

# **Lake Gaston Weed Control Council**

Minutes July 29, 2021-7pm-Lake Gaston VFD

**Approved: March 10, 2022**

**Director Attendance:** Pete Deschenes, John Cataldo, Lynnwood Little, Glenn Barbour, Christina Wells, Elton Brown, John Zubrod, Jeff Zimmer, Wally Sayko

Several members of the public were in attendance.

## **Call to Order by President Elton Brown at 7:10 pm**

President Brown welcomed all attendee's and recognized a new member to the board of directors, Grover Edwards of Northampton County, N.C.

A quorum was verified by Secretary Wally Sayko

A change to the agenda made by Treasurer Jeff Zimmer to add information on the upcoming public comment meeting by Dominion Power on their shoreline management plan.

A motion by Pete Deschenes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glen Barbour was approved to the agenda with the addition.

A motion to approve the March 24, 2021 meeting minutes as presented was made by John Zubrod and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pete Deschenes and approved.

## **Public Comments:**

State Delegate Roslyn Tyler recapped the efforts over the years to secure funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia for LKG. She noted working with John Cataldo, Dr. Brown and Supervisor John Zubrod. This year she was successful in this effort by being on the House Appropriations Committee. She announced a sum of \$800,000.00 to be used by the LGWCC to assist in the control of Lyngbya on the lake. The first installment of the funds is now available for Brunswick County Board of Supervisors to provide to the LGWCC. Dr. Brown thanked her for her efforts and the funds to assist in the controlling of Lyngbya on the lake. John Zubrod thanked Delegate Tyler for the funding and \$400,000.00 is now available for distribution to the LGWCC.

Attendees voiced appreciation of her efforts

Wally Sayko noted that about 70% of all emails and phone calls this year have been about Lyngbya. Water Willow concerns made up the other 25-30% of concerns.



LGWCC FY  
2020-2021 Results &

**Financial Report: Jeff Zimmer**

Jeff presented the FY 2020-2021 Treasurer's report and the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022. He noted at this time we had not used any funds for Hydrilla control, and we had a savings in 2020 due to Covid 19. He also noted we expanded our treatment for Lyngbya from 90 to 300 acres in 2021. A plan will be worked out soon as to how the additional money from state of Virginia will be utilized. (see attached financial report)

A motion to accept the proposed FY 2021-2022 budget by Pete Deschenes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Cataldo was made and approved.

### **Old Business: Steve Hoyle**

Steve updated the board on the status of the LGWCC history project and our legacy of successfully controlling Hydrilla on LKG over the past 30 years. It was noted the LGWCC was incorporated in 1985. Dr. Brown noted that Dominion Power provided funds for the creation of the council and encouraged its development. Steve was hopeful that by the first quarter of 2022 he would have an initial report ready. Christina Wells volunteered to assist Steve if he required help.

### **New Business: Jessica Baumann**

Jessica provided detailed information on the Integrated Lyngbya Research being conducted by NCSU this year.

#### Mussel mortality at treatment site:

Within a few days the affected sites were initially visited by Jeff Zimmer and Judy Waters of the LGA. Jessica notified all responsible entities in both N.C and Va of this issue for immediate attention. She visited the sites within three days of being notified and did find dead mussels in the treatment areas. Of most concern was the Tidewater Muckets. She referenced that no die off had been noted in the prior treatments this year and that application protocols had not changed between treatments. Jessica also noted that the rates of algaecides being applied were well below the EPA maximum allowable levels. Since mussel die off was also documented in areas outside of the treatment areas, Jessica believed the event was the result of a so called "perfect storm" effect of two naturally occurring stress events for mussel populations combined with the added stress of the application of a copper-based algaecide. These combined stressors resulted in higher mussel mortality in treatment areas. The two naturally occurring events were higher ambient temperatures in the 90's the week prior to treatment which increased water temperature in shallow areas and oxygen poor releases from Kerr Dam. After discussions with the responsible entities a minor adjustment was made in the treatment protocol. Future applications will be limited in areas where water depths are less than 5 feet to avoid any potential interaction with preferred mussel habitat. The goal is to minimize the impact of the chemicals in those shallow areas where

the potential of mussel beds to occur is greatest until more data can be collected in regard to Lake Gaston's mussel population. The July treatments were completed using this updated protocol and there were not any reports of mussel die off.

She answered several questions presented by attendees.

Hydrilla: The LGWCC has not contracted for any Hydrilla treatments this year. Only small samples have been reported on Lizard Creek.

Lyngbya: The July treatments have been completed. August and September are scheduled mid-month for both if weather permits. Jessica noted that in all treatment sites the surface mats are gone except for Smith Creek. This of course makes residents happy to be able to use their waterfront. At this time, we do not have information on the effect the new application process is having on the mats lying on the lake floor. We are asking residents to use the LGWCC website to report any areas with Lyngbya not in the current treatment areas. Website: lgwcc.org. Look for: Report Issues with Aquatic Plants on Lake Gaston

To report aquatic plant issues on Lake Gaston, please fill in the following form:

<https://forms.gle/HDETJHXqjLKuArj66>

Public Boat Ramps and Dry Hydrants: These will all be treated in the year 2022. Poplar Creek was pointed out due to the dry hydrant. It will be treated.

2020 Water Quality Monitoring Program: Jessica provided a detailed report on overall water quality. Results show that all water quality parameters are all well within EPA standards for surface water. Nutrient levels and water chemistry are being monitoring on a monthly basis at 35 sites covering the geographical extent of the lake. Seasonal variations for these parameters were expected and documented, but overall differences between watersheds was minimal. Bacterial communities are also being monitored at 18 sites of the 35 water quality sites. All sites varied in levels of E. coli, but no site exceeded EPA standards. October was the month with the highest number of sites reporting E. coli. Pea Hill recorded the best overall water clarity at 1.2 meters.

NOTE: Dominion Power will be holding a meeting to solicit public comment on the existing shoreline management plan (SMP). Tentative Date: Sept 15. 09:30 Location Kirkwood Adams Community Center 1100 Hamilton St. Roanoke Rapids, NC. Monitor newspaper for updates.

Submitted by: Wally Sayko, Secretary Lgwcc

August 1, 2021