

# LAKE ANNA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Louisa County Administration Building  
1 Woolfolk Avenue  
Louisa, VA. 23093  
**MINUTES – February 28, 2018 MEETING**

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## **DETERMINATION AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. McCotter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chris McCotter, Acting Chair; Richard “Dick” Shrum, Treasurer; Greg Benton, Spotsylvania County; Jim White, Orange County; R.T. Williams, Louisa County; Christian Goodwin, Louisa County.

**Others Present:** Doug Smith

## **INVOCATION- Mr. Williams**

Mr. Williams led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Motion and vote:** Mr. Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. White to elect Mr. McCotter as Chairman. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 4-0, with Mr. McCotter abstaining, to elect Mr. McCotter as Chairman.

**Motion and vote:** Mr. Shrum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Williams to nominate Mr. Benton as Vice-Chairman. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 5-0 to elect Mr. Benton as Vice-Chairman.

**Motion and vote:** Mr. Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. White to nominate Mr. Shrum as Treasurer. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 5-0 to elect Mr. Shrum as Treasurer.

**Motion and vote:** Mr. White made a motion, seconded by Mr. Williams to nominate Ms. Compton, Ms. Mann and Ms. Turner as the secretaries for Louisa County, Spotsylvania County and Orange County.

## **ADOPTION OF THE 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mr. McCotter stated that the committee would like to meet every other month of each year beginning in January. Mr. Williams concurred that meetings should be held every other month, beginning in January, on the fourth Wednesdays at 7 p.m. rotating locations between all three counties.

Mr. Shrum stated that the meeting in November might be subject to change due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Motion and vote:** Mr. Williams made a motion, noting Mr. Shrum’s aforementioned suggestion, seconded by Mr. Benton, to adopt the 2018 meeting schedule with meeting dates and times as follows:

March 21, 2018, 7 p.m. in Orange County (Date changed due to Mr. White’s unavailability to attend a March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting).

May 23, 2018 at 7 p.m. in Spotsylvania County

July 25, 2018 at 7 p.m. in Louisa County

September 26, 2018 at 7 p.m. in Orange County

November 28, 2018 at 7 p.m. (subject to change to due Thanksgiving holiday) in Spotsylvania County

The motion passed 5-0.

## **CITIZEN’S INFORMATION PERIOD**

There were no speakers.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES- November 29, 2017**

**Motion and vote:** Mr. Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Benton to approve the minutes for the November 29, 2017 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

## **BILLS FOR REIMBURSEMENT**

There were no bills for reimbursement. However, Mr. Shrum stated that as of 2:43 p.m. on February 28, 2018, Ms. McCormick advised him via email that the buoy company had a 10% offer if it was made before March 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. McCormick advised Mr. Shrum in the email that she had ordered five buoys and five lights. Mr. Shrum stated that although they did not know the amount yet, he wanted to make the Committee aware of the purchase.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Shrum discussed the Treasurer's Report and stated that the first page displayed information through the end of 2017. He stated that since the last LAAC meeting, the Committee had received \$500 plus interest of funding from Spotsylvania County and that they had received interest from the CD as well. He discussed the amounts regarding the CDs and mentioned that there was an error that he had not been able to find but would review the information and correct the error if possible. He stated that on page three of the report, he had corrected the CD value at the top of the column so the current number displayed was correct. He stated that there were currently no expenses.

Mr. Shrum mentioned the funding received from Louisa County for the third quarter of 2017 was all normal. He stated that at the end of 2017, there was an outflow of \$912.00 for the entire year, if CD profit was offset with actual expenses not reimbursed or not funded from the counties. He referred to the fourth page of the report and stated that he had continued to round the numbers. He stated that according to the November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, the Committee had agreed to put \$5,000 into the account for one hydrilla treatment application. He stated he was still hopeful that he could get a buoy program number once Ms. McCormick returned from her trip.

Mr. Shrum noted that Essex Bank had waived a \$75 penalty to close a CD and noted that the Committee was making great interest on their new account. He stated that there would be a decision during the May meeting regarding how to handle the 60 month CD.

## **PLANNING SESSION**

Mr. McCotter stated that the following planning session items needed to be thought about and that concrete ideas and decisions needed to be made at the following meeting in March. He stated that he had spoken with most of the members regarding his vision. He stated that it seemed to him that the Committee could use a boost in focus and that it would be a collaborative effort determined at the next meeting.

