

# Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) Minutes.

November 16, 2023, 6pm,

## “ZOOM’ MEETING

### **Director Attendees:**

Elton Brown-M, Jeff Zimmer-W, Pete Deschenes-W, John Franz-W, Dia Denton-H, Christina Wells-H, John Cataldo-B, John Zubrod-B, Wayne Carter-M, Wally Sayko-B, Jessica Baumann-NCSU.

**Other Attendees:** Judy Water, Cheno Davis, E. Wooster

**Call to Order:** President Elton Brown. 6.05 PM

**Roll Call of Attendees:** Wally Sayko. Quorum Met

**Agenda Approval:** President Elton Brown.

No changes. **Motion to approve made by Jeff Zimmer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pete Deschenes and Approved.**

**Review Resident complaints/issue/concerns:** Jessica, Jeff, John F. and wally sayko

Jessica reported 16 received comments. 8- Lyngbya, 4- Hydrilla, 4-Native plants.

Jimmies Creek: Eel grass topping out and mixed with Lyngbya topping out.

Plants outside of vegetation cages: Spatterdock and Lotus. Lgwcc did not plant any Lotus. Spatterdock and other plants are being monitored to assure resident shoreline is not impacted.

Jessica will keep a Google map of all complaint locations.

Jeff: Expansion of Eel Grass at Jimmies Creek may have to be treated for Lyngbya. It is ok to treat Lyngbya in water shared by native plants. Spatterdock is plentiful in these locations, Pigeon, Lyons, Poplar. Resident view this because of the vegetation project. Dominion will allow a 10-foot-wide area to be cleared if it impedes boat/jet ski operation in and out of boat dock.

2023 Treasurer's Report: Jeff Zimmer

Treatment Costs:

2023 Actual: Lyngbya Acreage, 373.71, cost \$976,232.02, \$ per acre, \$2598.

Hydrilla Actual: 94.49 Acreage, cost \$72,007.46 \$ per acre \$792.

2024 Estimate:

Lyngbya: 500 acres, cost \$1,300,00.00

Hydrilla: 100 acres, cost \$76,20.00

Total: \$1,376,200.00.

Financial Report:

Total Income: \$705,486.08

Total Expenses: \$593,452,63

See Attached Documents.

Additional anticipated funding:

\$300,000.00 State of N.C. for 2 years

\$400,000.00 State of Virginia 2 years. (Zubrod to confirm)

\$339,000.00 City of Virginia Beach

Funds Received from Counties \$116,000.00 each, Mecklenburg, Brunswick, and Warren.

Halifax: waiting for confirmation of \$116,000.00 for Hydrilla control.

No report from Northampton County.

Dominion Power: \$2,500.00.

**JEFF, CAN YOU INSERT YOUR TWO DOCUMENTS HERE?**

No motion necessary. This is an update.

**2023 Treatment early results:** Jessica Baumann

Hydrilla: No visible Hydrilla at the treated sites.

Lynghya: Overall looks good, no visible surface mats in treatment areas.

2 sites where treatment was suspended the surface mats returned. (St. Tammy, Rock Branch)

**Vegetation Survey:** Jessica Baumann, John Franz

Jessica and John Franz reported the survey finished on time. About 6,000 rake tosses. It started in late August. John reported the use of Kayak teams in areas too shallow for boats worked well. John reported about 500 + hours were contributed by 70+ volunteers. A recognition event was held to recognize volunteer efforts.

**Project Status:** Jessica Baumann

The plan for Lynghya treatment in known mussel sites was adjusted to prevent any damage to them. NCSU utilized a new sonar process to locate mussel beds. After spending several days on the water, they were not able to map out where they were located. They will continue to work on the process. The next step is to engage a subject matter expert on how to vary treatments in those areas.

Water Quality: Report on the 2023 data in the first quarter. Future decision in first quarter 2024. Lgwcc to determine how often to conduct the water quality survey.

Lynghya: Lab results of cold-water treatments did not show any control. Next step is analyzing Lynghya in the laboratory for cold water treatments for 2024.

Lynghya Toxins: Renew efforts in 2024 with University of South Carolina.

Old Business: Lgwcc history. Steve Hoyle is still working on the project anticipated completion date in the first quarter of 2024.

Public Comments: None

Any further business:

Christina Wells of Halifax shared the 300K from state of N.C. has no bearing on the county funding of \$116,000. DEQ says the county has statutory authority to use funds for Hydrilla control.

Ms. Well stated it has been the position of Halifax County to fund and not oppose funding. The county and Lgwcc need to work together to get Lyngbya on the North Carolina list of noxious weeds to be treated.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by John Zubrod and seconded by John Franz and approved.

Submitted by Wally Sayko, November 26, 2023