

Lake Gaston Weed Control Council

Approved: March 24, 2022

Minutes: March 10, 2022

Location: Longbridge VFD. 7pm

Director Attendees:

Jeff Zimmer, John Cataldo, Pete Deschenes, John Zubrod, Wally Sayko, Elton Brown, Judge Manning, Christina Wells, Wayne Carter.

NCSU attendees: Jessica Baumann, Rob Richardson.

Applicator Attendees: Tracy Thompson, Derek Smith.

Public attendees: Brian Goldsworthy, Judy Waters, Buy Bowmaster

Call to Order by President Dr. Elton Brown: 705pm

Welcome to all those in attendance by President Dr. Elton Brown

Call of attendance by Secretary: Wally Sayko reported that a quorum was present.

Any changes to the agenda as presented:

Jeff Zimmer added "habitat enhancement" to new business

A motion to approve the changes to the agenda: Motion by John Zubrod and 2nd by Wayne Carter and approved.

Open Public Comments:

Guy Bowmaster requested that Sunny Acres (mouth of Little Stonehouse Creek, Eastern Shore, be treated for Lyngbya beginning in 2022. It did state that their HOA had been receiving private treatments from PLM

Jessica Baumann reported she has received 8 emails from residents. Most were about Lyngbya and Water Willow.

Wally reported a very complimentary comment by a lake resident who had received Lyngbya treatment by the council. She was very pleased with the results, and they were able to use the water for the first time in a couple of years. She thanked the Lgwcc and all those who were responsible.

Treasurers Report for FY 2022-2023 as of March 1: Jeff Zimmer

Jeff reported the following income:

State of Virginia: \$400,000. An additional \$400K is in a grant for year 2022.

Virginia Beach: \$302,052

Brunswick County: \$90,000

Mecklenburg County, \$116,000. Full Funding

Halifax County: \$58,000



Lgwcc financial
report 3-11-22.pdf

See financial report attached.

The directors agreed that we must ask counties for full funding. Our treatment plan is hindered by budgetary reasons not applicator/chemical reasons. Lyngbya will require full funding by the counties to be successful.

Jeff noted that chemical costs have increased dramatically. (18-20%) Chemical's account for 75% of the total cost to treat for Lyngbya. He suggested we consider a three (3) year contract to lock in current prices.

A motion by Pete Deschenes and 2nd by John Zubrod to accept pricing from Cygnet Enterprises with a three (3) year agreement stating that counties must appropriate full funding. Motion was approved.

Action:

The board suggested a letter be written to Dominion Power to request additional support. Jeff will draft the letter and send to the directors for final changes. Contents to be determined. This should be completed by the next meeting in June/July.

Other suggestion to involve the real estate organizations and businesses around the lake for financial support did not meet with a motion.

Applicator Approval: This matter was tabled. The decision will be made in time for the first treatment.

Old Business: Steve Hoyle

No report since the Secretary did not notify Steve of the meeting. Correction has been made in the download.

New Business: Jessica Baumann, Lake Extension Agent, NCSU

The report is attached to these minutes.

These comments are highlights from Jessica's in dept report.

She thanked the volunteers who conducted the full lake survey from Sept to Nov. Some 4,000 rake tosses were completed by the volunteers. 36 teams of 80 volunteers surveyed this year. She noted more volunteers would result in a better survey.

- Water Willow was the most prolific emergent plant showing up in 70% of the survey sites. Water Willow continues to increase year over year.
- The 2nd most prolific is Lyngbya. It continues to spread. It showed up in 20% of the survey sites. It now is estimated to covert 1,317 acres.
- 2021 treatment results of Lyngbya was encouraging. Using the new application process and a change in chemicals is showing results. Almost all surface mats were eliminated. Samples of Lyngbya tested for viability in the lab show positive results.
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- Hydrilla continues to be in the "control" status. Tuber surveys show most areas at undetectable levels The last 3 years are all below 160 acres and 2021 was at 154 acres. About 86 acres are in the Beechwood area where we have numerous vegetation cages.



2021_Lake Gaston
Vegetation Survey F

TAG Recommendations for 2022:

Hydrilla:

Treat no more than 154 acres.

Minimize impact of treatment in and around vegetation cages

No Grass Carp stocked.

Lyngbya:

Expand treatment up to 500 acres total. Continue treatments in the same areas of as last year with additional areas as resources permit.

Minimize impact to Tidewater Mucklets.

Move forward with treatment expansion using XTR and AMP.

Continue Habitat Enhancement Project

Continue annual vegetation survey.

Identify Future Research Needs:

explore potential negative human health issues related to cyanotoxins

Identify research that will reduce negative impacts of lyngbya treatments

to native mussel populations.



NCSU Annual
Report 3-2022.pdf

A motion by Jeff Zimmer and 2nd by John Zubrod to accept the TAG recommendations from the Stakeholders Group was approved.

Habitat Enhancement Discussion:

Jeff suggested the Lgwcc enter into a new 5-year agreement with NC Wildlife Commission for the purpose of continuing the current level of maintenance and enhancement for the cages already in place. Expand as needed. Include a drone survey and



additional “fish attractors” similar to those that NCSU installed in 2021. Gaston_reveg_work
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A motion by Pete Deschenes and 2nd by Wayne Carter and approved.

Being no other business before the Lake Gaston Weed Control the meeting was adjourned at: 830PM

Submitted by: Wally Sayko, Secretary, Lgwcc