

Minutes for the June 11, 2016 Annual Meeting (Unapproved)

The meeting began at 9:33 AM. The President, Bill Heflin, called the meeting to order and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He then called for a moment of silence. In attendance were Directors Clarence Drumgoole, Jeff Dowhan, Al Potter, Tony Moran, Don Carson, John Cataldo, Carol Warfel, Wally Sayko and Jack Saunders, and VP Mozzine Lowe and Exec. Dir. Moira Underwood. The twenty-eight persons in the audience introduced themselves. Bill asked for a motion to approve the agenda which was made, seconded and passed.

Bill introduced Mr. Larry Meddock, the Chairman of the Water Sports Industry Association, who first gave a brief personal background and an overview of how the WSIA began and what it does currently, including working with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), the US Coast Guard and other state and federal agencies, to advance safety in the operation and enjoyment of Water Sports products from vessels in all classes to inflatables.

Larry identified the two leading causes of accidents, injuries and fatalities as Boating Under the Influence (BUI) and operator inattention. A significant number of incidents resulting from BUI occur during what can be referred to as “Booze Cruises”. These are often at night with poor lighting and too much liquid courage. A number of the operator inattention incidents involve injuries to persons/children being towed on inflatables. Coast Guard statistics reflect that such activity has the highest incidence of accidents of all causes.

Larry showed several videos including one addressing the life changing results of a night “Booze Cruise” which resulted in the collision of a vessel with a dock resulting in multiple injuries and one fatality. Such accidents are easy to avoid with proper planning and execution to include assuring that the vessel operator is not intoxicated by having a designated abstaining driver.

Larry then showed a CGI (computer generated image) video that highlighted all of the major rules and guidelines for safe towing of skiers, boarders, and inflatables. Studies have identified greater public acceptance without bias based responses to CGI representation of people rather than live models/actors. Larry provided a handout available from WSIA that includes a summary of the rules and guidelines for safe towing. The videos show the safest practices including those associated with towing multiple inflatables.

He also showed a short video addressing operator courtesy when operating “Wake” boats including methods for sharing the water and maintaining healthy relationships between people enjoying the water in different way. He last addressed some of the current activity looking at how to make use and wear of life jackets more automatic for all ages just as the use of seat belts in vehicles has become.

Bill thanked him for the presentation and provided an LGA cap and key float.

Bill then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 2015 Secretary's report. Wally made the motion and John Cataldo seconded. The motion was passed. The treasurer's report was made and accepted.

Wally then introduced the new Lake Gaston Extension Agent/Aquatic Plant Lake Manager, replacing Justin Narwocki who has moved to private industry. The new Manager is Alejandro (AJ) Reyes, coming from the northern New York area after completing a Masters in Lake Management. He briefed the hydrilla treatment completed so far this year in accordance with the Technical Advisory Group recommended, Stakeholders Board endorsed and Lake Gaston Weed Control Council approved 2016 Treatment Plan. He also addressed early lymgbya treatment and how little is really known about the causes, growth and treatment of the algae.

Bill presented a plaque to outgoing Northampton Director Clarence Drumgoole and thanked him for his 6+ years of service and for leading the Nominating and Lake Gaston Clean-Up Committees. Clarence thanked the Lake Gaston Association and stated that he would continue to support the LGA, a commitment we will hold him to.

John Cataldo motioned that Wally Sayko be confirmed for a second term as an LGA director, Mozine seconded. Motion was passed.

Bill provided a brief overview of the past year in the LGA with a focus on the high water issues we experienced over the past Fall/Winter. He outlined our activities and the resulting extension of Dominion's "Good Neighbor" commitment and the Corps commitment to declare Flood Control status only when they are releasing high volumes of water from Kerr. This should increase the number of days that Dominion will maintain Lake Gaston in the Normal range (199'-200') compared to prior practice. Bill also fielded a few questions on the subject from the audience.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. and everyone was invited to the pavilion for a sumptuous cookout lunch.

Reported by the temporary Secretaries, Jack D. Saunders, Remaining Director Northampton County and Don Carson, Director Warren County