

Lake Gaston Stakeholders Board Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2010

Attendance (17 voting members):

Lucy Allen (NC State Rep), Pete Deschenes (chairman), Rob Emens (NCDENR), Doug Hughes (LGA), Mike McCarthy (Virginia Beach), Dr. Rob Richardson (NC State Univ), Jim Thornton (Dominion), Bruce Johnson (alt Northampton), Ron Skow (alt Warren), Dr. Michael Smart (USACE), Tom Winebrenner (alt Halifax), Don Springle (LG Striper Club), Kirk Rundle (NC Wildlife Resources), Fred Taylor (alt LGWSC), Vernon Wilson (FLWT), Wally Sayko (alt Brunswick), *Vic DiCenzo (VADGIF)*

Also present: Chuck Wiley(ProLake Management), John Catalda(HOA), Susie Deschenes, Steve Hoyle(NC State University), Tony Moran(HOA), Joe Peterson(Dominion), Tom Warmuth(Cygnnet Enterprises, Inc)

Italicized names indicate attendance via conference call.

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Overview Meeting Objectives
3. Remetrix Survey
4. TAG Recommendations
 - Tagging/tracking
 - Mortality Rates
 - Stocking Numbers
 - Stocking Locations
 - Cohort Analysis
5. NCDENR Funding Update
6. LGWCC Budget
7. USACE Revegetation Project

The meeting of the Stakeholders Board was held on March 23, 2010 at Dominion Generation.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Pete Deschenes at 9:35 am. A Distribution List was sent around as a sign-in sheet. People were asked to make any changes to it and check voting members of the group they represent. Vernon Wilson will check with BASS for a more active participant of that organization. A quorum was in attendance, with 17 voting organizations represented. Pete reviewed TAG and its purpose. It was stated that the Secretary's minutes would be sent out, with Steve Hoyle adding them to the TAG website. After seven (7) days, with no comment, the minutes would be considered approved. Pete introduced Lucy Allen, a NC State Representative and friend of Lake Gaston.

Dr. Rob Richardson reviewed the Remetrix Report, which is an annual weed survey of the lake. There is a link to this report on the LGWCC website including the last three years of data. In 2009 there were 1477 acres invested with hydrilla, 240 more acres than in 2008. The number

of occurrences of lyngbya went up in 2009 by 59%. Chuck Wiley is working with the chemical companies on a treatment plan, which would be a two day process to break down the mats and then treat them.

Dr. Rob Richardson presented the TAG recommendations:

- maintain a stocking rate of 15 carp per infested acre
- continue to use the NC Wildlife Resources model incorporating a 30% mortality rate in year 1 & 2 and a 20% mortality rate thereafter up until age 20 when all fish will be considered dead.
- stock fish in three areas due to little movement of fish - these areas would be 50% at River Ridge, 25% at Hubquarter Creek, and 25% at Little Stonehouse Creek
- continue grass carp tagging research – monitoring previously tagged fish and research with otoliths;
- LGWCC should select a vendor for each chemical that may be used for treatment during 2010 rather than select a vendor for the entire chemical list.

Using the current figures for 2009 hydrilla acreage and model output, this will result in an additional stocking of 7347 grass carp in 2010. This will be the second consecutive year where the stocking target has been 15 fish per hydrilla acre.

Rob made a motion to accept the 2010 TAG Recommendation, seconded, passed.

Vernon Wilson asked about the spread on lyngbya and Rob explained TAG was not asked by LGWCC or LGSB to evaluate this algae. Rob will check with Remetrix to see if lyngbya data collected by the volunteers was incorporated.

Vernon Wilson made a motion to have TAG study lyngbya and make recommendations on its control, seconded, passed.

The minutes of the TAG meetings will be posted on the website: lgtag.ncsu.edu

Vic DiCenzo reported additional data on carp tagging, tracking, mortality and stocking:

- currently tracking 26 fish, 3 from 2008
- carp movement is minimal from initial entry into the lake
- mortality rate is difficult to estimate. Having a Virginia Tech Masters candidate to evaluate data has been beneficial to estimate consumption, maximum size, and mortality.

Kirk Rundle looked at the data from Virginia Tech to refine recommendation for next year. Several people brought up the 2003 stocking as having a high mortality rate due to small size of fish and late stocking, concerned that mortality percentages figured on this year were not accurate and should be much higher. Kirk was asked to look into the data and discuss the 2003 year class mortality rate at next year's meeting.

Rob Emens gave the NCDENR Funding update. He reported that state funding in the past has been \$350-400K, with \$200k designated for Lake Gaston. This year there is nothing in the budget but there is \$75K earmarked for Lake Gaston and a potential for more money. This money is conditional on matching funds from the three NC counties. Representative Allen said she and Representative Wray will work on finding more money.

Tom Winebrenner presented the LBWCC budget. There is a carryover of \$140,320. The \$58K from Mecklenburg, Warren and Brunswick Counties are budgeted but questionable. Halifax County has \$0 budgeted and Northampton County budgeted \$25K in June, which may not be available. North Carolina has budgeted \$75k and Virginia Beach \$241K. He reported \$507,920.00 total.

Dr. Michael Smart reported findings from the USACE- Revegetation Project. They have identified suitable plant species and enclosure designs. In the 2009 Demonstration project 357 cages and 8 big pens were planted with 630 plants from the prison farm with a 95% survival rate. The 2010 plan is to work with LG volunteers to monitor and maintain older enclosures. Pete appealed to the Striper Club, LGA LGWSC to give Mike a coordinator and group of volunteers for this effort. Mike's recommendations are to reset the grass carp enclosures, evaluate hydrilla growth inside and adjacent to the enclosures as a measure of grass carp effectiveness, and to conduct a field test of hydrilla control with a contact herbicide followed by restoration of native plants.

Dominion was asked to hold meetings with approved applicators to discuss treatment of non-noxious vegetation. Discussion suggested this should be done on the state level, possibly as an incentive to applicators.

Bruce Johnson presented a grass carp PowerPoint overview.

It was suggested notice be sent to voting members on the distribution list addressing attendance.

Pete thanked Dominion for hosting the meeting; he thanked Rob and the members of the Stakeholder's Board for attending and adjourned the meeting at 12:40 pm.

****Action Items****

- Vernon Wilson – Check with BASS on representation
- Rob Richardson – Check with Remetrix on lymbya data, was it incorporated
- Kirk Rundle – discuss 2003 year class mortality rate at next year's meeting
- Don Springle – check Striper Club for revegetation volunteers and possible coordinator
- Doug Hughes – check LGA for revegetation volunteers and possible coordinator
- Doug Kolb – check LGWSC for revegetation volunteers and possible coordinator
- Pete Deschenes – notice to voting members not attending the last two meetings

Respectfully submitted

Susie Deschenes