

Lake Gaston Weed Control Council

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

Unapproved

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 Treasure Jeff Zimmer to add the information of the public comments to be heard by Dominion Power on the shoreline management plan.

A motion by Pete Deschenes and 2nd by Glen Barbour was approved to with changes to the agenda.

A motion to approve the March 24, 2021 as presented was made by John Zubrod and 2nd 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 battle 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 grant 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 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 acres to 300 acres for 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 by Pete Deschenes and 2nd by John Cataldo was made and approved.

Old Business: Steve Hoyle

Steve updated the board on the status of the history of the LGWCC and its legacy on the success of eliminating 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 detail information on several programs ongoing 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 after the storm 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 and that our rates of dispersion of the chemicals were well below the EPA recommendations. She described the so called "perfect storm" effect of higher outside temperature in the 90's, higher water temperatures in shallow areas, the application of treatment and the normal event of these types of mussels to suffer from warmer temperatures in the water column. After discussions with the responsible entities a minor adjustment was made in the protocols. Instead of going into waters of less than 3 feet applications would be made in deeper waters (4-5 feet) instead. This would limit the effect of the chemicals in those shallow areas where water movement is less. She also noted the water during these periods released by Kerr Reservoir was oxygen poor. Which added to the situation. The July treatments were complete and there were not any reports of mussel die off. She also said there was mussel die off in non-treated locations.

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 months 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 process is having on the mats on the sediment on the lake floor. The asked residents to use the LGWCC website to report any areas with Lyngbya not in the treatment areas. Website: lgwcc.org. Look for the report for noxious weeds. This does not mean we will be able to treat this year, but it does provide us focus for 2022.

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 Report: A detailed report on overall water quality was presented. LKG did not report any levels of various nutrients, chemicals and Ecoli that were above EPA standards. There were some sites that recorded a particular month that was assessed to be higher than other months but neither of these exceeded EPA standards. October was consistently the month with the highest ratings. Pea Hill recorded the best overall water quality at 1.2 meters. A total of 32 sites that covers the entire watershed are the test points.

NOTE: Dominion Power will be conducting “Public” meetings for input for the future shoreline management plan. Tentative Date: Sept 15. Location TBD. Monitor newspaper for updates.

Submitted by: Wally Sayko, Secretary Lgwcc

August 1, 2021