

History of Lake Gaston Stakeholder's Board

Late in 2004, the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (BASS) contacted both the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) and the Lake Gaston Association (LGA) expressing concerns that the Eco-System on Lake Gaston was not being properly managed. They wanted an opportunity for their membership to have a say in the management process.

BASS volunteered to hire a consulting firm to facilitate the 'coming together' of all interested parties that had a stake in the future health of Lake Gaston. Four organizational meetings were held and the resulting organization was named the Lake Gaston Stakeholders Board. During the formative stage 13 local organizations and associations and 9 state, federal and other non-local groups participated.

The mission of the LGSB is to "Develop and Maintain a Healthy Lake Eco-system". A long term lake management plan was developed. A sub-group was established as a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to monitor and implement adaptive management recommendations to the LGWCC. This group includes: State Fisheries & Water Quality Experts; Aquatic Plant Mgt Specialists; Native Plant Establishment Experts and University Researchers.

On March 5, 2015, the TAG reported their recommendations for the coming year to the LGSB. Approximately 30 LGSB and concerned citizens reviewed the recommendations and discussed possible options. One of the major discussion points was the results of the 2014 survey of Lake vegetation which indicated that infested acres of Hydrilla had dropped below 350 acres. TAG recommends a limited use of chemicals this years and indicates the stocking level of grass carp is too high (no additional grass carp stocking for 2015). Efforts to revegetate using native aquatic plants needs to be kicked into high gear.

Participating members of the LGSB unanimously concurred with the TAG Recommendations and will forward them on to the LGWCC for their consideration.

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7:00 PM CALHARY, A. et al