

LAKE ANNA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Richard E. Holbert Building
Spotsylvania County
MINUTES – November 29, 2017 MEETING

DETERMINATION AND CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Heidig called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ann Heidig, Chair; Chris McCotter, Vice-Chair; Richard “Dick” Shrum, Treasurer; Gary Bullis, Spotsylvania County; Greg Benton, Spotsylvania County; Jim White, Orange County; R.T. Williams, Louisa County; Sarah Perkinson, Dominion Energy.

Others Present: Doug Smith; Jean McCormick; Allan Lassiter; Paulette Mann

CITIZEN’S INFORMATION PERIOD

There were no speakers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- September 27, 2017

There was a minor amendment to page 2 of the draft minutes from September 27, 2017. Where it states Navigation Subcommittee it should be changed to Safety Committee. Where Dominion Power is referenced, it should be changed to Dominion Energy. Lastly, the vote under Finance Committee should be changed to 6-1 with Ms. Perkinson voting no.

Motion and vote: Mr. Benton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bullis to approve the revised minutes for the September 27, 2017 meeting with the aforementioned changes. The motion passed 7-0-1 with Mr. Williams abstaining due to his absence.

BILLS FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Mr. Shrum stated that he received no bills for payment and assumed that there were none outstanding.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Shrum stated that he had circulated a copy of the report and discussed the accrued interest that we received. He stated that he is still trying to sort out the Buoy fund. There was discussion whether they had asked for formal funding from Orange County.

Mr. Shrum stated that he looked into better funding for the CD’s and transferred them to get a better rate. He stated that he will focus on the other that will mature in the spring for a better rate.

He discussed that he is still working on the format of the report. He stated that there haven’t been a lot of expenses as of late. He also advised that he misspoke when he stated that Louisa only paid half of their funding to the Committee. They have paid the full amount. Lastly he discussed that the bylaws of the Committee suggest an audit occur.

There was discussion that the Finance office took a look at the Committee’s financials a few years ago and there were no discrepancies.

Because audits can be rather expensive, Mr. Williams suggesting amending the bylaws in the future to include a financial review, rotated amongst the three counties.

Ms. Heidig agreed that is a great idea.

Mr. White stated that he would not support a full audit by an outside auditor because it is very expensive and would eat into the funding that the Committee has.

Mr. Shrum also stated that he is having difficulty figuring how much money is earmarked for hydrilla.

Mr. White stated that it would be a near impossible task because the amount has nearly doubled due to interest accrued over the years.

Mr. Doug Smith stated that he has been informed that the Committee has spent no money on hydrilla until the last three years.

Mr. McCotter commended Mr. Shrum for his commendable job as the Committee's Treasurer considering all that he has going on.

The Committee approved the Treasurer's report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Roll of the LAAC

Ms. Heidig stated that this item may be better to discuss at the January organizational meeting.

Mr. White stated that we do not have a blank slate. The agreement is basically set out for us. It states that this Committee can recommend ordinances, coordinate matters that affect all three counties such as no wake buoys, and manage undesirable species. He stated that unless the co-agreement is amended, we have clear direction as to what the Committee can discuss. He stated that it appears the agreement was intended to be narrow, not broad and give reign.

Mr. Shrum stated that he believes it to be for promoting cooperation on issues concerning Lake Anna.

Mr. McCotter stated that the Hydrilla Subcommittee advises us how to handle the hydrilla.

Mr. Williams stated that it doesn't mean that this committee needs to fix the hydrilla, but advise the three counties on the situation and let them make the decision unless the three counties have given us the liberty to do so and he is not hearing that.

Ms. Perkinson stated that the LAAC is an advisory committee and sees us as research tool. She discussed the situation with the wake surfers in Spotsylvania. She stated that she sees the LAAC doing the leg work and research and reporting back to the three counties and letting them decide how to address the major issues.

Mr. McCotter stated that we need to focus on what we are mandated to do. He suggested meeting with each of their county representatives and ask them the question, "What do you want us to do?" He stated that each of the counties is represented by a Board member.

Mr. Williams stated that an annual report would be good to provide to the Boards.

Ms. Heidig stated that it has not been done.

