

Lake Gaston Weed Control Council (LGWCC) meeting minutes

September 20, 2022: Lake Gaston Volunteer Fire Dept. 7pm

Approved Oct. 20,2022

Director Attendees: Elton Brown, John Zubrod, Jeff Zimmer, Wayne Carter, John Cataldo, Pete Deschenes. (7)

Other Attendees: Jessica Baumann, Rob Richardson, Judy Waters.

Call to order: President Elton Brown at 7pm

Roll Call of Attendance by Secretary Wally Sayko: Quorum not met only 7 directors present. Meeting continued on a discussion only basis.

Motion to approve Agenda: No Quorum No vote taken

Motion to approve July 14 minutes: No quorum No vote taken

Open Public Comments:

Jessica said she has had numerous comments to the Aquatic Weeds website. Mostly about Lyngbya, Chara and Water Willow.

Wally reported 19 emails/phone contacts since July meeting: About 70% Lyngbya, the others Water Willow, Chara and some Hydrilla.

Discussion:

1. For residents who asked about Lyngbya or Hydrilla treatment they were encouraged to contact either PLM or Aqua Services who are currently providing applicator services on Lake Gaston.
2. Several confused Chara with Hydrilla
3. Residents seem to be understanding of the situation. Limited funding influences the amount of treatments.
4. Clarification on the difference in application by Aqua Services and PLM

Treasurer's Report:

Jeff presented 5 year Financial History and Forecast for the current year and into 2025/2026. This was based current funding levels and the revised cost of the NCSU

Proposed Activities. Rob and Jessica were able to lower the cost from the previous meeting substantially.

The outlook does not allow any further acreage to be treated other than the 376 currently being treated. As we move to the beginning of fiscal year 2025, we will have only \$173,106 of funds available. In order to continue treatments at this level, we need at least \$400,000 of funds available beginning a fiscal year. All counties are not contributing the agreed amount of \$116,000. Brunswick at \$90,000 and Halifax at \$58,000 are creating the shortfall in large part.

Jeff suggested proposing a multiyear agreement with Aqua Services for applications, much like we did with the chemical contract to lock in our costs for 2-3 years.

Jessica explained the value of the three (3) Proposed Activities (Survey & Research projects): Water Quality, Tidewater Mucklets, Lygnbya Toxins and Lab Evaluations.

A discussion on additional resources centered around full county participation, and a possible increase from the counties to our funding. Wayne mentioned that the Commonwealth may consider an amendment for funding. Rob mentioned a source of money from the state of NC that we could try to get, and Elton will pursue contact with the City of Virginia Beach.

Other:

Discussion on Director participation. This is critical to have all counties represented at each meeting. Some have not attended a meeting in over a year. We will begin to alternate the meetings between Lake Gaston Fire Dept and Longbridge Fire Dept.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Submitted by Wally Sayko, Secretary Lgwcc.

September 21, 2022