

Lake Gaston Stakeholders Board Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2011

Attendance (15 voting members):

Pete Deschenes (chairman), Vic DiCenzo(VADGIF), Rob Emens (NCDENR), Doug Hughes (LGA), Bruce Johnson(Northampton County), Doug Kolb(LGWSC President), Mike McCarthy (Virginia Beach), Almira Papierniak(Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce), Dr. Rob Richardson (NC State Univ), Kirk Rundle(NC Wildlife Resources), Wally Sayko(Brunswick County), Don Springle (LG Striper Club), Jim Thornton (Dominion), Dr. Michael Smart (USACE), Vernon Wilson (FLWT-VA BASS),
Also present: Randy Allen(City of VB), Glenn Bishop(Dominion), John Cataldo(HOA), Susie Deschenes(Secretary), Bob Etheridge(LGWCC), *Bill Frazier*(NC BASS), Steve Hoyle (NC State University), Lee Tyre(NCS), Tom Warmuth(Cygnets Enterprises, Inc) Chuck Wiley(ProLake Management), *Melanie Williams*(NC DWQ), Tom Winebrenner(LGWCC).

Italicized names indicate attendance via conference call.

Agenda

- 1. Welcome & Introductions**
- 2. Review LGSB Mission & Brief History**
- 3. Kerr Hydrilla Status**
- 4. Results of 2010 Treatment/Funding Options**
- 5. Fall Survey**
- 6. Volunteer Effort (Re-vegetation/Fall Survey)**
- 7. Grass Carp Study**
- 8. Re-vegetation**
- 9. TAG Recommendations**
- 10. NC Weed Control Council Meeting Review**

The meeting of the Stakeholders Board was held on March 31, 2011 at Dominion Generation.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Pete Deschenes at 9:35 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 15 voting organizations represented. Pete reviewed LGSB history and its purpose. It was stated that the Secretary's minutes would be sent out, with Steve Hoyle adding them to the TAG website. After seven (7) days, with no comment, the minutes would be considered approved.

Rob Emens gave a report on the status of hydrilla in Kerr Lake. In the 46 miles of shoreline that were surveyed between 279 (based on width of littoral zone of 50') and 557 (based on width of littoral zone of 100') acres contain hydrilla. Assume that the hydrilla beds will expand in total area and density in 2011. The ACOE has some money to make available for some support.

Chuck Wiley gave the results of the 2010 public treatment of hydrilla on Lake Gaston. He assessed ProLake Management's as 95% effective. No problems were reported. It appears that overall acreage of hydrilla has decreased. He estimated 600 – 700 acres are being treated privately. Reports from PLM Lake & Land Mgmt. and D & G have been routinely reported to Dominion for private treatments performed on Lake Gaston. Several suggestions were made to improve the reporting of private treatment, which is required by the shoreline management plan of Dominion. It was agreed that Dominion would send a letter to the four licensed applicators on the lake stating the requirements of reporting private treatment dates, locations and chemical types and amounts.

Rob Richardson reported the Fall Survey results. The average sampling of sites indicate a lower number of tubers.

Steve Hoyle reported on the volunteer effort on the Fall Survey. Volunteers provided 1985 points at 400' intervals. This effort provides a finer detail than Remetrix's report. He assessed the needs for next year as the following: coordination and 1 point person, fill in the gaps on the west end of the lake past the Rte 1 bridge, 2 training sessions to accommodate more volunteers, follow up with volunteers early, get map info online, set target dates.

Vic DiCenzo reported on the Grass Carp Study done at Virginia Tech grad student, Dan Stich. He compared data gained from telemetry to data gained from age & growth studies. It was concluded that 79,000 KG of carp were needed for less than 300 acres of hydrilla by 2013, so no additional carp are needed assuming treatment is consistent. The question of release sites was questioned – do the carp travel as far as Lizard Creek and Jimmies Creek, where hydrilla is a problem. TAG will consider those locations as release sites in the future.

Mike Smart gave a report on the Re-vegetation Effort. . Survival and spread of plants was greater in 2010. Good growth was shown to suppress hydrilla. In 2010 volunteers relocated exclosures and replanted them so every one had a plant. He estimated the need of \$25K to continue this effort in 2011 in order to expand the level of vegetation. This work needs to take place in early June. Support for funding was requested from Dominion. Rob will review the large amounts of American Lotus in Lizard Creek and Hubquarter Creek.

Rob Richardson gave the TAG recommendations:

- No grass carp this year - # now exceeds 15 carp/acre
- No additional otolith collections
- No expenditure for telemetry
- Re-vegetation to be continued and supported by LGWCC funding, specifically a second demo similar in scope to the first
- Tuber monitoring to continue and expanded to include sampling in additional areas
- Improve integration of Remetrix survey data and point sampling data collected by organized volunteer group efforts.
- Additional point sampling to be conducted for annual surveys

A motion was mad by Doug Kolb to accept the TAG recommendation, seconded, approved unanimously. Rob Richardson will send the recommendation to LGWCC.

Rob Emens gave a report on the NC Weed Control Council Meeting. The Aquatic Weed Control Program's 2011 work-plan has been approved and includes \$100K for Lake Gaston contingent on funding in State budget FY2011/2012.

Chuck Wiley proposed the idea of establishing a way for residents to use private funds to leverage LGWCC money to treat specific sites more effectively. A straw ballot was taken of the LGWCC members present who agreed unanimously to take back to the LGWCC for consideration.

Tom Winebrenner brought up a court case in Virginia on treating weeds. It was explained that the EPA needs to regulate pesticides and got a stay of 6 months to act. Most states have put together a plan to wait on the EPA's direction. NC will wait on the EPA ruling. Tom also informed the group that Rives Manning wife is very ill.

Pete thanked Dominion for hosting the meeting; he thanked Rob and the members of the Stakeholder's Board for attending and adjourned the meeting at 1:05 pm.

****Action Items****

- Jim Thornton- Explore the possibility of Dominion funding part / all of the 2011 revegetation activity.
- Jim Thornton – Dominion will send a letter to the four licensed applicators on the lake stating the requirements of reporting private treatment dates, locations and chemical types and amounts.
- Doug will post the 2007 long term action plan to the TAG website
- Pete & Rob take a request to the LGWCC to include private treatment reporting as a contract requirement in their RFP.
- Rob and Mike will review the large amount of American Lotus in Hubquarter Creek and Lizard Creek and Rob will present a recommendation to the LGWCC.
- Rob Richardson – send the TAG recommendation to the LGWCC.
- Pete Deschenes – Take the comingling of funds proposal to the LGWCC for consideration.

Respectfully submitted

Susie Deschenes

Note: For more detailed info regarding most of the presentations go to the TAG website at lgtag.ncsu.edu