

Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) Meeting

Lake Gaston Volunteer Fire Department

7609 Highway 903, Bracey, Va.

July 17, 2025

1. Call to order: President Elton Brown called the meeting to order at 7pm
2. Roll Call of Attendees: Secretary Wally Sayko confirmed 14 directors present and quorum is met. Mecklenburg: Elton Brown, Tom Tanner, Morris Aycock. Brunswick: John Zubrod, Reggie Owens, Wally Sayko. Halifax: Dia Denton, Christina Wells, Lynn Little, Chris Fitts, Jimmie Silver. Northampton: Julian Phillips. Warren County: Jeff Zimmer. Residents: Scooter Boham-Halifax, Judy Waters-Halifax, Tracy Thompson-PLM, Patricia Price-Northampton, Lu Hanniel-Northampton, David Hanniel-Northampton, Ben Wells-Halifax, Arron Denton-Halifax.
3. Reminder of the Conflict-of-Interest Policy: Secretary Wally Sayko reviewed our policy (posted on our website). After discussion it was agreed that all the directors present would be considered updated. **Motion to approve, John Zubrod, 2nd by Reggie Owens and approved.** All 14 Directors present then are updated on the policy.
4. Any additions or changes to the March 10, 2025, Minutes: **Motion to approve by John Zubrod and 2nd by Jeff Zimmer and approved.**
5. Any changes to the agenda for the July 17 meeting: There being none, **a motion was made by Tom Tanner, 2nd by Reggie Owens and approved.**
6. Public Comments: Wally Sayko shared comments from Delegate Otto Wachsmann, Virginia. He thanked the Council for all the hard work and the good results associated with the treatment of various weed growth on Lake Gaston. He would continue to work to ensure funding from the state of Virginia continues. No other comments.
7. Review of Stakeholders proposal for future collaboration: Jeff Zimmer.
The feedback from the March 11 Stakeholders meeting participants was very positive. Good information sharing and room for improvement on the mission statement. There are new challenges with vegetation on the lake. Lyngbya is the number one issue, and in some cases native plants are becoming a nuisance to residents. The Lake Gaston Association (LGA) proposes going forward coordinating stakeholder meetings with the LGWCC. LGA will take the lead on organizing & facilitating meetings while the LGWCC will provide funding for meeting space and refreshments. A flowchart showing the feedback process from Stakeholders to the LGWCC was discussed (attached here). **A motion to accept this proposal and incorporate in budget was made by Jeff Zimmer and 2nd by Lynn Little and approved.**

8. Treasurers Report: Jeff Zimmer (see attachments),

Jeff reported the following: 1) **FY 2025 results related to budget.** Specific items discussed: NC DEQ funding is for 2 fiscal years; Halifax did fund \$75,000 while none was budgeted. Earnings from Certificates of Deposit. Expenses were favorable primarily due to timing of hydrilla applicator and chemicals. 2) **A proposed FY 2026 budget.** Basis is for treatments of 200 acres hydrilla, and 500 acres lyngbya. **Key items discussed:** Increased funding from NCDEQ for hydrilla management, no funding from NC OBM grant. Increase spending on communications, stakeholders, hydrilla management.

Jeff shared the good news that all 5 counties are fulfilling their annual contribution of \$116,000 and continuing funding from VA Conservation & Recreation of \$400,000.

A motion to approve FY 26 budget made by John Zubrod and 2nd by Tom Tanner and approved.

9. Review of Management Activities YTD: Jessica Baumann.

Jessica presented the following; All hydrilla treatments on 205 acres are complete. Lyngbya treatments continue 477 acres. April, May, June, and July treatments are completed while August and September are scheduled.

57 Property owners have registered various complaints about plant growth. Hydrilla, Lyngbya (both in and outside treatment areas), with Chara being the most common native compliant. Excessive heat and high-water temperatures are the main factors this year.

