

LGA – Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 11, 2021

Lake Gaston Baptist Church

Note: This was our first face-to-face meeting with the membership since February 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM by President Don Carson.

Those participating in the meeting were Directors Carol Warfel, Al Potter, Jeff Zimmer, John Cataldo, David Murphy, Judy Waters, Jeff Dowhan, Tony Moran, Bill Heflin, and Brian Goldsworthy. Also attending were Executive Director Moira Underwood and Luly Carson. We had a total of 29 attendees including one member of the press.

We began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Today's Agenda was approved (BH/JZ) and passed unanimously.

The May 5, 2021, monthly meeting minutes were approved and have been posted on the website.

The monthly Treasurer's report was reviewed. Year to date the Operating funds balance is \$36,786.43. We are current with all financial obligations and the LGA is on firm financial ground.

Motion to approve (TM/JZ) and passed unanimously.

Don introduced Director Al Potter, who provided an overview of the E-Coli kits and indicated the kits would be available for distribution after the meeting.

Jeff Zimmer, Chair Lake Environment Committee, introduced our guest speaker, Steve Hoyle. Steve retired after 35 years with NC State University (NCSU) as an Aquatic Plant Manager. Steve has presented before and is a favorite of the LGA audience because he distills the technical jargon into easy-to-understand terms.

The discussion began with why Lyngbya is becoming more of an issue at Lake Gaston. Lyngbya was first identified as being at Lake Gaston in 1995, spreads easily, and is now known to cover 1200 acres. Unlike Hydrilla which is an invasive weed and is under control, Lyngbya is a cyanobacteria or blue-green alga native to the lake and is considered noxious. As we all know, Lyngbya is difficult to control with no easy fix. Sadly, grass carp are not fond of Lyngbya.

Steve stated that exactly what causes Lyngbya to grow and spread is still under investigation. The Lake Gaston Weed Control Council continues to fund research by NCSU to determine effective control measures. This year the Council is funding treatments on 300 acres using selected EPA-approved herbicides. Multiple treatments during the growing season over multiple years are required for control. Support of our local county governments is critical to provide funding.

NCSU is working with researchers from Old Dominion University (ODU) to determine if Lyngbya is emitting toxins which may be hazardous to humans.

Steve asked us to not blow leaves and grass clippings into the lake. These provide nutrients which contribute to the growth of Lyngbya.

After a robust Q&A session, Don presented as a thank you one of our LGA-branded coffee mugs and coffee from Lake Gaston Coffee.

The next item on the agenda was the reading of the meeting minutes from the June 8, 2019, annual meeting by acting secretary Brian Goldsworthy. Note the annual meeting did not take place in 2020 because of the pandemic. Minutes were approved unanimously.

In New Business, the membership voted, as presented by Nominating Chair Bill Heflin, the following slate of directors:

Halifax County - Judy Waters - (2nd) - 3-year term
Warren County - Don Carson - (3rd) - 3-year term
Luly Carson - (1st) - 3-year term
Brunswick - John Cataldo - (3rd) - 3-year term
Mecklenburg - Al Potter - (2nd) - 3-year term

The individuals named above were approved by the membership.

Don then asked if the Committee Chairs present had an update on their activities.

Jeff Zimmer, Lake Environment Chair, said volunteers are needed to assist with cage repair on June 14-17. E-coli kits will be available at the June 12 Annual Meeting.

With no further questions or comments, motion by JZ/DM to adjourn and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Goldsworthy, VP, and Acting Secretary