a countywide water distribution system. A low point was reached in 1981 when a major loan for construction of the water distribution system failed to materialize because of lack of local support, and the LCWRC executive director resigned.^{41,42,43} Financing for the watershed project was sound and progress continued toward its implementation.

During the next several years, easements for the two smaller watershed impoundments were obtained and land for the large impoundment was purchased. The smaller impoundments (subsequently named Lake Beulah and Lake Stoddard) were constructed. A lake that was part of the Beaverdam-Warrior Creek Watershed Project for which the LCWRC had assumed the sponsorship was also completed (subsequently named Lake Martin). In 1984, work began on the dam for the large Rabon Creek Watershed Project (subsequently named Lake Rabon).^{44,45}

A tragic accident killing three men occurred on July 16, 1986 during the construction of a fifty-foot-high concrete water-intake tower at the Lake Rabon project.⁴⁶ Apparently, a worker had been using the paint stripper methylene chloride at the bottom of the tower. The worker had been overcome by the

³⁷ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Water unit picks director", 19770203, Page 1F.

³⁸ The Laurens County Advertiser (Laurens, South Carolina), "Commission signs county water agreement," 19770216, Page 1.

³⁹ *Ibid* (see Note 35).

⁴⁰ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Laurens water system approved", 19791128, Pages 1B & 6B.

⁴¹ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Application rejected", 19810403, Page 7.

⁴² The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Tribble says loan refusal will hurt Laurens", 19810716, Page 2.

⁴³ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Laurens water director to resign", 19810713, Page 7.

⁴⁴ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Just call me Lake Rabon", 19840917, Page 12.

⁴⁵ The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina), "Agency officials tour site of \$2.5 million Lake Rabon", 19841114, Page 5.

⁴⁶ The Index-Journal (Greenwood, SC), "Death from toxic fumes to be probed", 19860717, Pages 1 and 2.

fumes from the chemical. Three other workers entered the confined space to assist. Only one made it out alive.

The dam was completed in late 1986 or early 1987. A recreational area of about one hundred acres was also constructed. More information and images (circa 2019) of Lake Rabon and structures can be found at the end of this document.

In 1993, the Laurens County Water Resources Commission and the Rabon Creek Rural Water District were reformulated under state law into a new special purpose district named the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission (LCWSC). The LCWSC consists of “a board of nine appointed board members, with seven from each of Laurens County Council Districts, one representing the City of Clinton and/or Laurens, and one representing southern Greenville County. Board members from the Council Districts must also be customers of LCWSC.”⁴⁷

A new water treatment plant that was initially planned for the Lake Rabon project was never constructed. Anticipating the need within Laurens County for a greater supply of potable water, the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission obtained in November 2017 the necessary permits to withdraw raw water from Lake Greenwood. Two years later a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the beginning of construction on the raw water intake and pumping station. As of March 2021, construction of a new water treatment plant is underway, as well as installation of major pipelines along US221 and US76.⁴⁸ See Figure 3, below.



Figure 3. LCWSA Water Treatment Plant under construction.

⁴⁷ LCWSC website, “What Is LCWS?”, accessed 20210309, lcwsc.com/about-us/

⁴⁸ LCWSC website, “Water Treatment Plant Project”, accessed 20210309, lcwsc.com/lcwsc-water-treatment-plant-project/

POSTSCRIPT

Our world is filled with ideologies, such as capitalism, socialism, liberalism, conservatism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Muslimism, and scientism. I think the only ideology that really counts is “striving to leave this world a better place.” Our reward is found in the striving.

My father was not a perfect person. He had many faults, just as the rest of us also have. However, I think most people who knew him will agree that he was driven by the need to try to make the world a little better before he left. He was always open to new ideas, and when he found one that interested him, he pursued it not because he wanted to gain from it, but because he thought it might lead to a better outcome for all.

RECENT IMAGES

Lake Rabon is a beautiful 540-acre reservoir constructed at the head of the main stem of Rabon Creek in western Laurens County. The dam is located about 7.5 miles west of the City of Laurens, SC. The reservoir was constructed for multiple purposes, including flood control, municipal water supply, and recreation. The entire watershed for Rabon Creek consists of 12,000 acres in Greenville County and 77,000 acres in Laurens County. The portion of the watershed that flows into Lake Rabon is 59,514 acres.⁴⁹ In addition to Lake Rabon, two smaller reservoirs, Lake Beulah and Lake Stoddard, were constructed in the upper parts of the watershed. Lake Beulah is located mostly in Greenville County. Lake Martin is located on Beaverdam Creek and was constructed as part of the Beaverdam-Warrior Creek Watershed.

For most lakes constructed under the US Department of Agriculture’s Soil Conservation Service funding, the private landowners retained title to their land, but granted easements for construction of the impoundments and flooding of their land. For Lake Rabon, however, the land was purchased for the dam construction and borrow areas, recreational areas, the normal pool, and the flood control area, but excluding upstream areas more than 200 feet from the normal pool line. Being a multiple purpose project including conservation, flood control, public water supply, and public recreation, public ownership of these lands was more appropriate. The excluded areas were obtained by easements.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Laurens County Water Resources Commission, et al, “Work Plan for Rabon Creek Watershed”, November 1974, Page 23.

⁵⁰ *Ibid*, Page 26 (see Note 49).



Figure 4. Lake Rabon Aerial View



Figure 5. Lake Rabon Recreational Area



Figure 6. Lake Rabon Dam Structures



Figure 7. Lake Beulah Aerial View



Figure 8. Lake Stoddard Aerial View



Figure 9. Lake Martin Aerial View