Jessica also reported on the following research projects (reports will be posted to LGWCC.org)

Water Quality: All the measured ranges are well within EPA standards. Nitrogen was a bit low. LKG has good water quality and supports a quality ecosystem.

Assessing impact of Lyngbya treatments on Tidewater Muckets: There were not any significant results in mortality of Tidewater Muckets in the controlled areas. The only noticeable measurement was slower growth with Lyngbya present.

Evaluating management protocols of algaecide treatment efficacy: It was determined that there was not a long-term impact of annual treatments. And the treatment areas showed signs of decreased health. Early season treatments (water temperature below 65f) do not appear to be effective. Efficacy does not appear to be positively related to the use of AMP, an adjuvant.

Areial drone survey of native vegetation establishment exclosures: The survey showed significant growth outside the exclosures. The Habitat Enhancement program utilized various resources to remove 3 exclosures this year. A couple of sites were replanted.

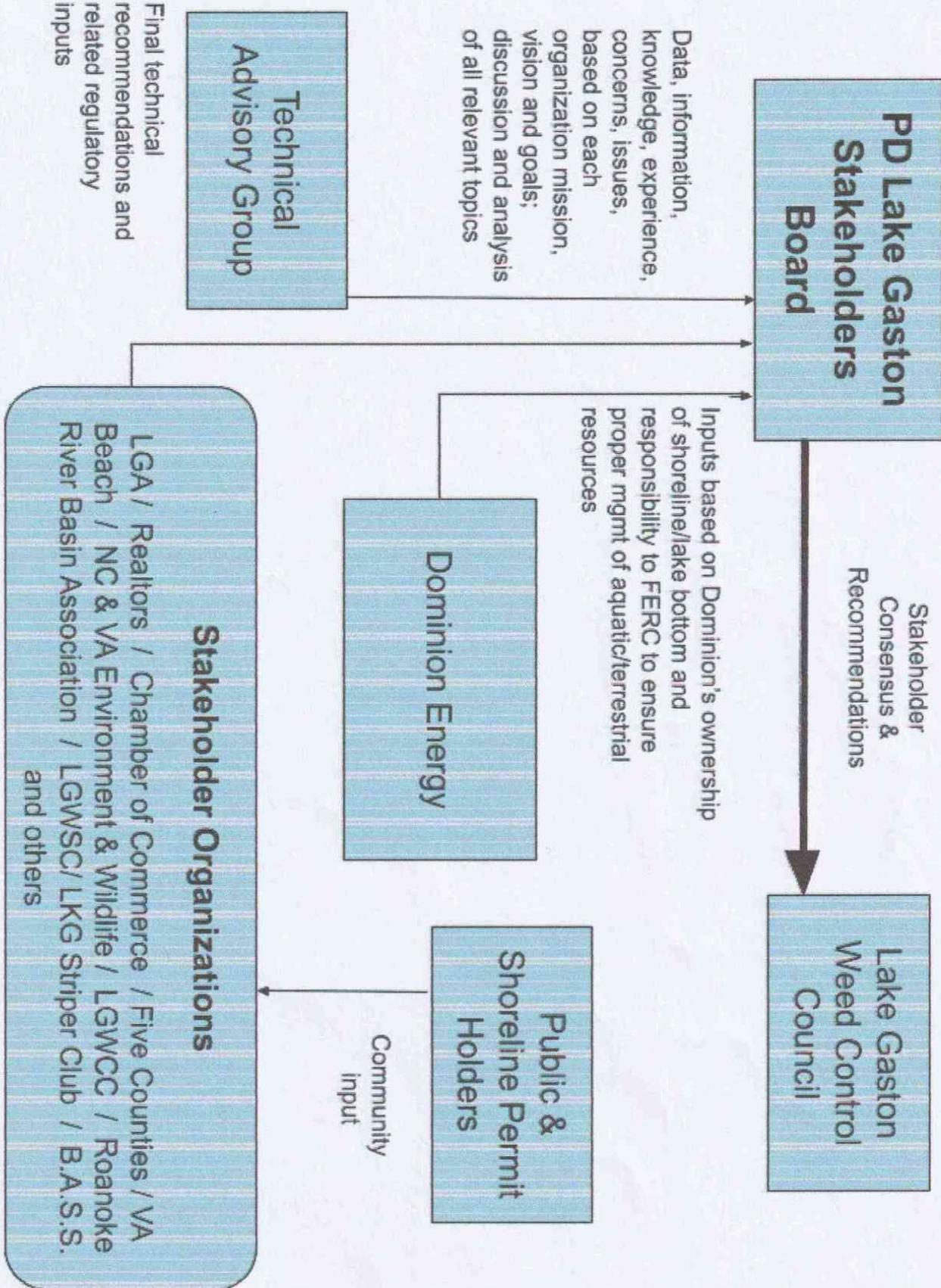
Potential of Lyngbya Toxin production: Collaborations with Old Dominion University and University of South Carolina were explored, but due to researchers vacating their positions this study was not completed. NCSU intends to use outside laboratories for analysis to complete this work in 2025/2026.

