

Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) Meeting

November 12, 2020: Lake Gaston Volunteer Fire Dept. 7pm

Attendees:

Elton Brown, Jeff Zimmer, Pete Deschenes, Linn Little, Jay Warfel, John Cataldo, Wayne Carter, Judge Manning, John Zubrod, Larry Liles, Tony Brown, Glenn Barbour, Jack Saunders. NCSU representatives: Dr. Rob Richardson, Jessica Baumann, Steve Hoyle, Andrew Howell and Mark Fowlkes NCWRC. Public: Brian Goldsworthy, Judy Waters, David Murphy, Bill Heflin.

Call to Order: President Elton Brown called the meeting to order at 7pm and a roll call certified a quorum was met.

He welcomed all attendees present and those via Zoom.

A motion to approve the agenda with no changes was made by Wayne Carter and 2nd by John Zubrod and approved.

A motion to approve the July 30, 2020 minutes without any changes was made by Jeff Zimmer and 2nd by John Zubrod and approved.

Open Public Comments: None

Review of public concerns received during the 2020 Season:

Wally Sayko reported 31 inquiries via the LGWCC web page. Some were phone calls and others email. The types of inquiries reported: 18 for Lyngbya, 13 for Water Willow and one for snakes.

Treasurer Report: Jeff Zimmer

View Report on LGWCC website:

Jeff reported LGWCC FY 2020, YTD as of 11/1: Total expenses: \$144,605. Budget: \$1,109,651. Variance to Budget (\$965,046)

Other:

City of Virginia Beach is late in payment due to computer upgrade. Final payment request from counties will be made during 1st quarter 2021 after recommendations from the Stakeholders and proposed treatment plan is received. Jeff shared the audit by Creedle, Jones and Associates for year ending June 30, 2020. No irregularities were reported. This report is available upon request from Wally Sayko. (See attached) summary.

A motion was made by Pete Deschenes to approve the reports as presented and 2nd by John Zubrod and approved.

Presentation by Andrew Howell: Improving Lyngbya wollei surveys using non-destructive echo sounding measurements. (Find report on the LGWCC website)

This process allows a number of improvements over the current system and it can be repeated. He noted the manual survey conducted in Sep/Oct will still be necessary. All aspects of the system have not been verified as to identifying all bio mass types of vegetation.

Update of Covid 19 work restrictions/activities by NCSU: (Find report on the Lgwcc website) Dr. Rob Richardson reviewed the three phases of restrictions that NCSU had to work through in 2020. He presented a time line to accomplish the tasks for the upcoming TAG meeting. (Timeline Schedule on LGWCC web site).

Update on 2020 activities: Jessica Baumann (report available on the LGWCC website) updated the council and public on the following areas.

- Lyngbya Management
- Water Quality
- Vegetation Surveys
- Improved Revegetation
- Additional Hydrilla Management
- Fish Attractors

Summary of activities:

Monthly biosonics scan of treatment sites: April – October

Sampling of bio mass: July-October

Monthly collection of Lyngbya samples for lab analysis: July-Oct.

Lab analysis: Nov-Dec

Field Visit to determine 2021 treatment sites: TBD

Discussion of 2021 Lyngbya Treatment Planning: Jeff Zimmer and Jessica Bauman

Items discussed:

The LGWCC would like to increase acres treated for Lyngbya up to 300 acres (including demonstration/trial treatments), begin as soon as water temperatures permit (late March/early April) and integrate new application techniques/equipment into treatments. In order to begin Lyngbya treatments by late March, contracts with applicator(s) and chemical vendor should be executed by March 1.

A timeline discussed and agreed upon follows:

- By Mid-January – a TAG meeting will be held and Lyngbya treatment acreage recommendations will be made.

- No later than February 1- Request for Proposal/Bid (RFP) will be sent by the LGWCC to vendors
- By end of February
 - A second TAG meeting will be held to discuss treatment protocols and expanded treatment areas.
 - Stakeholders meeting will be held.
 - RFPs will be returned to the LGWCC, contract(s) awarded and vendors notified
- March 4th- TAG recommendations for treatment design presented to LGWCC.
- By Mid-March- specific treatment areas and chemical protocols conveyed to vendors.
- Late March/early April-(water temps exceed 64 degrees F) treatments begin

Discussion to capture/develop a history of LGWCC efforts to eradicate undesirable aquatic weeds and improve water quality: Elton Brown.

There is agreement on the importance to develop and communicate a history of the LGWCC's success in control of Hydrilla and improving water quality on Lake Gaston. Steve Hoyle will determine the efforts needed and provide development cost estimates.

Other Discussions before the council:

Should the LGWCC take a position on real estate development projects on Lake Gaston: Tabled till next meeting.

Adjourn: A motion by John Zubrod and 2nd by Wayne Carter and approved at 9pm

Submitted by: Wally Sayko, Secretary, LGWCC

November 29, 2020