## **COMMITTEE EVALUATIONS**

Mr. McCotter stated that the Committee needed to evaluate current subcommittees as well as determine if additional committees were necessary to better reflect the community that they were meant to advise the three counties on. He stated that the Committee could do a better job regarding that.

## **POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS (ROLE OF LAAC)**

Mr. McCotter invited anyone who had suggestions for amendments to the bylaws to discuss them. He mentioned that he believed Ms. Perkinson had suggestions but was not present to discuss them. Mr. White stated that he believed that the language regarding Dominion Energy's name needed to be updated in the by-laws.

Mr. White stated that he did not see any new changes that needed to be made. However, Mr. White did note that one inconsistency between the cooperative agreement and the establishing document that was signed by the counties was that they would form committees of citizens, not members. He stated that it seemed that there was an agreement to involve much more citizen participation than what there had been, at least since he had been on the Committee for the last six years.

Mr. McCotter referenced Section 2 "Membership", Article 4 and stated that citizen participation was a positive thing. Mr. White concurred.

Mr. McCotter stated that the language included in the bylaws regarding citizen participation was fine, as long as there was a designated LAAC liaison.

Further discussion ensued regarding citizen participation on committees and subcommittees and the need for designated liaisons.

There was discussion regarding the current subcommittees and the need for a designated LAAC member liaison on those subcommittees.

Mr. McCotter stated that the current committees were doing a good job of advising LAAC on what was currently being done but that there was more that could be done. Mr. Benton concurred.

### **IMPROVEMENT OF LAAC PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

Mr. McCotter inquired as to whether there were any programs or activities that LAAC could improve.

Mr. Shrum mentioned that there was an email to LAAC in November 2017 that suggested making a manager/staff member of the Lake Anna State Park a member of LAAC. The premise behind the suggestion was that it would add recreation to the range of issues. Mr. Shrum stated that he believed it was a great suggestion as it pertained to the safety and environmental safety of Lake Anna. He stated that this would have to be coordinated by the counties as LAAC operated under a county mandate.

Mr. Williams inquired as to who was in charge of Lake Anna from a VDGIF standpoint.

Mr. Smith stated that there were several individuals who were responsible.

Mr. Williams suggested that since the Dominion Energy representative was a member of LAAC, that they have a VDGIF representative present on a regular basis as well.

Mr. McCotter asked whether Mr. Williams was referring to the Enforcement or Wildlife division of VDGIF as there were two departments responsible for Lake Anna.

Further discussion ensued regarding which individual from VDGIF should be brought onto LAAC.

Mr. Goodwin suggested that LAAC contact VDGIF and explain what they were looking for in a representative who was knowledgeable in the department's entirety in how it related to Lake Anna. He suggested that VDGIF could select an individual to best represent them. LAAC members concurred with the suggestion.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Shrum if he was suggesting that the additional state park member role be added as a voting member or as a sub-committee volunteer.

Mr. Shrum stated that it would be as a voting Committee member of LAAC.

Mr. Williams stated that his suggestion was also to add a VDGIF representative as a voting member.

Mr. McCotter asked Mr. White how the Committee could go about amending the bylaws.

Mr. White stated that there was a provision to amend the cooperative agreement between the three counties which would have to be taken back to the three counties for approval, which could adopt amendments "only by unanimous concurring ordinance of the member counties". He stated that the cooperative agreement was very specific regarding the membership on LAAC.

Mr. Williams suggested that the Counties' Board of Supervisors members, Mr. White, Mr. Benton and himself take the suggestion back to their respective boards, receive their feedback regarding the membership change, and report back to LAAC regarding the counties' responses at the next meeting in March. He stated that they could be prepared at the next meeting, after communicating with VDGIF and Lake Anna State Park, to vote on the matter.

Mr. McCotter asked the LAAC members who would be in favor of expanding LAAC to include new voting members.

Mr. White stated his support for VDGIF membership and stated that although he was not opposed to the state park membership, he had not thought about it.

Further discussion ensued regarding whether a recreational subcommittee could be made to include a Lake Anna State Park representative.

Mr. Shrum stated that he was reluctant to expand the number of LAAC voting members but that he was interested in having a subcommittee.

Mr. McCotter asked directly whether he was in favor of having additional LAAC voting members.

Mr. Shrum stated that he was open-minded to the suggestion.

