

Minutes for the June 10, 2017 Annual Meeting (APPROVED)

The meeting began at 10:00 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 Al Potter, Tony Moran, Don Carson, John Cataldo, Carol Warfel, Jack Saunders, VP Mozine Lowe, Brian Goldsworthy and Executive Director Moira Underwood. There were 66 persons in the audience plus a member of the press. Bill asked for a motion to approve the agenda which was made, seconded and passed.

Treasurer Jack Saunders reviewed the Treasurer's report and assured the audience that the LGA was strong financially. There were no questions from the audience.

Jack then introduced our guest speaker Mr. Tom Guess, Legislative and Policy Manager, State Boating Law Administrator in the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). Tom, a 21 year US Coast Guard veteran, gave a brief overview how legislation is passed in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This was a good lead in to explain how difficult it is to get a law passed. He noted of 5,000 bills per year that are introduced, only 1/3 to 1/4 are approved. He commented on the success of the mandatory boating education requirement for all State residents.

He reported 2016 resulted in an uptick of 21 water related fatalities. Interestingly, 10 of the 21 fatalities involved persons not wearing a PFD (life jacket) while engaged in paddle board sports such as a stand up paddle board, canoe or a kayak. Tom advised with over 10 million kayaks made annually, it's logical to assume an increase in fatalities will continue unless there is a change in the mind set to wear that PFD when engaged in waterboard sports. The bottom line, Tom noted, "...It's too late to try to put that life jacket on once you are in the water".

Finally, Tom commented there are no easy answers to address those who are inconsiderate of their wake while driving any type of water craft. He reinforced a three prong approach to include Education, Outreach and Legislation. During the Q&A, Tom reminded everyone to label their paddle boats with name and address.

Bill thanked him for speaking at our meeting and presented an LGA hat as a token of our appreciation.

Secretary Brian Goldsworthy discussed highlights of the 2016 annual meeting which have been posted on the LGA web site for the past year. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented, seconded and passed unanimously.

Our next speaker was AJ Reyes, NC State Extension Specialist/Aquatic Plant Lake Manager. AJ discussed the 2017 Lake Gaston Weed Control Council treatment efforts. AJ advised efforts to control Hydrilla continue to be working at the lake. As per the Technical Advisory Group recommendation which was endorsed by the Stakeholder's Board and Lake Gaston Weed Control Council, the 2017 Treatment Plan will primarily address the Lyngbya issue. Research is underway to learn more about the causes, growth and treatment of the algae.

Della Rose, Managing Editor of the Lake Gaston Gazette-Observer, mentioned that the "First Annual Lake Gaston Water Garden Competition" is an effort to improve the aquatic ecosystem on the lake.

Bill presented a plaque to outgoing Mecklenburg Director Al Potter and thanked him for his 6+ years of service. Bill noted with Al stepping down the Association does not have a representative living in Mecklenburg County.

Nominating Committee Chair Clarence Drumgoole motioned that Carol Warfel, Bill Heflin and Tony Moran be confirmed for a second term and Brian Goldsworthy for his first term as LGA directors. Warren County Director Don Carson seconded. Motion was passed.

Bill provided a brief overview of the past year in the LGA with a special thanks to Dominion Energy for the great job that has been done to manage water levels in the lake since the establishment of QRR. Bill noted the LGA core programs have continued including the annual Revegetation project, the annual Aquatic plant survey of the entire lake, Lake Clean Up Day and the Annual Shred Day. The Lakeside Learning Day for 6th graders now includes 3 of the 5 county schools. The Five County Forum for county managers and commissioners has been so successful it's been expanded to include a Five County Forum for the school superintendents.

Bill also fielded a few questions from the audience.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. and everyone was invited to the pavilion for a tasty hot dog cookout lunch prepared masterfully by our in house chef Jack Saunders.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Goldsworthy, Secretary