

Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) Minutes.

July 20, 2023, 6pm,

Longbridge VFD 1678 Eaton Ferry Road, Littleton, N.C.

Approved: November 16, 2023

Director Attendees: Elton Brown, John Franz, Lynnwood Little, Pete Deschenes, Jeff Zimmer, Jay Warfel, Glenn Barbour, Dia Denton, Christina Wells, Wayne Carter, John Zubrod, Chris Fitts, Larry Liles, Wally Sayko (14)

Other Attendees: Jessica Baumann NCSU, Rob Richardson NCSU, Troy Goldsby Aqua Services, Tracy Thompson PLM, 32 members of the public. (Total 36)

Call to Order: President Elton Brown called meeting to order at 605PM.

President Brown welcomed all attending and introductions.

President Brown welcomed two (2) new directors recently appointed to the LGWCC, John Franz, Warren County and Chris Fitts, Halifax County.

Roll Call of Directors: Wally Sayko, Secretary reported a total of 14 members present qualifying for a quorum. Reminded directors that only 3 votes per county were permitted per the By Laws.

President asked for any changes to the agenda: Jeff Zimmer requested a change to include a treasurer's report for the FY 2022-2023. **A motion was made by John Zubrod and 2nd by John Franz and approved.**

President requested any changes to the March 2, 2023, minutes: None were made. **A motion by John Zubrod and 2nd by Wayne Carter and approved.**

Review of Resident Concerns since last meeting: Jessica, Wally and Jeff.

The concerns covered: Ell grass on Jimmies Creek, Water Willow issues, American Lotus, and Lyngbya. Jessica noted to report all weed issues to the link on the LGWCC website. <https://forms.gle/HDETJHXqjLKuArj66>

Update on research and latest treatments: Jessica Baumann

Lyngbya treatments are continuing. The last two treatments in 2023 for Lyngbya will take place August and September. The last Hydrilla treatment will take place on Lizard and Songbird creek areas in August. Research is continuing Water Quality, toxicity of Lyngbya, Mussel bed location and algaecide efficacy.

Review of 2022-2023 fiscal year and 2023-2024 budget options: Jeff Zimmer, Treasurer.

Jeff reviewed the 2022-2023 results. (See attached) Income reported at \$1,232,858.72 and expenses at \$1,268,820.31. Ending funds available: \$865,035. **After discussion a motion was made by John Zubrod to approve and 2nd by Wayne Carter and approved.**

FY 2023-24 budget was presented by Jeff and two options based on projected treatments were presented: Budget A- continue treating 376.5 acres of Lyngbya and Budget B- to increase treatments of Lyngbya up to 500 acres. It was noted that 500 acres is the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the Lake Gaston Stakeholders Board. After discussion the Plan B and respective budget was noted as being advantageous. **A motion by Glenn Barbour for Budget B/ 500 acres Lyngbya treatments was made and 2nd by John Zubrod and approved.**

An important part of the 2023-24 budget was the approval by the Commonwealth of Virginia to continue funding for two additional years at \$400,000 per year. *Thanks to Brunswick County and H. Otto Wachsmann, Jr. for his support.*

Discussion for future funding/Halifax County:

Sources for future funding are very limited. The counties full funding is critical to the continued operations going forward. An in-depth discussion of the actions of Halifax County to not include funding in their 2023-2024 budget was met with points of discussion. A question by Director Fitts if there was an endpoint for Lyngbya treatments. Troy Goldsby with Aqua Services said that it is nearly impossible to answer at this point. But after 5 years of continued treatments, we will have a better idea. Options based on no Halifax County funding ranged from ending all existing treatments immediately to Halifax County funding Hydrilla Management in this year's budget and resolving their issues for Lyngbya funding. President Brown suggested Halifax County be given 45 days to include the \$116,000 in their budget based on its use by the LGWCC for Hydrilla management. **A motion by Wayne Carter to approve a timeframe of 45 days (ending Sept 4, 2023). The motion was 2nd by Glenn Barbour and approved.**

Old Business: Steve Hoyle on history of Lgwcc. Not present. He did respond via email that he had conflicting meetings and was working on the project and hoped to have a draft available in the next month.

Public Comments:

There were about 32 public attendees to the meeting. Most seemed to be from Halifax County.

Some comments regarding Halifax County funding:

County does not have a plan "B" if the LGWCC does not treat Lyngbya.

The \$116,000 is a minor expense compared to the reported 3.3 million paid by Lake Gaston Property owners in property taxes.

Lake Gaston is an economic driver for Halifax County.

The County has not displayed leadership in search of a solution to their issue. This is the county's responsibility.

The LGWCC has repeatedly requested full funding from Halifax. The LGWCC has worked hard to get funding approved from all available sources.