Mr. McCotter addressed Mr. Benton, Mr. Williams and Mr. White and asked if they would be in favor of taking the suggestion to add a VDGIF member to LAAC to their respective Boards of Supervisors.

Mr. Smith stated that the members really needed to decide whether they wanted a representative from the VDGIF Enforcement Division or VDGIF Wildlife Division. He stated that in regards to adding a recreational subcommittee, they could be an integral part.

Mr. Williams suggested adding a member from both divisions which would also keep the voting membership number at eleven.

Mr. McCotter asked the Committee if they were in agreement with Mr. Williams' aforementioned suggestion.

Mr. White suggested that they poll the Counties' as well as VDGIF regarding the idea.

Mr. Williams emphasized that it was important that they communicate with VDGIF that they were requested on Committee rather than simply to ask if they would like to join the Committee. He stated that LAAC wanted accountability and responsibility.

Mr. Williams stated that he would follow up and contact VDGIF regarding the request.

Mr. McCotter stated that he would send him the contact information that he had for VDGIF members.

Mr. Shrum stated his concern that having the same number of voting members from VDGIF and Orange County was, in his opinion, skewing the original intent of LAAC's mission. He stated that he would prefer having one VDGIF member who could speak for the entire agency.

Mr. Benton stated that he thought the agency could provide one individual who could speak for the agency.

Mr. McCotter addressed Mr. Smith and inquired if it was important to him that the VDGIF representative be a non-voting member.

Mr. Smith stated that it was not a concern but that he was under the impression that a non-voting member was the proposal.

Mr. McCotter stated that the proposal was not concrete yet. He agreed that he preferred to have once representative from VDGIF. He stated that Mr. Smith was curious to know whether the VDGIF representative would be a voting member. He stated that LAAC would decide that at a later time after they decided who would be the VDGIF representative.

There was further discussion regarding who Mr. Williams should contact at VDGIF.

Mr. Benton asked Mr. McCotter whether he still wanted them to reach out to the Counties' Boards of Supervisors. Mr. McCotter stated that he did.

Further discussion ensued whether the VDGIF member should be a voting or non-voting member.

Mr. Smith stated that he would like LAAC to be much more formal in their advice role and do presentations such as an annual State of the Lake address to cover the entire gamut of water quality, enforcement, use of the lake, etc. and do enough research so everyone would be a part of that.

Mr. McCotter stated that he was personally in support of that suggestion but that it would need to be a collaborative effort which would include subcommittees.

Mr. Smith stated that where there were issues, he wanted LAAC to take a position on them.

Mr. McCotter stated that was a reasonable request and that that was the purpose of the Committee. He stated that generally, the Committee did take a position on issues but not on everything.

Mr. Shrum stated that taking a position really brought the Committee back to its original purpose which was to be a major advisor to the three counties on issues affecting Lake Anna.

Mr. Smith stated that he was thinking more in terms of including in that issues that were affecting people and users of Lake Anna.

Mr. Shrum stated that safety was a major issue on Lake Anna. He stated that the Virginia Safe Boating Alliance focused on safety and had representatives from all of the lakes in Virginia. He stated that their main focus had become state legislation regarding boating safety. He suggested that LAAC become a Lake Anna representative on the Virginia Safe Boating Alliance which would allow them to have a stronger presence in the state discussion about the issues. He stated some of the lakes had two or three representatives per lake so it was not an issue to have LAAC as an additional member on the Alliance in addition to LACA. He suggested that one of the members actually be a LAAC voting member.

Mr. Williams stated that it seemed that the Alliance was part of a lobbying group.

Mr. Shrum stated that the Alliance was one of the organizations that instituted ideas for new boating safety; he stated that it was not a lobbying group.

Mr. McCotter stated that the Committee could look into the idea. He requested that Mr. Shrum look into it and be ready at the next meeting to discuss what it would take to become a part of the Alliance and whether it was truly a lobbying group or not.

Mr. Smith also suggested having a subcommittee that acted as a legislative committee in order to track legislation that impacted Lake Anna.

Mr. McCotter stated that that suggestion was included in LAAC's bylaws.

Mr. Shrum referred to paragraph six of the bylaws and inquired how LAAC would get into fish/fishing and how far the Committee should get involved in those concerns.

Mr. McCotter stated that they would get into more specifics regarding this question during the next meeting in March.

