

Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) meeting minutes

October 20, 2022: Longbridge Volunteer Fire Department (and ZOOM)

Approved: March 2, 2023

Director Attendees: Elton Brown, Jeff Zimmer, Wayne Carter, John Cataldo, Pete Deschenes, Lynn Little, Tare Davis, L.J. Dornak, Cristina Wells, Wally Sayko (10)

Other Attendees: Jessica Baumann, Judy Waters, Joanie Cousins

Call to order: President Elton Brown at 7pm

President Brown welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

President Brown commented on the passing of Bruce Johnson. He recognized Bruce's contribution to the lake community and organizations over a long period of time.

Roll Call of Attendance by Secretary Wally Sayko: Quorum met 10 directors present.

Motion to approve Agenda: Motion by Lynn Little and 2nd by Wayne Carter and approved with some changes presented by Jeff Zimmer.

Motion to approve July 14 minutes: Motion by Jeff Zimmer and 2nd by John Cataldo and approved.

Motion to approve the September 20, 2022 Minutes: Motion by Jeff Zimmer and 2nd by Lynn Little.

Open Public Comments: Lynn Little passed on positive comments from the Bluebird Point area on the great work on Lyngbya. Joanie Cousins mentioned her area of Great Creek is very thick with Hydrilla. Jessica reported several communications on Lyngbya and Hydrilla. Wally reported since the last meeting most of the communications he received was about Water Willow and Lyngbya.

Jessica said she has had numerous comments to the Aquatic Weeds website. Mostly about Lyngbya, Chara and Water Willow.

NCSU Proposed Activities: Jessica Bauman

Jessica reviewed the four (4) areas of the budget proposal for 2022/2023 surveys/research. Water Quality, Tidewater Muckets, Lyngbya Toxin and Lab Evaluations. She briefly explained the need for each of these. The total funding

required for FY 2022-2023 is \$99,500.00 and for FY 2023-2024 is \$90,400.00. These costs include Staff Insurance and a one-time cost for a motor of \$13,500.

After extensive discussion a motion to fund these activities was made by Jeff Zimmer and 2nd by Wayne Carter and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Jeff presented 5-year Financial History and Forecast for the current year and into 2025/2026. The forecast is based on current funding levels and the revised cost of the NCSU Proposed Activities and stable applicator and chemical expenses.

The outlook does not allow any further acreage to be treated other than the 376 currently being treated through 2025. As we move to the beginning of fiscal year 2025, we will have only \$173,106 of funds available. In order to continue treatments at current levels, we need at least \$400,000 of funds available beginning a fiscal year. All counties are not contributing the agreed amount of \$116,000. Brunswick is providing \$90,000 and Halifax \$58,000 creating the shortfall in large part.

Jeff suggested proposing a two year extension of our application contract with Aqua Services which would align with our chemical contract with Cygnet Enterprises. A motion by Wally Sayko and 2nd by Wayne Carter to amend the agenda for a proposal to extend the applicator contract was approved.

New Business:

Wally presented the county breakdown of contributions vs amount of the 376-treatment acreage.

Brunswick: received 6% of treatments for \$64,437. Contribution is \$90,000.

Mecklenburg: received 14% of treatments for \$130,727. Contribution is \$116,000.

Halifax: received 50% of treatments for \$430,533. Contribution is \$58,000.

Northampton: received 11% of treatments for \$125,209. Contribution is 116,000.

Warren: received 19% of treatments for \$206,532. Contribution is \$116,000.

There is an imbalance between the amount of treatments and contributions.

There will be a discussion with Tare Davis and Christinal Wells on ways to remedy this situation. Ms. Wells stated that a presentation early next year made by the Council to the Halifax Commissioners would be advantageous. Other options

discussed include reducing treatment sites in Halifax and increase other counties, Exactly how we can increase revenues was discussed and there was agreement that a focus needs to be placed first on counties to meet their 100% commitment of \$116,000 reached decades ago.

A motion to make an additional change to the Agenda to facilitate a discussion on disposal of excess chemical. Motion was made by LJDornak and 2nd by Tare Davis and approved.

A motion to the Agenda to allow a process for disposal of the excess chemicals which have been held long term in storage was made by Tare Davis and 2nd by Wally Sayko and approved.

A motion to offer Aqua Services an extension of the applicator agreement for two years with same existing terms and conditions was made by Jeff Zimmer and 2nd by Tare Davis and approved.

Discussion on Director participation. It is critical to have all counties represented at each meeting. Some have not attended a meeting in over a year. We utilize Longbridge for future meetings to encourage in person participation. Zoom will be used when required.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM with a motion by Wayne Carter and 2nd by John Cataldo and approved.

Submitted by Wally Sayko, Secretary Lgwcc.

October 25, 2022