

Lake Gaston Weed Control Council Minutes of January 9, 2020.

Attendees: Judge Manning; Bob Etheridge; Jay Warfel; John Cataldo; Wayne Robinson; Jack Saunders; Dan Tanner; John Zubrod; Wayne Carter; Elton Brown; Larry Liles

Also Present: Rob Richardson, Jessica Baumann, Steve Hoyle, Rob Emens, Tracey Thompson, Pete Deschenes

Judge Manning gave the invocation.

Regular Meeting

Meeting called to order by President Brown.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Carter, seconded by Larry Liles, and was passed unanimously.

A motion to recess from the Regular Meeting to open the Annual Meeting was made by Wayne Robinson, seconded by John Zubrod, and was unanimously approved.

Mr. Manning gave the Treasurer's Report. The Council currently has \$378,221.11. He stated that last year none of the Counties were asked for a contribution. The only income was the annual donation by the City of Virginia Beach per the Court Order. The Board discussed the need for funding for the treatment of Lyngbya and its higher costs.

Upon a motion of Mr. Tanner, seconded by Mr. Zubrod, the Board unanimously instructed the Treasurer to send out the bills to the 5 Counties asking for their contributions for the FY 2019-2020 in the amount of \$116,000.00 per County.

The next item on the agenda is the election of Officers. Mr. Manning stated that he wants to retire from the position of Treasurer immediately, but will serve until March. Mr. Brown stated that for continuity, he is willing to serve one more year as Chairman, but then will be resigning from that Office.

The floor was opened for nominations.

Upon a motion of Mr. Zubrod, seconded by Mr. Tanner, the Board unanimously voted to elect Mr. Elton Brown for Chairman.

Upon a motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Tanner, the Board unanimously voted to elect John Zubrod as Vice-Chairman.

Upon a motion of Mr. Zubrod, seconded by Mr. Carter, the Board unanimously voted to elect Mr. Wally Sayko as Secretary.

Mr. Manning agreed to stay on as Treasurer until March 1, 2020.

Mr. Brown appointed himself and Mr. Zubrod to a search committee to find a new Treasurer.

Chairman Brown stated that the Board might need to review the bylaws, to discuss that Lyngbya is not a weed, but instead an algae. According to Mr. Deschenes, it should be covered under water quality in the bylaws.

Upon a motion of Mr. Zubrod, and seconded by Mr. Tanner the annual meeting was closed and the regular meeting was resumed by unanimous vote.

There was no public comment.

Jessica Baumann presented the Grass Carp study, which showed the mortality rate is much lower than thought and that the carp are growing much faster in the early years, with some carp still alive from their stocking in 1994.

Next, Jessica and Rob Richardson reviewed the Draft Vegetation Report and stated that Hydrilla seems to be under control presently. Lyngbya is increasing in area with an estimated 1,035 acre in 2019.

Finally, Mr. Richardson stated that the Council did not set a dollar figure for the Lyngbya research proposed last year. The Board discussed the matter and agreed to spend \$150,000.00 per year for calendar years 2020 and 2021. The funds come from the Grass Carp Mortality Survey -\$50,000.00 and Water Quality – Lyngbya Research -\$50,000.00 line item in the existing budget and \$50,000.00 in additional funds and be called the N.C. Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan. Motion was made by Mr. Liles, seconded by Mr. Saunders to fund the research project and was unanimously approved.

There being no additional business discussion, the meeting was adjourned.