

## Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) Meeting Minutes

Lake Gaston Volunteer Fire Dept  
7609 Highway 903 Bracey, VA  
July 28, 2026

1. Call to Order: President Brown called the meeting to order at 7pm.
2. Roll Call of Attendees: Secretary Franz confirmed 12 Directors present and a quorum is met:
  - a. Mecklenburg County: Elton Brown, Tom Tanner, Morris Aycock
  - b. Brunswick County: John Zubrod, Wally Sayko, Reggie Owens
  - c. Northampton County: Larry Lyles
  - d. Warren County: Jeff Zimmer, Wyatt Andrews, John Franz
  - e. Halifax County: Dia Denton, Lynnwood Little
  - f. Stakeholders: Scooter Boham (LGA) Trevor Ferguson/Josh Simpson (Dominion), Rob Richardson/Jessica Baumann (NCSU)
  - g. Members of the public: Judy Waters, Connie Topp, Donna Zubrod, Mr. Denton
3. Review of Conflict of Interest Policy: Secretary Franz reminded Directors of the policy and the requirement for any Director to recuse themselves from any discussion/decision where they may have a conflict.
4. **The minutes from March 10, 2026 were approved (Motion by Zubrod and second by Zimmer).**
5. **The agenda for tonight's meeting was approved (Motion by Zubrod and second by Aycock).**
6. Treasurer Zimmer briefed the Council on the closeout of the 2026 Budget identifying minor variations with expenses coming in under budget by approximately \$79K. He also presented the proposed budget and spend plan for 2027. The planned expenses will exceed current income by just under \$200K. This is due to no funding from the NC OSBM. All other funding partners provided their share, including VA DCR. The difference in revenue versus expenses will be made up with funds on hand, leaving funds on hand at just over \$1,300K. **The motion to approve the FY27 Budget was made (motion by Tanner and second by Zubrod) and approved by the Council.** Treasurer Zimmer also reported to the Council the recent FY26 Audit was completed and determined to be a "clean audit" with no deficiencies.
7. Treasurer Zimmer provided some history and an update on efforts to work with Dominion in order to obtain funding for aquatic vegetation management

programs. The current status of the effort is that all five counties have or soon will have sent letters to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requesting that the Commission assist with efforts to have Dominion provide funding for aquatic vegetation management on Lake Gaston. The LGA has also sent a letter to the FERC in support of Dominion providing funding for the program. Treasurer Zimmer recommended that the LGWCC also send a letter to the FERC requesting they support the counties' and LGA requests and work with Dominion to provide support for the aquatic vegetation management program financially. **A motion was made (by Andrews) and second (by Zubrod) and approved by the Council to have a letter prepared and sent to the FERC.**

8. Jessica Baumann (NCSU) provided an aquatic vegetation management review. She covered the status of hydrilla treatments (all 3 treatments complete) and lyngbya treatments (4 treatments complete with 2 pending). No issues are reported. Jessica then reviewed the status of public reports of issues/concerns with aquatic vegetation on the lake. She reported a significant increase in public issues/concerns, in particular those related to native vegetation. Southern naiad has been the majority of the inputs received.

A new vegetation issue reporting tool implemented in 2026 for public use, developed by NCSU was presented. This online tool will help streamline the process of the public inputting reports, NCSU receiving the public inputs, capturing the inputs for the official record and responding to the inputs. During this discussion a process flow diagram was reviewed showing the six ways in which the public can report concerns with aquatic vegetation on LKG. The Council agreed this new reporting tool should become the foundation for all public inputs on vegetation concerns going forward and gave direction to modify the existing process to eliminate any reporting inputs that do not begin with the use of the reporting tool.

9. Secretary Franz provided a review of Directors with terms expiring in 2026. Director Tanner noted that LJ Dornak is no longer a Mecklenburg County director and that Chad Barbour was recently appointed as a Director (Franz received the documentation after the meeting and the change has been made). Also Director Kelvin Edwards term expires in December 2026. Director Liles was asked to bring this to the attention of Northampton County staff.
10. Status of NCSU Research Projects was briefed by Jessica Baumann.
  - a. The lyngbya toxin project (Assessing the Potential for Lyngbya Toxin Production in LKG) is complete, however NCSU recommended a third round of samples for assessing toxin releases to better understand concentrations and timing of toxin releases.

- b. NCSU recommended updating the Habitat Enhancement Aerial Drone Survey from 2022, and
- c. A literature review identifying environmental conditions created through the aging process of impoundment and identifying conditions influencing proliferation of cyanobacteria and management implications.
- d. Another recommendation was a project to better understand the plant community dynamics and its influence on current management strategies. This would include a mapping effort, documenting existing environmental conditions and management of native vegetation via suppression.

Vice President Zubrod expressed some concerns regarding the potential for long-term impacts of using herbicides and algaecides on the LKG environment. This could include the build up of copper or other chemicals in the environment. NCSU indicated they could assemble some information and data to demonstrate this should not be a problem on LKG. **A motion was made (Zimmer) and second (Andrews) to increase the original proposed FY27 budget for research projects from \$50K to \$100K, which was approved.** Treasurer Zimmer stated that the approved FY27 budget would be posted on our website.

11. Public input was received from Trevor Fergusen (Dominion) that Dominion intends to participate in all LGWCC meetings to the extent possible. He also stated that Dominion would consider requests for funding support of vegetation management efforts on “a case by case basis” using submitted invoices from the LGWCC. The possibility of upfront funding for specific projects was discussed, but that is not a preferred method per Dominion standard procedures.
12. During the Director discussion portion of the meeting, Treasurer Zimmer raised the issue of sterile grass carp stocking in LKG. The TAG recommended stocking 1,341 carp during their meeting on March 10, 2026. In June it was identified the stocking did not proceed as planned. The exact reason that carp were not stocked was unclear as of tonight's meeting. There was also discussion regarding the carp stocking process (e.g. obtaining permit, ordering fish, stocking fish) including the communication lines and whether that process is as robust as it needs to be. Related to this discussion was the question of whether the next possible stocking opportunity (likely this fall) could be increased beyond the original planned number to account for the excessive amounts of southern naiad present in the lake this spring/summer. The following actions were identified:
  - a. Followup on failure to stock fish in the spring 2026 (Zimmer w/ assistance from Dominion)
  - b. Determine if number of 2026 carp can be increased to account for naiad (Zimmer and NCSU w/assistance from TAG and Dominion)
  - c. Establish documented process for future carp stocking (Zimmer)

- d. Confirm 2026 carp are ordered and stocked at the next viable opportunity (Zimmer and NCSU)

Treasurer Zimmer recognized Director Sayko for his dedication to the LGWCC and LKG during his years of Service as the LGWCC Secretary.

13. There being no further business, the **meeting was adjourned by President Brown motion and second by Vice President Zubrod at approximately 9pm.**

Minutes submitted by Secretary Franz: August 3, 2026