

Minutes of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council

1. Call to Order

Steve de Kozlowski called the 100th meeting of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council to order at 10:09 am on March 4, 2009. The meeting was held in the Ramage Conference Center, Room C, in Columbia, S.C. 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. Bob Perry, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries; Ms. Jeannie Eidson, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control; Mr. Cam Lay, Clemson University, Department of Pesticide Regulation; Mr. Marc Cribb, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water, and Conservation Division; and Mr. Steven de Kozlowski, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water, and Conservation Division.

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

2. Minutes of the March 13, 2008 Council Meeting

A call for changes, additions, deletions, and or modifications to last meeting's minutes was made by the chairman. None was offered. Lay motioned for the minutes to be approved as written; the motion was seconded by Eidson. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Draft 2009 South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Plan; Review of Public Comments, Modification Considerations, and Approval

Page began with reference to a handout provided to the council that included all public comments (attached – Summary of Public Comments). He addressed the relatively low

number of public comments and the distribution of notice of the public comment period. Notice was posted on the DNR web site and sent out to all parties typically included in DNR news releases. Furthermore, several groups and individuals were contacted directly (attached- public notice list). De Kozlowski responded saying that the mail out database be maintained as it currently is and added to as comments come in from any additional stakeholders. Inabinet suggested insuring that Representative P.D. Lowe be included in the distribution list.

Conversation turned to the two commenters. Both were concerned with treatments in the Santee Cooper Lakes. Mrs. Philomena A. Volpe addressed weed growth in her cove and asked if the area was included in planned treatments for this year. Page indicated that he had spoken with Chip Davis and the issue was known to him and the area was included in planned treatments for 2009. A response to Mrs. Volpe informed her of this.

In relation to Mr. David Sweat, a second commenter, De Kozlowski inquired if Inabinet knew of any specific concerns held by 'guides' as referred to in Mr. Sweat's comments; Inabinet said that he knew of none beyond 'casual comments'. Page referred to Mr. Sweat's concern of the impacts of treatments on mussel populations. As indicated in the hand out, Page pointed out that the dominant mussel in the Santee Cooper Lakes is *Corbicula fluminea* and the full impact of the treatments was unknown. Full comments are attached. Lay offered to respond to Mr. Sweat's concerns regarding pesticide action. Furthermore, he suggested Exttoxnet (<http://exttoxnet.orst.edu/pips/aldicarb.htm>) as a good source for information on the web. The chairman asked if there were any proposed changes in response to the comments; Page said there was none.

Eidson requested that if the Exttoxnet site meets with program approval, it be linked to from the DNR ANSP website. De Kozlowski requested that Clemson DPR be linked to as well.

In regards to the response to comments, members agreed that they were well written, and suggested that Lay be referred to directly as a resource for Mr. Sweat to contact with specific concerns.

The chairman turned the conversation to the Draft 2009 Aquatic Management Plan. Page indicated that only typos had been changed since the last agreed upon version. De Kozlowski referred to a grass carp stocking summary that Page prepared for the last DNR

board meeting. He told the council members that he had provided this summary to the DNR board members as part of his explanation of the stocking plan and its rationale as well as the draft plan approval process and schedule. He indicated that the chairman of the board had expressed his desire to review all future carp stocking plans and was in agreement with and was prepared to approve the current plans. De Kozlowski informed the council members that the carp stocking plan goes before the DNR board at its next meeting. That meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on March, 11th 2009 in the DNR Board Room in the Dennis Building. De Kozlowski gave an overview and explanation of the summary (attached – Grass Carp Summary). He followed with an emphasis of the uncertainty of planned funding levels, explaining that flexibility may be called for with respect to both totals and sources. Inabinet asked for clarification on the term and cycle of the contract between DNR and Santee-Cooper. Page explained that the contract runs from April through November and the most recent iteration is currently under review by MMO for approval as a contract between state agencies. The chairman asked for comments and or questions regarding the draft plan; there was none. Inabinet moved to approve the 2009 Aquatic Plant Management Plan as presented by staff. It was seconded by Eidson. Being no further comment, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Other Business

The chairman began discussion by indicating that he had no new business to offer and that all previously mentioned situations, especially budgetary, were unchanged. Page offered an update of water body signage projects including the posting of grass carp anti-predation regulations in stocked waters. Also mentioned was a new brochure produced by the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP), addressing aquatic invasive species. The ANSP will begin including the brochure in its public awareness efforts. The chairman explained the organization of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and our specific region, the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species, and some of the benefits of our inclusion in the group (e.g. the brochures). Inabinet inquired as to the funding source for the sign project, and offered support in the effort by way of materials and or installation. Lay asked for insight on

impacts from bow hunting. De Kozlowski explained that it was not quantified, but anecdotal information on Goose Creek Reservoir and on the Santee Cooper lakes existed and caused concern. Inabinet concurred that it was an issue of concern and added that some tournament rules penalize for grass carp, that grass carp are easily differentiated in bow hunting situations, and that most hunters abide by the posted rules. De Kozlowski spoke of past interactions with bow hunting associations in the area and their cooperation. He also asked that Page try and reestablish communication with the associations. Hook mentioned knowledge of Low Country Bow Fishing Club, but has been unable to find a contact for the group. Inabinet asked if the prohibition of grass carp hunting was mentioned in the yearly DNR Rules & Regulations pamphlets. De Kozlowski instructed Page to look into the current pamphlet review process and the possibility of the inclusion of carp regulations.

Page provided an update from the most recent Aquatic Plant Management Society meeting. He mentioned that the journal 'Aquatics' would be replaced by a new journal. He also mentioned that school specific publications would be available on line, but that few if any would be printed and provided directly. Furthermore, he spoke of SCAPMS members from North Carolina and their interest in adding several plant species (e.g. water hyacinth and parrot's feather) to Clemson's invasive species list.

Discussion turned to preferences for a summer APMC meeting location and time which could include a field trip; a decision is pending.

5. Adjournment

Being no further business the Council adjourned at 11:55 a.m.