

LAKE ANNA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Louisa County Office Building
1 Woolfolk Avenue
Louisa, VA 23093

MINUTES – December 9, 2015 SPECIAL MEETING

DETERMINATION AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Heidig called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jim White, Orange County; Bill Martin, Treasurer; V. Rae Jones, Orange County; Ann Heidig, Chair; and Stephanie Koren, Louisa Board Representative.

**Mr. Chris McCotter arrived at 7:13 pm*

Absent: Gary Bullis, Spotsylvania Count; Christian Goodwin, Louisa County Administrator; Lauren Compton, Louisa County Committee Secretary; Mark Taylor, Spotsylvania County Administrator; and Paulette Mann, Spotsylvania County Committee Secretary.

BILLS FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Mr. Martin: requested approval for a receipt for Gene McCormick for a purchase of \$67.22 she made 6 months ago. Ms. Heidig made a motion and was passed with a vote of 6-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Approval of End of the Year Financials

Mr. Martin discussed end of the year financials which included additional expenses, account information and CD balances. He indicated that \$2,260 is left in the approved Hydrilla budget, the checking account has \$6,207.69 and there is \$78,196.67 in CDs, making a grand total of \$86,672.36.

Ms. Heidig stated that Spotsylvania County has submitted their budget request for LAAC and hopes to receive the \$1,750 requested budget amount.

Motion and vote: Mr. Martin requested that LAAC approve moving \$2,268 from the Hydrilla budget back to cash. Ms. Heidig made the motion which passed with a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Martin asked for approval to close out the CD that is due to renew at the end of the year for \$4,527.59. He mentioned that another CD closes in July.

Motion and Vote: Ms. Koren made a motion in favor to close the CD. The motion was passed with a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Heidig mentioned that LAAC meets on the 4th Wednesday of every other month, and should be meeting in Louisa County in January. The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Doug Smith.

DISCUSSION

Hydrilla Masterplan and DGIF Application

Mr. Smith discussed the Hydrilla Masterplan and coordination of Dominion and DGIF. He mentioned that the pilot program was used to contract for herbicide to fight hydrilla this past summer. He indicated this included a step for a long range plan for managing and controlling hydrilla which produced a management plan for going forward.

Mr. Smith presented two methods of control for hydrilla that work for Lake Anna:

- A. The use of herbicide
- B. The use of grass carp

Mr. Smith stated that in Virginia, almost every body of water has had a problem with hydrilla. He said at Lake Anna, they have put in 6,280 carp in the early 1990s on the warm side which have migrated to the cold side. He proposed to anticipate growth in order to manage hydrilla. He said that DGIF approves carp on a basis of how many observable acres of hydrilla the lake may have. He stated they have observed 5.1 acres of hydrilla after killing 10 acres last summer and have been in discussions with DGIF. Mr. Smith also stated that in 2014, Lake Anna had 3 acres versus 15 acres in 2015. He indicated there is a calculated growth factor of 5, and taking into account hydrilla that is below the surface, we can anticipate 51 acres of hydrilla by next summer.

Mr. Smith stated that for 51 acres, about 510 carp would need to be purchased the help control hydrilla issues at the lake. He stated that 85% of the carp would go on the warm side, since the growth period is faster and they would need to be placed near Coleman Bridge and closer to the discharge canal near Goldmine Cove. He briefly discussed the growth period of a carp within the first year and the need to place carp in the lake by April, since they go into a dormant stage depending on the temperature of the water. He indicated the carp eat voraciously between temperatures of 70-84 degrees. Mr. Smith stated the remaining 15% of carp should go on the cold side in problem areas such as Fresh Water Creek, Terry's Run, and Fletcher's Cove across from the State Park (each area will get 5%).

The Hydrilla Subcommittee recommends approval of the method for hydrilla by the use of grass carp and the submittal of a permit to DGIF for the placement of 510 carp.

Mr. Smith stated that he would like to authorize the budget for up to \$5,500 for the carp, but believes it will cost around \$4,800. In addition, Mr. Smith voiced that he would like LAAC to authorize the Subcommittee to contract for the herbicide application for spot treatment for the upcoming summer (up to 2 treatments totaling \$7,500 which is on the high side but is what was paid last summer for treatments). Mr. Smith mentioned that DGIF personnel in Staunton believe it to be a reasonable plan and will support it. Mr. Smith indicated that part of this plan is to reassess a year from now what the status of the lake is, because growth of hydrilla is so unpredictable.