Mr. McCotter stated that it never hurts to ask, "How can we help you?" He agreed with Ms. Perkinson.

Ms. Heidig stated that in regard to the wake surfing issues, we did take that to Louisa and Spotsylvania.

There was discussion about this body being the only body with true cooperation and that we should operate with a clear plan and clear objectives.

Ms. McCormick stated that this is the only committee with joint cooperation and they should be representing the folks that live on the lake and the issues associated with the lake. She stated that this committee needs to step up and stop letting ideas getting thrown out there and then they die. She suggested that the committee speak up and take control.

Ms. Perkinson stated that she had inquired who serves on the subcommittees and was told that there wasn't a list. She inquired if anyone on the Committee knew of such a list. She stated that she would like to see the list of volunteers.

Ms. Heidig suggested that all of these points are valid but to defer to the January meeting and consider amendment to the bylaws.

Ms. Regina Howell stood and asked how to find out when the LAAC meets.

She was advised that the Committee meets every other month on the fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m. and is rotated amongst the three counties.

Mr. Williams inquired where Ms. Howell resides and it was determined to be in Louisa. He suggested that she contact Stephanie Koran with her concerns.

There was a brief discussion about lighting on the lake.

Mr. McCotter stated that this was discussed two years ago.

There was a brief discussion about the Lake Anna Civic Association and how they conduct business. They have an annual meeting that is open to members.

Mr. Smith stated that the citizens around the lake are welcome to join by paying the dues. He stated that he feels that the LAAC needs to rehab their image.

Mr. Shrum stated that the members have been trying to do so.

Mr. White advised that this committee is strictly advisory and has no decision powers.

Ms. Perkinson stated that issues have to be addressed jointly and advise on items to the Boards once jointly agreed upon by the LAAC.

Ms. Heidig discussed the resolution at each of the member's places regarding requesting additional law enforcement on Lake Anna from the VDGIF. She stated that she will sign it and send to the Boards.

Mr. McCotter stated that he has personally spoken to Donnie and he is very interested in boating safety and is extremely receptive.

There was discussion about the lack of personnel in the local sheriff's departments because everyone is leaving to make a higher salary with the state police.

Motion and vote: Ms. Perkinson made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCotter to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Heidig advised that she will be resigning from this Committee after tonight's meeting. She stated that she has appreciated working with all of the members.

OLD BUSINESS

Hydrilla report

Mr. Doug Smith thanked members who have volunteered to do the work. Mr. Lassiter, Mr. Shutez, and Mr. Zemke have led the efforts.

A lake wide survey was done in the middle of October and that Freshwater Creek and Cove contains most of the hydrilla. It is broad, shallow and non-navigational. The treatment was focused there and is mostly gone.

The Committee is not recommending additional grass carp but it will become a broader problem if we don't replenish the carp at some point. Right now, they don't feel it to be a large enough problem.

Mr. Smith stated that they intend to use the herbicide treatment again but need a better way to get into the shallow areas.

Mr. Shrum asked for clarification on the acreage numbers.

Mr. Smith stated that 9.6 acres previously had hydrilla and now its 1.5 acres after application. They only treated three areas but it was effective.

There was discussion about how they got to those shallow areas.

Ms. Howell stated that it was difficult; you have to use a pontoon or kayak.

Mr. Shrum inquired fi they sprayed around docks.

Mr. Smith stated they did, but it is difficult.

Mr. Lassiter stated that the contractor says we really need to get into those shallow areas better and earlier.

Ms. Heidig inquired if they have discussed the idea of doing a treatment early and on later in the season.

Mr. McCotter stated that the hydrilla did not show itself until the middle of August. He inquired if a DGIF permit is required.

Mr. Smith stated no permit is required.

Mr. Williams inquired what it would take to completely eradicate hydrilla.

Mr. Smith stated that a large enough population of grass carp is necessary but the anglers don't want that. He asked the Committee to approve money for the spring application.

Motion and vote: Mr. Williams made a motion, second by Mr. White to approve one application to treat hydrilla costing up to \$5000.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEXT MEETING

The next LAAC Meeting will be held in Louisa County on January 24, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Paulette Mann, Spotsylvania County Secretary

Date