Review of Aquatic Plant Issues: Wally Sayko.

Wally reviewed the process for reporting aquatic vegetation issues. Wally is lead at LGWCC, while John Franz as the Lake Environment Committee Chair leads the LGA effort. Jessica/NCSU captures all issues using a reporting form posted on our web site. Together these folks function as a team to identify vegetation, location, and severity and collect valuable data to be utilized along with survey data for management.

Any further Business: None. **A motion to adjourn at 8:19 PM was made by John Zubrod and 2nd by Tom Tanner and approved.**

These minutes are submitted by: Wally Sayko, Secretary, LGWCC



Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC)

Conflict of Interest Policy

The purpose of the following policy and procedures is to prevent the personal interest of staff members, officers, and directors of the LGWCC from interfering with the performance of their duties to the LGWCC, or resulting in personal financial, professional, and/or political gain on the part of such persons at the expense of the LGWCC.

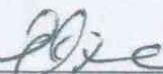
Definitions: Conflict of Interest (also Conflict) means a conflict, or the appearance of a conflict between the private interests and official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust. Persons in a position of trust include staff members, officers, and directors of the LGWCC. Governing Board (also board) means the board of directors. Director means an individual member of the board of directors. Staff member means a person who receives all or part of his/her income from the payroll of the LGWCC.

Policy:

1. **Full disclosure, by notice in writing**, shall be made by the interested parties to the full Board of Directors in all conflicts of interest, including but not limited to the following:
 - a) A director is related to another director.
 - b) A director is related to a staff member.
 - c) A director is also a staff member.
 - d) A staff member in a supervisory capacity is related to another staff member whom he/she supervises.
 - e) A director or staff member receives payment from the LGWCC for any contract, subcontract, goods, or services other than as part of his/her regular job responsibilities or as reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred as provided in the bylaws and board policy.
 - f) A director or staff member is a member of the governing body of a contributor to the LGWCC.
 - g) A director or staff member may have personal, financial, professional, or political gain at the expense of the LGWCC.
 - h) A director or staff member engages in activities that may cause a loss of public credibility in the LGWCC or create a public impression of impropriety.
2. Following full disclosure of a possible conflict of interest or any condition listed above, the board of directors shall determine whether a conflict of interest exists and, if so, the board shall vote to authorize or reject the transaction and/or condition. Both votes shall be by a majority vote without counting the vote of any interested director, even if the disinterested directors are less than a quorum, provided that at least one consenting director is disinterested.
3. An interested director, officer, or staff member shall not participate in any discussion or debate of the board of directors, or of any committee thereof, in which the subject of discussion is a contract, transaction, or situation in which there may be a conflict of interest.
4. No director, officer, or staff member shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a procurement transaction in which federal or state funds are used, where to his/her knowledge, any of the following has a financial interest in that transaction: (1) the staff member, officer, or director; (2) any member of his/her immediate family; (3) his/her partner; (4) an organization in which any of the above is an officer, director, or employee; or (5) a person or organization with whom any of the above is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment.
5. Existence of any of the above-listed conditions shall render a contract or a transaction voidable unless full disclosure of personal interest is made in writing to the board of directors and such transaction was approved by the board in full knowledge of such interest.
6. The disinterested directors are authorized to impose by majority vote other reasonable sanctions as necessary to recover associated costs against a director, officer, or staff member for failure to disclose a conflict of interest as described in Paragraph 1 or for any appearance of a conflict.

