

March 9, 2017

Minutes of the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council

Submitted by: Wally Sayko, Secretary

DRAFT: Approval date by Mar 18, 2017

7pm: Meeting called to order by President Elton Brown

A quorum was verified

President Brown asked for a motion to appoint Wally Sayko Interim Secretary. Motion made, properly seconded and passed.

A motion to approve the agenda was made and approved.

President Brown asked for any citizen comments: There were none.

A motion to approve the Dec 8, 2016 minutes was made and properly seconded and passed.

Treasurer Judge Manning presented both the FY 2016-2017 financial report and Treatment Year report to the membership for approval. A motion was made, properly seconded and approved.

The Treasurer noted that SeaPro had given the LGWCC a refund in the amount of \$6,498 for previously purchased chemicals that did perform as expected.

7:12PM a motion to recess the regular meeting and convene the LGWCC Annual meeting was made and properly seconded and approved.

Convene the LGWCC Annual Meeting:

The following officers were nominated by Pete Deschenes and seconded by Jack Saunders and duly elected by the Directors.

Elton Brown, President

Pete Deschenes, Vice President

Judge Manning, Treasurer

Wally Sayko, Secretary

Motion to Adjourn the LGWCC Annual meeting was made and properly seconded and approved at 7:17PM

Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:17PM

New Business:

No updated report from PLM

Full Lake Survey: Aj Reyes (the full report can be found on the LGWCC website)

Aj provided an overview of the 2016 activities on treatment areas and the full lake survey.

Only 2 treatments of the 3 scheduled were completed. This was due to the fact that hydrilla was not actively growing. There was a partial treatment for the cage areas only.

He reported the survey showed a continued downward trend in hydrilla acres to 120 acres for 2016. This was down from 2015 survey of 325 acres. All treatment zones were free of hydrilla. He noted the tuber banks were static but 3 areas did show an increase. Lyngbya and Water Willow are now the most asked about issues by residents on the lake.

Lyngbya:

2016 survey showed an increase of 2% in lyngbya from 2015. These areas are scattered all over the lake in both undeveloped and developed areas. Back of coves are most affected. The experimental treatments made in 2016 did not show any significant reduction of lyngbya. He proposes a treatment increase to between 50 -100 acres. (This will be covered under Stakeholders recommendations.) Discussion on the success of the Alabama Power program indicated their success in treatment of lyngbya. Plm said it was critical to get the chemical within two (2) feet of the mat of lyngbya. Currently they do not have a delivery system for that but said it would not be a problem. Mechanical harvesting is being considered. Aj indicated he would be doing lots of data mining on lyngbya.

Re Vegetation Program: (this report is also on the LGWCC website)

Aj presented this information for Mark Fowlkes who could not attend. The effort in 2016 was significant. Some 4,000 linear feet of exclosures were installed and planted. It was noted that the LGA volunteers once again did a very good job. Some discussion as to why we are losing volunteers was had and it came down to a couple of things: age which is in upper 60s and into the 70's and the difficulty of moving thru sediment at times that can be 2 feet deep. A brief discussion took place to see if we could outsource this activity, Judge Manning will see about including this in the RFP for applicators. Aj and Mark will meet in April do discuss the 2017 plan and then they will meet with Wally for input.

Aj noted that the cages are doing very good and showing very good native plant growth. He reported some hydrilla in cages . 2016 included a new addition at the top of Great Creek. Also, enlargement of cages on Stonehouse, Beechwood and Poplar Creek were completed. One activity for 2017 is the removal of old cages from the USACE and NCSU.

TAG recommendations: Aj/Rob Richardson

The following recommendations were made to the Stakeholders meeting the previous week for consideration to the LGWCC.

2017 TAG Recommendations:

No grass carp stocking in 2017. Current level is about 77 fish per hydrilla acre.

Treat vegetation cage areas.

Up to 50 acres of hydrilla in treatment areas TBD

Continue experimental lyngbya treatment and research

Treat 50-100 acres of lyngbya as demonstration

Continue revegetation efforts

Intensive monitoring including volunteer and survey efforts

Revisit Lake Gaston long term vegetation plan

A motion was made by Pete Deschenes, President of the Stakeholders organization to accept the TAG recommendations for 2017. It was properly seconded and approved by the LGWCC.

Other Motions:

Water Quality: \$50,000.00 A research plan to further determine the water quality in areas with lyngby and those without to see if there is a correlation to nutrients in the water. Areas of possible contamination are septic, agriculture and urbanization. Determine the driver of lyngbya.

This motion was made and properly seconded and approved by the membership for funding to NCSU.

Grass Carp Study: \$50,000.00. Revisit and do further research on the feeding and longevity of grass carp in Lake Gaston. Revisit the mortality rate which was based upon substantial vegetation in the lake for the fish and adjust model if required. Aj to contact Dan Stitch who did the study at Va Tech.

The motion was made and properly seconded and approved by the membership for funding to NCSU.

Funding for software application: \$2,000.00. Aj found a more suitable software program to be utilized during the full lake survey that will enhance data mining and be cheaper than current options. The LGWCC has previously agree to funding if it was reasonable.

The motion was made and properly seconded and approved by the membership for Aj to move forward.

Request for PLM to accept same pricing for 2017: Motion made by Wayne Carter to Negotiate with the 2016 Applicator to see if they would continue with the same pricing structure for 2017. If they would not then a RFP would be sent by the Treasurer to everyone.

The motion was made and properly seconded and approved by the membership. Awaiting PLM response.

Request N.C. DEQ to include lyngbya in funding: Rob Emmens presented to the membership the fact that lyngbya is not a plant but algae. Therefore it is not qualified to be part of the funding from the state. It was noted to get the message to the governor's office. Pete Deschenes said the Stakeholders were already working on this and that the LGWCC would be a partner. Wally Sayko is tasked with working with Pete for a formal letter.

The motion was made and properly seconded and approved by membership.

Approve LGWCC minutes via email: A suggestion to approved minutes via email within 7 calendar days of last draft to minimize the potential loss of information over a prolonged period.

The motion was made and properly seconded and passed by the membership.

Other matters:

The Treasurer, Judge Manning asked Rob Richardson if there were any of the NSCU Research Projects that we were funding that were not needed.

Judge noted that the cost of the bio mass will be removed from the budget.

Dominion will pick up the cost of the revegetation effort this year since there are not any grass carp to be purchased.

The President, Elton Brown will represent the LGWCC council at the upcoming LGA 5 county forum.

Wally asked every member to visit the web site and provide your expiration date of your appointment and email to him this information. He also requested members to visit the website and offer any feedback.

There being no further business before the council a motion to adjourn was made and approved at 830PM.