

Lake Gaston Weed Control Council Meeting. (LGWCC)

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

March 10, 2026, 3pm

1. Call to Order: President Brown called the meeting to order at 2:55pm

He welcomed all the attendees and noted our newest director from Warren County, Wyatt Andrews.

2. Meeting administrative items:

Roll Call of directors: Secretary Sayko reported we had a quorum (9). All counties attending except Northampton. Directors present: Elton Brown, John Zubrod, Jeff Zimmer, Jay Warfel, Morris Aycok, Wyatt Andrews, Linwood Little, Chris Fits, Reggie Owens, Wally Sayko. Guests: Jessica Baumann, Rob Richardson, Rob Emmens, Mark Fowlkes, Carol Peterson (for the City of Virginia Beach).

Reminder of our Conflict-of-Interest policy: The secretary reminded the directors to abide by the policy and abstain if there was a conflict with their vote. It was agreed that all directors present will be complying.

Any additions or changes to the March 10, 2025, minutes: **Motion by John Zubrod and 2nd by Jeff Zimmer and approved.**

President Brown asked if there are any changes to today's agenda. There being none. A **motion by John Zubrod to approve and 2nd by Jeff Zimmer and approved.**

3. Aquatic vegetation management review was presented by Jessica Baumann, NCSU. Of special note is that we continue to see a reduction in lymbya acreage and mat density.

A proposal by Rob Richardson, PhD on 3 future research projects were tabled until more information on content, purpose and cost is available. Jeff requested an updated report on the lymbya toxin research.

Jessica provided the Technical Advisory Group/Stakeholder Recommendations being:

- Continued support for research, vegetation/tuber survey and habitat enhancement
- Treat up to 408 acres of hydrilla and stock 1341 Sterile Grass Carp
- Treat up to 500 acres of lymbya

To accept TAG recommendations: **Motion by Jeff Zimmer and 2nd by John Zubrod, passed unanimously.**

4. Treasurers Report: Jeff Zimmer.

Jeff said that a report on Audit of Financial Statements has been completed for FY 2025 and is available on our web site. He shared the financial data for February 2026 and fiscal YTD. February YTD income \$1,341,326 vs budget of \$1,478,000 and total expenses are \$785,249 vs budget of \$1,692,032. All counties have contributed the \$116,000 requested. Funds currently available are \$709,119,61 with an added \$1,511,442.17 invested in short-term CDs.

A discussion took place in regard to 2026 treatment year options and cash flow allowing for consistent year over year treatments.

Jeff presented options and estimated cost of treatments at three different acreage levels. Future funding from Virginia Department of Recreation & Conservation (DCR) is currently unknown and has a significant impact on treatment acreage. It was determined to table the increase of lymgbya beyond 500 acres. An increase in hydrilla treatments is called for and fiscally possible.

A motion to approve the Treasures Financial report was made by John Zubrod and 2nd by Wyatt Andrews and approved.

A motion to proceed with 2026 Treatment plans based on TAG recommendations was made by John Zubrod and 2nd by Reggie Owens and approved.

Dominion Energy (DE)Funding: Jeff reviewed a meeting with Dominion Power that was attended by John Franz and him along with Lake Gaston Association representatives. The bottom line is we should not expect any funds from DE other than the cost of putting Grass Carp into the lake. DE said they would consider a submitted request for LGWCC public recreation area management. There was no consensus on whether or how to pursue funding from DE going forward.

5. Status of Research projects: Dr. Rob Richardson, NCSU. Was discussed as item 3.

6 Review of serving Directors and Officers: Secretary Wally Sayko

The secretary reviewed the current state of Directors whose term expired at the end of February. He noted the requests had been sent to all counties that action was required.

Any proposed changes to the officers for 2026:

Jeff reported that current secretary Wally Sayko would be stepping down from his assignment. John Franz volunteered to fill the position of Secretary beginning at once. Dr. Brown will remain as President, John Zubrod as Vice President and Jeff Zimmer as Treasurer.