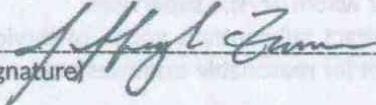
7. Appeal from sanctions imposed pursuant to Paragraph 5 and 6 above shall be prescribed by law in those courts of the State of North Carolina with jurisdiction over both the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.
8. In the event that the LGWCC has incurred costs or attorney fees as a result of legal action, litigation, or appeal brought by or on behalf of an interested director or staff member due to a conflict of interest and consequent sanctions and in the event that the LGWCC prevails in such legal action, litigation, or appeal, the LGWCC shall be entitled to recover all of its costs and attorney fees from the unsuccessful party.
9. A copy of this policy shall be given to all directors, officers, and staff members upon commencement of such person's relationship with the LGWCC. Each board member, officer, and staff member shall sign and date the policy at the beginning of his or her term of service or employment and each year thereafter. Failure to sign does not nullify the policy.

Signed:


(signature)

12/20/23
(date)

Elton H. Brown
(name printed)


(signature)

12/20/23
(date)

Jeffrey L. Zimmer
(name printed)

To ensure the policy is being regularly enforced and monitored for compliance, the Secretary shall remind board and staff members of the policy annually by email and shall require board and staff members to disclose annually any interests that may give rise to conflict.

Use the section below to disclose any interests that may give rise to conflict:

Treasurer's Report FY 2025				FY 24	65,500
Category	full year	Budget	Variance	FY 25	75,000
INCOME					
North Carolina (DEQ/DWR)	140,500.00	65,500	75,000.00		
North Carolina (OBM)	300,000.00	300,000	-		
Virginia (DCR)	400,000.00	400,000	-		
Virginia Beach	349,277.36	349,375	(97.64)		
Brunswick County	116,000.00	116,000	-		
Mecklenburg County	116,000.00	116,000	-		
Halifax County	75,000.00	-	75,000.00		
Northhampton County	116,000.00	116,000	-		
Warren County	116,000.00	116,000	-		
Interest	35,864.16	14,000	21,864.16		
Donation	50.00	-	50.00		
TOTAL INCOME	1,764,691.52	1,592,875	171,816.52		
EXPENSES					
Office Operations	315.03	300	15.03		
Bank Service Fee	0.00	-	-		
NC Ag Fd/Ext Associate	78,115.00	78,115	-		
Attorney/VA Corp Fee	160.00	200	(40.00)		
Stakeholders Forum	1,414.00	1,000	414.00		
Web Site	1,190.19	1,550	(359.81)		
Audit & Taxes	3,605.00	3,650	(45.00)		
NCSU/Tuber Survey	6,000.00	6,000	-		
NCSU/Research	78,400.00	76,000	2,400.00		
Habitat Enhancement	5,266.32	5,400	(133.68)		
NCSU/Whole Lake Survey	25,000.00	25,000	-		
NCSU Volunteer Survey +/Plar	5,775.01	5,000	775.01		
Applicator-lyngbya	248,640.20	253,254	(4,613.80)		
Applicator-hydrilla	21,289.42	31,344	(10,054.58)	less acreage	
Chemicals-lyngbya	956,126.30	1,032,146	(76,019.70)		
Chemicals-hydrilla	109,096.80	152,237	(43,140.20)		
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,540,393.27	1,671,196	(130,802.73)		
Certificate(s) of Deposit				- 8%	
FUNDS Available begin	982,745.23				
Ending	1,653,043.52				

