

Minutes of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council

1. Call to Order

Steven de Kozlowski called the 85th meeting of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council to order at 10:00 am on January 12, 2005 in the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Board Room; 1000 Assembly Street, Columbia. This meeting was open to the public and ample notice had been provided according to Section 30-4-80 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Attendance

Council members in attendance were Mr. John Inabinet, S.C. Public Service Authority; Mr. Marc Cribb, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division; Mr. Stan Hutto, S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Mr. Jerry Moore (for Cam Lay), Clemson University, Department of Pesticide Regulation; Ms. Jeannie Eidson, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control; Mr. David Thompkins, S.C. Department of Agriculture, and Mr. Steven de Kozlowski, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division.

Visitors in attendance were Mr. Chris Page and Mr. Michael Hook, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division. Michael Hook was introduced as the new Technician for the Aquatic Plant Management Section.

2. Minutes of the November 22, 2004 Council Meeting

The minutes were reviewed and the third sentence in the second paragraph under Section 4 was changed to: "some hydrilla growth occurred in three of the exclosures late in the season..." A motion to accept the minutes as revised was made by Jeannie Eidson and seconded by Stan Hutto. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review of 2005 S.C. Aquatic Plant Management Plan

Chris Page stated that while there are no major changes to the earlier draft of the S.C. Aquatic Plant Management Plan, verbiage was changed to the section addressing Lake Murray. The option to use chemical herbicides to control small areas of hydrilla near boat ramps and municipal water intakes was added. It reads as follows:

Section 3. c. Aquatic herbicides - short-term control in selected areas to provide public access and clear areas around municipal water intakes.

Problem Species	Control Agents
Hydrilla	Chelated copper (Nautique)

Section 4. b. Use mechanical harvesters or aquatic herbicides to provide immediate short-term control at high priority public access points, such as boat ramps and park sites, and municipal water intakes.

Section 5. c. Apply aquatic herbicides to provide immediate short-term control at high priority public access points and municipal water intakes.

Chelated copper - up to 1 ppm

Also added were sections on control in Dean's Swamp, Potato Creek, and Church Branch subimpoundments located adjacent to Lake Marion. They read as follows:

Section 4. Sub-Impoundments -

a. Dean's Swamp Impoundment: This impoundment, in the Wyboo Creek area of Lake Marion, is heavily infested with the invasive aquatic plant Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*). In order to reduce the likely spread of this plant to Lake Marion, Santee Cooper plans to stock this 120 acre impoundment with sterile Chinese Grass Carp in the spring of 2005. The fish will be stocked at the rate of 15 fish/vegetated acre to control 100 acres of Hydrilla. The impoundment is separated from Lake Marion by SC Highway 260 causeway with one water control structure. The design of this structure will not allow the fish to move into Lake Marion.

b. Potato Creek Impoundment: This impoundment, at the headwaters of Potato Creek in Lake Marion, is infested with the invasive aquatic plant Hydrilla, (*Hydrilla verticillata*). In order to reduce the likely spread of this plant to Lake Marion, Santee Cooper plans to treat this 150 acre impoundment with the herbicide Sonar, which is manufactured by SePro Corporation. As this water body is a Wildlife Management Area for waterfowl, a treatment plan will be developed, with the assistance of SePro Corporation's technical staff, to insure that beneficial native vegetation is not adversely affected. Treatment rates, formulations, and application techniques will be developed prior to application in the spring of 2005.

c. Church Branch Impoundment: This impoundment, in the Wyboo Creek area of Lake Marion, is heavily populated with slender pondweed, (*Potamogeton pusillus*), particularly around the shoreline. As this area is completely surrounded by residential property and is utilized primarily for swimming and boating, Santee Cooper plans to stock this 90 acre impoundment with sterile Chinese Grass Carp in the spring of 2005. The fish will be stocked at the rate of 15 fish/vegetated acre to control 50 acres of vegetation. The impoundment is separated from Lake Marion by SC Highway 260 causeway with one water control structure. The design of this structure will not allow the fish to move into Lake Marion.

De Kozlowski expanded on the Santee Cooper sub-impoundments, emphasizing work on Potato Creek WMA. The plan for the Potato Creek WMA includes using Sonar to treat the hydrilla on the WMA in order to leave more favorable native species such as watershield and Vallisneria. John Inabinet stated that he was opposed to view the sub-impoundments as separate water bodies and they all should be grouped with the main lake and do not need separate management strategies. A discussion ensued whether the sub-impoundments were separate bodies of water or should be included in the main lake.

One main issue at the heart of this discussion was the treatment of hydrilla in the Potato Creek Impoundment. Inabinet stated that hydrilla should be eliminated from the impoundment immediately while de Kozlowski wants to initiate the proposed Sonar treatment on a smaller area at first to test herbicide efficacy and response of native vegetation. Inabinet has issues with experimentation because the hydrilla could escape into Lake Marion and reinfest areas currently under control. De Kozlowski stated that the ultimate control of hydrilla is not in question but it has been in the impoundment for several years already so taking another year to make sure the proposed treatment method (Sonar pellets) will control hydrilla and allow native plants to grow seems reasonable. He prefers close coordination with the SCDNR while transitioning between hydrilla and native species in this important Wildlife Management Area. Jeannie Eidson inquired about not utilizing sterile grass carp in the impoundment. Inabinet stated that grass carp had been used in the past and that they were thought to escape through the flood control spillway. De Kozlowski suggested including paragraphs a and c for Dean Swamp and Church Branch as written and change the wording for paragraph b for Potato Creek Impoundment to read as follows:

Potato Creek Impoundment: This impoundment, at the headwaters of Potato Creek in Lake Marion, is infested with the invasive aquatic plant Hydrilla, (*Hydrilla verticillata*). In order to reduce the likely spread of this plant to Lake Marion, Santee Cooper plans to transition from a hydrilla dominant plant community to one dominated by native plant species beneficial to waterfowl. As this water body is a Wildlife Management Area for waterfowl, Santee Cooper will coordinate closely with Department of Natural Resources wildlife managers and other appropriate staff and herbicide company technical representatives in developing and implementing control and revegetative plans for 2005.

Inabinet asked if the final decision on control operations in Potato Creek Impoundment would be made by the Aquatic Plant Management Council. De Kozlowski said that it would be treated like all other water bodies with the Council giving final approval of the plan. He questioned Chris Page about any other changes in the plan. There were no other changes to be noted. Jeannie Eidson made a motion to approve the changes and David Thompkins seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

De Kozlowski stated the S.C. Aquatic Management Plan would be submitted for public review.

6. Other Business

De Kozlowski mentioned that Federal money was looking better for the district and that he is trying to get permission to use it for the control of phragmites.

It was also noted that the contract with Santee Cooper was on John Frampton's desk and would be out to Santee Cooper shortly. It is the same five-year contract as before.

The annual contract with the local sponsors has been changed to a Master Agreement that once executed by both parties will remain in effect until the parties decide to terminate it. Each year it will be initiated by issuance of a purchase order by the local sponsor.

The new bid requests for contact applicators should be out soon

There have been problems with Email.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for 10 am on March 3, 2005 with subsequent meetings held July 15 and November 17, 2005.

7. Adjournment

Being no further business the Council adjourned at 11:10 a.m.