County manager said we have no plan "B". There is not any money now but does not mean it will not be there in the future.

The Lake Community does not put a heavy load on the county for infrastructure, services, or the school system.

Individuals who do not live at the lake showed support for the funding.

Seems the county is looking for ways not to pay rather than finding ways to approve funding.

Members were appreciative of the efforts of the LGWCC.

Many of the residents stayed after the meeting to have one on one discussions with LGWCC members, NCSU, and county representatives.

There was not any further business for the Lgwcc.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8pm by John Zubrod and 2nd by Wayne Carter and approved.

Submitted by: Wally Sayko, Secretary Lgwcc.

July 20, 2023

FY 2022-2023
Actual to Budget

		CARRY FORWARD	\$891,997		
INCOME	Category	Actual	Budget	Variance	
	North Carolina	0.00	-	-	
	Virginia (via Brunswick County)	400,000.00	400,000	-	
	Virginia Beach	329,417.44	327,750	1,667.44	
	Brunswick County	90,000.00	90,000	-	
	Mecklenburg County	116,000.00	116,000	-	
	Halifax County	58,000.00	58,000	-	
	Northampton County	116,000.00	116,000	-	
	Warren County	116,000.00	116,000	-	
	Halifax County Tourism	0.00	-	-	
	USDA/APHIS	0.00	-	-	
	Interest	2,441.28	350	2,091.28	
	Dominion Power	0.00	-	-	
	O'Sail Grant	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME		1,232,858.72	1,224,100	8,758.72	
EXPENSES					
	Office Operations	155.22	100	55.22	
	Insurance -Bank Service Fee	36.00	-	36.00	
	NC Ag Fd/Ext Associate	72,225.00	72,225	-	
	Attorney/VA Corp Fee	160.00	200	(40.00)	
	LGA Stakeholders	0.00	-	-	
	Web Site	550.22	475	75.22	
	Audit & Taxes	3,325.00	2,750	575.00	
	NCSU/Tuber Survey	18,000.00	12,000	6,000.00	
	NCSU/Integrated Lyngbya Research	100,000.00	100,000	-	
	NCSU/additional research	11,349.17	110,000	(98,650.83)	
	Habitat Enhancement	397.84	13,820	(13,422.16)	
	NCSU/Whole Lake Survey	25,000.00	25,000	-	
	NCSU Volunteer Survey +/-Plant ID	5,000.00	5,000	-	
	Chemical Applicator	194,957.26	195,245	(287.74)	
	Chemicals	<u>837,664.60</u>	<u>808,251</u>	<u>29,413.60</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,268,820.31	\$ 1,345,066	(76,245.69)	

Ending FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$856,035

FY 2022-2023
to FY 2023-2024 Budget

CARRY FORWARD		\$856,035		
INCOME	Category	2022-2023	Budget A	Budget B
	North Carolina	0.00	44,000	44,000
	Virginia (via Brunswick County)	400,000.00	400,000	400,000
	Virginia Beach	329,417.44	343,000	343,000
	Brunswick County	90,000.00	116,000	116,000
	Mecklenburg County	116,000.00	116,000	116,000
	Halifax County	58,000.00	-	-
	Northampton County	116,000.00	116,000	116,000
	Warren County	116,000.00	116,000	116,000
	Halifax County Tourism	0.00		
	USDA/APHIS	0.00		
	Interest	2,441.28	16,500	16,500
	Dominion Power	0.00		
	O'Sail Grant	5,000.00	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		1,232,858.72	1,267,500	1,267,500
EXPENSES				
	Office Operations	155.22	150	150
	Insurance Bank Service Fee	36.00		
	NC Ag Fd/Ext Associate	72,225.00	75,840	75,840
	Attorney/VA Corp Fee	160.00	200	200
	LGA Stakeholders	0.00		
	Web Site	550.22	1,000	1,000
	Audit & Taxes	3,325.00	3,500	3,500
	NCSU/Tuber Survey	18,000.00	6,000	6,000
	NCSU/Integrated Lyngbya Research	100,000.00		
	NCSU/additional research	11,349.17	76,200	76,200
	Habitat Enhancement	397.84	1,000	1,000
	NCSU/Whole Lake Survey	25,000.00	25,000	25,000
	NCSU Volunteer Survey +/-Plant ID	5,000.00	10,000	10,000
	Chemical Applicator	194,957.26	205,181	267,650
	Chemicals	837,664.60	836,827	1,092,539
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,268,820.31	\$1,240,898	\$1,559,079
Ending FUNDS AVAILABLE			\$882,637	\$564,456
		<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
	treatment acres- hydrilla	0	94.5	95
	-lyngbya	376	376.54	500