LGWCC Proposed Budget
FY2026

Approved 7/17/25

Category	FY 25 Actual	FY 26 Budget
INCOME		
North Carolina (DEQ/DWR)	140,500.00	127,500
North Carolina (OBM)	300,000.00	-
Virginia (DCR)	400,000.00	400,000
Virginia Beach	349,277.36	357,000
Brunswick County	116,000.00	116,000
Mecklenburg County	116,000.00	116,000
Halifax County	75,000.00	116,000
Northampton County	116,000.00	116,000
Warren County	116,000.00	116,000
Interest	35,864.16	14,000
Donation	50.00	-
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,764,691.52	\$1,478,500
EXPENSES		
Office Operations	315.03	500
Communications	0.00	1,000
NC Ag Fd/Ext Associate	78,115.00	80,000
Attorney/VA Corp Fee	160.00	200
Stakeholders Forum	1,414.00	3,000
Web Site	1,190.19	650
Audit & Taxes	3,605.00	3,650
NCSU/Tuber Survey	6,000.00	6,000
NCSU/Research	78,400.00	50,000
Habitat Enhancement	5,266.32	1,000
NCSU/Whole Lake Survey	25,000.00	25,000
NCSU Volunteer Survey +/Plant ID	5,775.01	6,000
Applicator-lyngbya	248,640.20	256,875
Applicator-hydrilla	21,289.42	43,693
Chemicals-lyngbya	956,126.30	979,424
Chemicals-hydrilla	109,096.80	235,040
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,540,393.27	\$1,692,032
FUNDS Available begin	982,745	
Ending	1,653,044	\$1,439,512

LGWCC Financial History/ Forecast

		CARRY FORWARD									
INCOME	fiscal year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
North Carolina-DEQ		75,000									140,500
North Carolina-OBM											300,000
Virginia-DCR											400,000
Virginia Beach											302,052
Brunswick County											329,418
Mecklenburg County											339,198
Halifax County											349,277
Northampton County											400,000
Warren County											800,000
Priv Grants/Donations											400,000
Interest											400,000
Dominion Energy											400,000
TOTAL INCOME		\$802,025		\$580,246		\$479,056		\$280,243		\$834,738	
EXPENSES											
Office Operations		1,164	1,149	886	-	39	67	66	155	562	315
Bank Fee		-	-	-	-	-	-	108	36	74	0
NC Ag Fd/Ext Associate		48,750	48,750	26,250	45,000	45,000	45,000	72,225	75,840	78,115	
Attorney/V/A Corp Fee		-	-	-	135	160	160	160	160	160	160
Stakeholder Forum											1,414
Web Site		1,751	320	416	436	408	450	408	550	420	1,190
Audit & Taxes		2,275	2,350	2,400	2,525	2,500	2,575	2,665	3,325	3,535	3,605
NCSU/Tuber Survey		12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	0	-	18,000	6,000	6,000
NCSU/Lyngbya Research		25,000	4,000	65,000	50,000	200,000	150,000	100,000	100,000	-	0
NCSU/Research Projects											
Habitat Enhancement		8,738	8,312	7,057	1,762	1,904	3,694	871	398	305	78,400
NCSU/Whole Lake Survey		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	5,266
NCSU Volunteer Survey+/Ple		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	4,640	5,000	9,152	5,775
FastTEST		2,470	3,610	-	570	-	0	-	0	-	0
Chemical Applicator		57,788	27,386	40,423	49,162	56,964	114,025	171,840	194,957	250,090	269,930
Chemicals		424,554	236,562	162,343	201,296	236,354	431,824	655,934	837,665	1,042,024	1,065,223
NCSU/Vehicle support		-	-	-	18,023	0	-	-	0	-	0
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 614,490	\$ 374,438	\$ 346,776	\$ 392,886	\$ 603,351	\$777,796	\$1,006,691	\$1,268,820	\$1,468,162	\$1,540,393