Mr. McCotter stated that there were marinas in the area that relied on fishing for income for a better part of the year. He stated that they could create a fishing committee. He stated that LAAC could find out what their concerns were and communicate those concerns to the three counties.

Further discussion ensued regarding a potential legislative subcommittee and the language included in the bylaws supporting it.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **ACTION ITEM- A RESOLUTION REQUESTING ADDITIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ON LAKE ANNA FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES AND THE COUNTIES OF LOUISA AND SPOTSYLVANIA**

Mr. McCotter stated that the resolution had been signed by the previous LAAC Chairman, Ann Heidig, had been circulated among the LAAC members, and Mr. Williams had brought the resolution before the Louisa County Board of Supervisors. Mr. McCotter requested that the members present it to their respective boards so that they were aware of the resolution. He stated that he would forward the resolution to Mr. Walker with VDGIF as well.

Mr. Benton stated that he did make the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors aware of the need and that the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office had voiced the need as well. He stated that as it stood currently with Spotsylvania, the request was not fundable for the increase of patrol on Lake Anna. He stated that it came out to about \$30,000 for increased patrol on the lake. He stated that they were still in the early stages of negotiations, but currently, it was not able to be funded.

Mr. McCotter stated that it was not LAAC's job to tell the localities how much money to spend but wanted to be sure that the request was passed along to the counties so they were aware.

Mr. Smith stated that he believed Spotsylvania currently had two boats instead of one so there would be an additional boat on the water in the summer of 2018.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Smith stated that the drought occurred, and that he believed that it would affect the hydrilla. He stated that he had reached out to VDGIF to see if he could determine how the hydrilla would be affected but that it was not forthcoming. He stated that a lot of the grasses that were beneficial would be killed. He stated that no one knew for sure what would happen with the hydrilla, but that they expected it would be impacted in some way, whether good or bad.

Mr. Smith stated that the main problem that they were currently aware of was Fresh Water Creek. He stated that they were looking at options to see if and how to treat the hydrilla there and what products could be used. He stated that he wanted VDGIF to review whatever product(s) they decided to use to treat the hydrilla. He stated that Mr. Lassiter had done a lot of work there.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the depth of the water and layout of Fresh Water Creek.

Mr. Lassiter discussed the difference between Fresh Water Creek and Fresh Water Cove. He stated that the amount of hydrilla they had there was 90% of all hydrilla on Lake Anna. He stated that the warm side of the lake was in good shape. He discussed the issues with the amount of hydrilla in Fresh Water Creek and near Pine Harbor and stated that 48 people in the area were unable to use their boats, jet skis, etc. from late July until after Labor Day. He stated that there were more navigational problems in that area than they had had with the entire project since day one.

Mr. Lassiter discussed the Flats and discussed the possibility of using drones. He stated that they had researched the possibility but that currently, no drones had the ability to use herbicide. He stated that they had been talking to VDGIF and private citizens about what they could do in the Flats and the Cove.

Mr. Lassiter stated that they planned to start monitoring the hydrilla in late June.

Further discussion ensued regarding the method that would be used to treat the hydrilla and how affective the treatment was in the previous year.

Mr. Smith stated that they were looking at doing more analysis earlier and would probably use whatever treatment they decided in late July rather than late August.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Shrum inquired as to whether requests for funds actually were made to Orange County. It was stated that organizations (typically about 70) made requests to Orange County for funding and typically about eight received actual funding.

Mr. Shrum stated that he had earmarked Dominion Energy for \$500 of funding which would go to buoys on the private side of Lake Anna. He stated that he was still asking Louisa and Spotsylvania Counties for their quarterly checks and there was no need for annual checks from them.

Mr. McCotter stated that he spoke with Ms. Heidig that day, and that she stated she would miss the Committee.

Mr. McCotter requested that a resolution be put together to recognize Ms. Heidig for her years of service. It was suggested that the resolution be presented for approval at the next LAAC meeting, and that it would be presented to Ms. Heidig at the May meeting in Spotsylvania County.

Brief discussion ensued regarding member alternates especially in regard to Orange County.

Discussion ensued regarding when the next LAAC meeting would be held as Mr. White would not be available on March 28, 2018, the regularly scheduled meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next LAAC meeting will be held in Orange County on March 21, 2018 at 7 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*On the motion of Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Williams, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.*

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Lauren Compton, Louisa County Secretary

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Date