Mr. Smith stated that the density level of carp is to be assessed each year to see if the density level is effective or not, because carp will move around the lake and will not just eat the hydrilla but native grass as well. He said that LAAC must assess the impact on the native grass and a method to do so will need to be developed.

Ms. Heidig mentioned that they are taking a more moderate approach by not dumping 6,000 carp in the lake.

Ms. Koren added that the Hydrilla Subcommittee has worked well with LAAC, and that DGIF was impressed that LAAC was being proactive rather than reactive.

Ms. Heidig stated that LAAC is trying to learn from previous experiences and move forward with a recommended approach that they can tweak. She also mentioned that the biggest concern is maintaining the ability to monitor hydrilla and that LAAC should take the plan to Dominion to see if they can help to continue to fund the effort as they have in previous years.

Mr. Dave Boardway voiced his concern about the lifespan of carp and their expectation of growth.

Mr. Smith stated that there is no record of carp being fished and when they become large, they are more sedentary and are not as voracious eaters as they are when they are smaller. In addition, they do not reproduce.

Mr. Steve Bonjoar questioned how carp would affect fishing in the lake or take away from it.

Mr. Bonjoar stated that Clater Lake was used as an example where there have been no bass tournaments, and hydrilla disappeared quickly with the use of grass carp. He said there is a perception that grass carp could affect the fishing because they have been known to eat all hydrilla and watershed lily pads.

Mr. Smith stated that Claytor Lake waited too late to combat the hydrilla and then overstocked with carp – something this plan tried to avoid at Lake Anna.

Ms. Heidig stated that fisherman have voiced their concern on the use of grass carp and suggested the Committee investigate what is happening on the bottom of lake before installment. Ms. Heidig compared differences of densities at Lake Anna versus Clater Lake and stated the alternative use of herbicides raises concerns.

Ms. Koren stated that DGIF is willing to work with LAAC because they expected LAAC to put in additional carp, and indicated that DGIF was comfortable with LAAC reassessing the situation.

Mr. Smith mentioned a study was done to assess the impact of bass fishing which concluded no impact since bass were feeding off of fish in open water rather than grassy areas.

Mr. Ron Skinner stated there is a lot of grass around his property, and his neighbor has 300 square feet of hydrilla with hundreds of carp in the area. He indicated that the carp ate ½ acre of willow grass in one week. He made the point that when you disturb nature, it adjusts and does LAAC want to lose acres of other species of grass.

Mr. Smith stated that the carp in question are regular native carp, not grass carp since grass carp do not feed on water willow. When hydrilla is uprooted, it spreads to other locations. He said that native carp are making it worse; hydrilla is an invasive species, -The lake will not just adjust itself.

Ms. Heidig stated that Dominion has seen one or two grass carps but are not sure where they came from. She indicated there is the potential that someone may have dropped one in the lake.

Motion and vote: Ms. Heidig made a motion to approve the plan and to apply to DGIF for authorization to introduce 510 grass carp.

Further discussion ensued in regards to which plan was approved because contracts were written and they do not want to sign checks that were not authorized in the minutes.

Ms. Heidig stated the recommendation and proposed actions as the following:

1. Authorize the Subcommittee to apply for a DGIF permit for grass carp stocking and accord the plan with the LAAC Chairperson to sign.
2. Authorize Subcommittee to contract for stocking of minimum 10 inch tri-ployed grass carp, in according with plan not to exceed cost of \$5,500.
3. Authorize Subcommittee to contract for herbicide application in accordance with the plan, not to exceed \$7,500.

Motion and Vote: Ms. Heidig made a motion to approve the Lake Ann Hydrilla Management Plan and proposed actions. The motion passed with a vote of 5-1, with Mr. McCotter voting against.

The Committee stated that LAAC can order carp in January and negotiate and commit to contracts for grass carp and herbicide.

NEXT MEETING

The next LAAC Meeting will be held in Louisa County on January 20, 2016 at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Heidig adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Lauren Compton, Louisa County Secretary

Date