

Minutes of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council

1. Call to Order

In absence of Steve de Kozlowski, Bob Perry called the 97th meeting of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council to order at 10:00 am on March 13, 2008 at the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Board Room, 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. David Tompkins, S.C. Department of Agriculture; Mr. Stan Hutto, SC Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism.

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

2. Minutes of the January 25, 2008 Council Meeting

The minutes were temporarily bypassed to await the arrival of de Kozlowski and a motion to accept the minutes as discussion only due to the absence of de Kozlowski was made by Eidson and seconded by Inabinet. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review of Public Comments, Modification Considerations, and Approval of the 2008 SC Aquatic Plant Management Plan.

Page presented the comments made by Grayson Mathis, University of SC student, regarding Lake Murray. Page stated that an additional e-mail was sent out to Bass Federation, Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Water Fowl Association and Fly Away Foundation. No comment was received on the Santee Cooper system. No modifications to the plan were made between the last review of the Draft Plan. Santee

Cooper had no modifications as well. There will be no stocking of fish at this time unless the water levels go back up and hydrilla numbers rise. The only stocking in the plan is the continued maintenance stocking in Goose Creek. The system will also continue to be monitored. The approval of the plan was held in abeyance for de Kozlowski's return and the committee moved on to discussion of the status of Lake Wylie.

4. Review of Lake Wylie Status

Page stated that Lake Wylie is a border lake. It is 13,400 acre lake. It is split fifty-fifty with the amount of acreage and water. Page stated that the Lake Wylie Marine Commission has funds that are directed towards Duke Power to do control work on Lake Wylie. Duke cost shares with the Commission and the state of North Carolina. In mid to late January Duke Energy was planning on putting crass carp in Lake Wylie. Page states that they should have been included in that situation, because it is there lake. Page stated that Phil Kirk presented an assessment of trying to figure out what to do and he came up with an experimental approach that says to use one triploid carp for every eight surface acres regardless of acreage in the system. This would equate to a maintenance stocking. Ten acres of topped out hydrilla was treated in Lake Wylie. Fisheries biologist would prefer to not stock any fish until there was a better population number for hydrilla. Page stated that he could not get a consensus from the DNR and information was sent to Duke Energy asking to not stock 500 carp. This was based on the assumption that if 10 acres of topped out hydrilla were found that there is at least twice as much out there. They would also like them to continue doing Cohme treatment. The NC DNR does not believe in herbicide treatments in public supply water bodies. Lake Wylie is about a quarter mile to a half mile away from two public water intakes as well as a power supply area. It was also asked that the area be intensively surveyed. The NC Weed Council met and at this time Page does not know of the outcome of that meeting. Long term management control was also asked for. It was assured that excessive carp would not be stocked above and beyond what is listed.

Tompkins excused himself from the council leaving a proxy that stated "I authorize Stan Hutto to vote, by proxy, in favor of approving the 2008 SC Aquatic Plant Management

Plan”.

Inabinet asked what needs to be done to address the Lake Wylie issue as a council. Page responds that the issues do need to be addressed but do not have to be stated in the plan, but that it is a management activity in SC waters.

Eidson proposed having a memorandum of understanding between NC and the Marine Commissions. Perry suggested that Page explore that opportunity for further dialog. This would be particularly important if there were a sudden surge in hydrilla. Inabinet agrees that this should be done. Perry feels that this may lead to further dialog with the Corps of Engineers and Georgia DNR relative to the interstate lakes on the Georgia border.

5. Other Business

Page states that the Aquatic Invasive Species plan is in its final stages. The drafts have been sent back from the Federal Agency chairman. The Chairman has resigned, but is still participating until a new chairman is appointed. Photos have been compiled and are sitting in DNR Graphics. Page feels it will be 30 to 45 days until distributed to the Governor’s office and to agencies for official signatures before going to Washington. Some of the numbers changed slightly due to USGS updates.

Perry suggests with de Kozlowski being absent that the group go ahead and vote on the final plan. Perry asks if there is any objection voting on the two action items with the understanding that the vote may not count and the group may have to quorum by telephone conference and vote by e-mail again. The group had no objection.

Eidson suggested changing page 2 line 4 of the January 25, 2008 SCAPM Council minutes to reflect that the Goal that was set for coverage by Santee Cooper was approved and supported by the Council. Mock agreed to make that change to the minutes. The Motion to approve the minutes as modified was made by Eidson and seconded by Inabinet. The council agreed to accept the minutes.

The motion was made by Inabenit to approve the draft 2008 SC Aquatic Plant Management Plan and seconded by Eidson. With no further discussion the council agreed to accept the plan.

Both action items were approved with members present and a proxy submitted with the understanding of possibly having to meet again by telephone and vote by e-mail.

6. Adjournment

Being no further business the Council adjourned at 11:33 p.m.