

Minutes of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council

1. Call to Order

Steven de Kozlowski called the 86th meeting of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council to order at 10:00 am on March 3, 2005 in the Rampart Center, 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; Ms. Jeannie Eidson, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control; Mr. John Hensel, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control; Mr. David Thomkins, S.C. Department of Agriculture; Mr. Miller White, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Section; and Mr. Steven de Kozlowski, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division.

Visitors in attendance were Mr. Chris Page, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division and Mr. Michael Hook, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division.

2. Minutes of the January 12, 2005 Council Meeting

The minutes were reviewed, and a motion to accept the minutes as written was made by John Hensel and was seconded by John Inabinet. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review of 2005 Aquatic Management Plan

Chris Page discussed the comments made by constituents regarding the 2005 Aquatic Management Plan. It had been sent out to many organizations and users who had displayed interest in the past as well as to those who have requested information directly. Most of the question/comments were reflective of past questions/comments and thus addressed similarly. Questions/comments regarding Lake Murray included inquiries about the stocking of grass carp, the threat of primrose, and the possibility of adding artificial habitat to replace or supplement the loss of certain aquatic plants. There was a brief discussion about the feasibility of the addition of artificial habitats being added to Lake Murray and the status of the structures placed in the Santee Cooper lakes. The next topic covered was the issue of primrose that is prevalent in the upper portion of the lake. Of the twelve comments we received five or six of these were in regard to the primrose. Steve DeKozlowski delineated the SCDNR's stance stating that it is their belief that the primrose will most likely be a temporary problem primarily due to the drawdown of the lake for an extended period of time which enabled it to establish itself on portions of the lake that are normally flooded. As the waters rise the plants should be inundated and eliminated thus eliminating the problem. It was also stated that Cindy Aubach (who was not present) has expressed concern that the rise in water level will not kill the primrose

and it will still be a viable threat. DeKozlowski mentioned that the SCDNR will monitor the problem and act accordingly if the need arises. He also stated that this view is also shared by SCE&G. Miller White interjected that if it does become a problem and with limited opportunities of control because of chemical restrictions one method that may prove to be effective would be a mechanical harvester. John Inabinet thought that the plan should be amended to include the monitoring of the primrose in Lake Murray. DeKozlowski said he didn't want to be subject to control the primrose on private property of just a couple of people, he wanted to better the whole resource and it's users. In an order to simplify changes to the plan Chris Page suggested the comments and replies be attached to the plan as an appendix. The next series of questions/comments were directed to the Santee Cooper lakes. There was still confusion about the 10% surface area and was answered with the same answer as in the previous two years. The second question was about using chemicals instead of adding more carp to the impoundments which was answered with the same response as in the previous two years. DeKozlowski noted that the interim board had approved grass carp stocking in SC. The third question was why not let BASS or other groups do research on impoundments in order to get a better understanding of the situation, again the same reply was given as in the previous two years. It was noted that the number of questions has decreased dramatically and it was believed this was because of education efforts. Jeannie Eidson said she thought it was a good idea to attach the comments and replies to the plan in order for the public to see what has been asked in the past and what the official response has been. Eidson made the motion to approve the plan and David Thompkins seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Other Business

It was noted that Cam Lay, while not present, did want to thank the council for supporting state licensing legislation.

The EPA has said that they will not require NPDES Permit for applicators. It will be looked into whether or not this is official yet and if not the council will send a letter detailing our support of their actions.

The Gulf States ...have been renamed Gulf and South East Invasive Plant and Animal Management Panel. The SCDNR has requested to join and is in the process of doing so.

There is an AVM working group meeting at the Strom Thurmond Welcome Center on March 17.

Tuesday March 2 was the prebid conference for contractors interested in the five year bid proposed by the SCDNR.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Plant Management Plan has been distributed detailing what has been done in the last year and what is planned to be done in the next year. It was noted that monocious hydrilla has been documented in water bodies around Lake Thurmond. It is also planned that there will be some interaction with the Corps in the future, they have stated that the states have the option to contribute more to the plan

than what they are proposing. The additions have to be submitted to the Corps in a planned format. It will be done on an annual contract basis.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for 10am on July 15, 2005 at a field site to be announced.

5. Adjournment

Being no further business the Council adjourned at 11:15 a.m.