

Lake Gaston Weed Control Council Meeting

March 11, 2025, 2pm

Lions Club, 139 Stanley Road, Henrico, N.C.

1. Call to Order; President Brown called the meeting to order at 2pm.
2. Roll Call of Directors: Secretary Sayko confirmed a quorum of 11 members, all counties represented.
3. Any changes to the agenda: no changes and **motion to approve by John Zubrod and 2nd by Jeff Zimmer.**
4. Any changes to January 28, 2025, minutes: No changes made and a **motion to approve by John Zubrod and 2nd by Jeff Zimmer.**
5. Treasurer Report: Treasurer Jeff Zimmer: Jeff reviewed the Financial Report on the FY 2025 forecast. Jeff shared the objective to stay on target with good business decisions. Chemical costs are over budget due to cost increase. He noted that Signet was awarded the chemical contract, PLM the contract for Hydrilla control and Aqua Services the Lyngbya applicator contract. At this time the outlook will support the treatments for 2025. He noted there has not been any verification of Halifax County to fund for the 2025 cycle. **A motion by John Zubrod and 2nd by John Franz to approve. Passed.**
6. Follow Ups: Currently all counties with the exception of Halifax have provided full funding (\$116,000). Currently no response by Halifax. They did have a meeting on March 10, 2025. Jeff said that he sent a signed Grant Agreement (\$116,000 for Hydrilla Management) to Halifax in January. In early March Halifax received a letter from N.C. DEQ providing them authority to participate in the control of Hydrilla. There was significant discussion about Halifax delay. It was agreed that the April 1 deadline for funding to be received so that treatment plans can be finalized stands. Question posed about the N.C. DEQ Hydrilla funding can be counted towards Halifax contribution of \$116K annually. Jeff stated that the \$75,000 grant from NC DEQ for Hydrilla management is not dependent on Halifax, and does not offset Halifax funding. **A motion by John Zubrod and 2nd by John Franz, If any county does not provide full funding of \$116,000 then that county will not receive full treatments. If a county only provides partial funding (less than \$116,000), then treatments in that county will be prorated based on their contribution. This motion carried unanimously including a director from Halifax County.**

It was noted by Aqua Services that Lyngbya treatments would begin Mid-April. Jessica made a request to Wally Sayko to check on availability for access to the Great Creek POA boat ramp for treatments above the Rt. 903 bridge.

N.C. Weed Program: Rob Emens NC DEQ: Rob was not present. Jeff shared the work is proceeding to include Lyngbya into the DEQ list of weeds/algae. It was not likely it will happen in 2025.

Website: Wally Sayko said the new website is up and running. He thanked Jeff Zimmer and John Franz for leading the project successfully. John noted the Lgwcc can now add most items to the site and use the webmaster for more difficult items. Wally encouraged members to visit the site and provide any feedback.

Dominion Energy (DE) Funding: John Franz. This effort was to see if there were any avenues not explored where DE could provide additional funding for the Lgwcc. John reported after researching Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requirements and information on the DE website that there are no specific funding requirements related to vegetation management. Corey Chamberlain of DP shared information that they supported the cost of the grass carp over the years. This is a budget item for DP. It is about \$24K per year. He shared that grass carp are not put in the lake every year and those funds are still there. He responded to a question of is the amount left could be used for the good of the lake. He suggested a letter to the Station Manager as the first step.

7. Pete Deschenes Stakeholders Recommendation: Since Pete has moved Jeff Zimmer is acting leader of the Stakeholders. He said that the Stakeholders had approved the recommendations of the TAG and passed these on to the Lgwcc for their action. Jessica Baumann then presented the recommendations from TAG. 1. Continue to support the Habitat Enhancement project headed by Mark Fowlkes. 2. Continue to support the Annual Lake Survey by volunteers via the LGA. 3, Treat up to 200 acres of Hydrilla and no grass carp this year. 4. Treat up to 500 acres of Lyngbya. After discussion a motion by John Zubrod and 2nd by John Franz to accept the TAG recommendations was approved.
8. Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 345PM by Jeff Zimmer and 2nd by John Zubrod and approved.

Submitted March 19, 2025 by; Wally Sayko, Secretary Lgwcc