A motion by Wyatt Andrews and 2nd by Chris Fitts and approved.

7. Any further business?

Other Stakeholder input: None

Public Input: None

Director Discussion: None

Motion to adjourn: 4:10 PM

Motion by John Zubrod and 2nd by Jeff Zimmer

Minutes submitted by Secretary Wally Sayko: March 17, 2026.

LGWCC Treasurer's Report

February 2026

Category	Feb	YTD	Budget
INCOME			
North Carolina (DEQ/DWR)		0.00	127,500
North Carolina (OBM)		0.00	-
Virginia (DCR)		400,000.00	400,000
Virginia Beach		358,600.32	357,000
Brunswick County		116,000.00	116,000
Mecklenburg County		116,000.00	116,000
Halifax County		116,000.00	116,000
Northampton County		116,000.00	116,000
Warren County		116,000.00	116,000
Interest	218.16	2,725.20	14,000
Donation		0.00	-
TOTAL INCOME	218.16	1,341,325.52	1,478,500

EXPENSES			
Office Operations		155.91	500
Communications		0.00	1,000
NC Ag Fd/Ext Associate	20,000.00	60,000.00	80,000
Attorney/VA Corp Fee		0.00	200
Stakeholders Forum		0.00	3,000
Web Site		368.88	650
Audit & Taxes		3,874.60	3,650
NCSU/Tuber Survey		0.00	6,000
NCSU/Research		0.00	50,000
Habitat Enhancement		0.00	1,000
NCSU/Whole Lake Survey		0.00	25,000
NCSU Volunteer Survey +/-Plant ID		768.74	6,000
Applicator-lyngbya		123,885.30	256,875
Applicator-hydrilla		22,092.70	43,693
Chemicals-lyngbya		472,407.30	979,424
Chemicals-hydrilla		101,696.00	235,040
TOTAL EXPENSES	20,000.00	785,249.43	1,692,032

Certificate(s) of Deposit 1,515,442.17

FUNDS Available begin

Ending 709,119.61

funds available excludes CDs

Lake Gaston Weed Control Treatment Costs (calendar year)

2023			
	acreage	\$	\$/acre
Hydrilla	95	72,007.46	758
Lyngbya	376	<u>976,232.02</u>	2596
TOTAL		\$1,048,239.48	

2024			
Hydrilla	197	179,488.71	911
Lyngbya	500	<u>1,264,922.60</u>	2530
TOTAL		\$1,444,411.31	

2025			
Hydrilla	205	211,107.05	1032
Lyngbya	477	<u>1,233,780.60</u>	2584
TOTAL		\$1,444,887.65	

2026 options			
Hydrilla	200	210,186	1051
	300	315,279	1051
	400	420,372	1051
Lyngbya	400	1,025,184	2563
	500	1,281,480	2563
	600	1,535,580	2559
TOTAL		\$1,701,852	increase of \$257,000 from 2025

LGWCC Estimated Cash Flow

Treatment Year (calendar yr)	2026	2027	2028	2029
Beginning funds available	\$2,228,900	\$1,845,548	\$984,798	\$80,988
INCOME				
NC DEQ	127,500	125,000	125,000	
VA DCR	400,000			
VA Beach	370,000	378,000	386,000	
Five Counties	580,000	580,000	580,000	
Interest	22,000	10,000	4,000	
TOTAL INCOME	1,499,500	1,093,000	1,095,000	-
EXPENSES				
Misc	9,000	9,250	9,450	
Ext Associate	80,000	82,000	84,000	
Survey	42,000	42,000	42,000	
Research	50,000	75,000	75,000	-
TREATMENTS				
hydrilla	420,372	431,000	442,000	
lyngbya	1,281,480	1,314,500	1,346,360	
Sub Total Treatments	1,701,852	1,745,500	1,788,360	
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,882,852	1,953,750	1,998,810	-

assumptions

VA DCR funding ends FY26

2026-treat 400 acres hydrilla & 500 acres lyngbya

inflation 2.5%

