

## Lake Gaston Stakeholders Board Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2016

### **Attendance (13 voting members):**

Ken Bowman (Warren County), Cory Chamberlain (Dominion), Pete Deschenes (Chairman, RWF Fire Tax Board), Rob Emens (NC DENR), Mark Fowlkes (NCWRC), *Robert Hendrick* (Mecklenburg County), Doug Hughes (LGWSC), Rives Manning (Halifax County Commissioner), Jim Nold (Striper Club), Al Potter (LGA), Dr. Rob Richardson (NC State Univ), Christina Wells (Lake Gaston Regional Chamber), John Zubrod (Brunswick County Supervisor)

### **Also present:**

Della Batts (Lake Gaston Gazette-Observer), John Cataldo (Brunswick County), Bob Etheridge (LGWCC), Steve Hoyle (NCSU), Cole Hulon (Pro Lake Management), *Sarah Miller* (SePRO Corp), Will Miller (Dominion Dam Supervisor), Justin Nawrocki (NC State), *Jordan Rabby* (SePRO Corp), Wally Sayko (Brunswick County), Moira Underwood (LGA Executive Director), Tom Winebrenner (LGWCC/LGSB).

*Italicized names indicate attendance via conference call.*

### **Agenda**

- Welcome and Attendee Introduction
- Review LGSB Membership
- Weed Council Budget.....Judge Manning
- NC Weed Council 2016 Work Plan...Rob Emens
- Fall Survey...Justin Nawrocki
- TAG Recommendations.....Rob Richardson
- Revegetation ..... Mark Fowlkes
- Stakeholders Concerns

The meeting of the Stakeholders Board was held on March 3, 2015 at Dominion Generation. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Pete Deschenes at 9:02 am. A Distribution List was sent around as a sign-in sheet. People were asked to make any changes to it and check voting members of the group they represent. A quorum was in attendance, with 13 voting organizations represented.

Pete gave a brief history of the LGSB Membership and Mission and brief history, introducing the original members.

### **Weed Council Budget.....Judge Manning**

Rives Manning stated that the fiscal year ran from 7/1 through 6/30. He passed out a proposed budget for 2016-17 (see attached) The anticipated income is \$853,549K plus a carryover of \$78K. \$75K was made available from NCDEQ for the 2015 treatment year.

### **NC Weed Council 2015 Work Plan...Rob Emens**

The approved 2016 work plan allocates \$50K for Lake Gaston. The funds will come from the FY 2016-2017 budget cycle and therefore will be available in the fall. Rob gave a review of funding at the state level vis-à-vis NC Aquatic Weed Control Program. As of 12/31/15 \$408,651 has been spent from the FY 2015-2016 budget and \$86K has been received in receipt funds.

### **Revegetation ... Mark Fowlkes**

Mark gave an update on the re-vegetation efforts. A spring survey is scheduled for 2016. The existing

re-vegetation sites will continue to be maintained. Volunteers will be needed June 13-17 and July 25-29

for maintaining existing cages and installing more fencing. June 13th and July 25th are staging days. The other days are where lots of volunteers will be needed. A concern for end of life of the cages was raised. Mark said there was no end of life plan in place, the cages would be repaired as necessary. Wally Sayko and John Cataldo were commended for all the support they provide this effort.

### **Fall Survey... Justin Nawrocki**

The fall survey took place from September through November and included both hydro-acoustics and rake drags. The volunteer effort included 800+ hours, turning in 6088 data points. (see attached). Sightings of Lyngbya have increased and established hydrilla acreage showed a slight decrease. There is still a significant tuber bank. There will be a one time stocking of grass carp in the end of Pea Hill Creek. A 111 acre area has been targeted where access by boat to treat with chemicals is impeded by stumps. 1,260 grass carp will be delivered in late March. The permits have been granted and the fish have been ordered.

### **TAG Recommendations.....Rob Richardson**

#### **Continue**

- Lake/treatment monitoring =- Biomass
- Vegetation survey by volunteers and SONAR
- Tuber sampling
- Evaluate 2015 lyngbya treatment sites
- Fund Partnership agreement for revegetation efforts
- Hydrilla management plan – chemical treatments

#### **Add**

- 2016 hydrilla treatments
- 1260 grass carp stocked in Pea Hill

Doug Hughes made a motion to pass the TAG Recommendations to the LGWCC, seconded, passed unanimously.

### **Stakeholders Concerns**

- Ask USACOE to advise when releasing water during treatment period
- Lyngbya treatment tested on 15 acres but few positive results were noted. No indication of hydrilla being resistant to herbicides
- The proposed treatment plan is based on money received from funding sources
- Steve Hoyle reported water quality is out of their control – 14 straight days of rain has had an impact. This year there is a lot of fine sediment that is not settling out. Smith Mountain Lake is having the same clarity issues

John Zubord made a motion to adjourn, seconded, passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Deschenes, Secretary