

Minutes of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council

1. Call to Order

Chairman Chris Page called the 107th meeting of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council to order at 10:10 am on March 17, 2011. The meeting was held in room 301 of the Rembert C Dennis Building, 1000 Assembly St., Columbia, SC 29201. 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; Mrs. Jeannie Eidson, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control; Mr. Bob Perry S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division; Mr. Cam Lay, Clemson University, Department of Pesticide Regulation; Mr. Mark Cribb, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water, and Conservation Division and

Visitors in attendance were Michael Hook, and Walter Meitzen, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water, and Conservation Division; Larry McCord, John Morrison, and Chip Davis, S.C. Public Service Authority; Don Winslow, S.C. Department of Natural Resources; and Mr. Stephen de Kozlowski.

2. Minutes of the January 20, 2011 Council Meeting

Mr. Perry brought it to the attention of the council that that the phrase "one time" as presented in Part 3 of the minutes appeared too many times and could restrict action of the council if additional supplemental stockings were needed in the future. He brought a motion to remove this language from the minutes. Inabinet seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Eidson asked for clarification on the stocking number. She and the chairman agreed that the minutes should better reflect the logic behind the final stocking number.

The chairman pointed to a passage in the Draft Plan that explains the logic and they agreed the statement should be added to the minutes. Eidson made a motion to insert the language, seconded by Perry, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Draft 2011 South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Plan (Public Comments, Review of Public Comments, Modification Considerations, & Approval)

The Chairman brought attention to material provided to members (public comments, review of public comments, summary of responses). Mr. Hook reviewed the summary: 227 comments, 156 in support. Most letters in opposition were supportive of native plant restoration and came with offers of support for the efforts. The opposition was with increasing the target carp population because of fears of negative impacts on native vegetation. Representative P.D. Lowe sent a letter in opposition to increasing the carp population. Mr. McCord added that he has seen a turn in public opinion. There is more support for native vegetation from user groups, whereas in the past, support was stronger for Hydrilla. The Chairman listed several groups that offered support for management objectives. He also brought attention to key points in comment responses. There were no plan modifications warranted by public comment. Other editorial changes were made. The chairman called for other changes or additions; there were none.

Mr. Inabinet inquired about a consensus regarding Lake Thurmond and whether it would be appropriate to include recommendations in this year's plan. The chairman and Perry recommended re evaluating that issue for the 2012 Plan.

Perry brought a motion to approve the Draft Plan with the noted editorial changes and the changes that will result from updated budget information from MMO.

The chairman called for any further discussion. Mr. Hook summarized other carp stockings that the Draft Plan; Goose Creek Reservoir 825 carp, Lake Warren 500 carp, Lake Thickety to be determined.

Mr. Davis asked for an updated herbicide list for use on Santee Cooper to reflect the inclusion of Renovate Max G. The addition had been made.

Business returned to Perry's motion which was seconded by Eidson and carried unanimously.

4. Other Business

The chairman discussed Hydrilla on Lake Thurmond. DNR staff assisted in a coverage survey (5,000 acres reported) as well as an AVM survey.

Perry summarized current policy toward Lake Thurmond regarding Hydrilla control. From 2006 and into 2007 Hydrilla increased dramatically in Lake Thurmond, which in part, prompted USACE to call a meeting, which DNR attended to discuss Hydrilla coverage as well as issues surrounding AVM. SCDNR then met with Georgia DNR and each DNR director wrote identical letters to the Colonel in charge of the Savannah District. Drought conditions temporarily reduced Hydrilla coverage and the overall issue languished. Meanwhile research has shown that only one bald eagle nesting territory remains, and all others have been lost. USACE supported a postal questionnaire to determine public opinion on the issue. SCNDR recommended trilateral agreement between SCDNR, GDNR, and USACE. Recommendations began with USACE conducting a stakeholder process to address and assess all issues. USACE agreed to the approach provided that financial support comes from SCDNR and GDNR. Currently SCDNR is prepared to accept the results of the questionnaire in lieu of a comprehensive stakeholder process provided the results from the questionnaire are scientific. AVM is present only where sufficient amounts of Stigonematales are supported and that seems only to be on dense expanses of Hydrilla. Money limits control options. Political and resource management opinions are in flux. Inclusion of Lake Thurmond in the Plan is appropriate even if authority and funds are not in place to carry out treatment operations. Scheduling a council meeting on the Savannah Lakes would be appropriate as well and could help focus attention on the issues. The chairman intends to discuss the issue in the upcoming GSARP meeting. Perry suggested that the minutes reflect the importance of the issue and the council's deliberation. Furthermore it should be mentioned that the council supports the trilateral agreement approach and intends to address the Thurmond issue more fully in next year's iteration.

The Chairman turned attention to the new NPDES requirements. Eidson summarized recent action: on March 3rd EPA asked for and was granted an extension beyond the original April 9th effective date to delay implementation until October 31st. Page added that a bill is being considered that explicitly states that FIFRA-covered activities are

exempt from the CWA. Inabinet told of a DHEC issued permit that has been put in place with its effective date to be determined by final court action.

The chairman updated the council on the progress of the billboard campaign (they should be in place soon), the Island Apple Snail populations (winter temperatures were below tolerance limits for extended periods), the AIS Task Force (it will reconvene soon to modify the AIS Plan), the Stop Aquatic Hitch Hiker sign project, the GSARP meeting, and the SCAPMS meeting (at Clemson).

Mr. Thompson discussed meeting space at the new Farmer's Market.

Mr. Lay asked for all to stay vigilant regarding pesticide related wildlife poisonings. Recent cases have come to light related to Temik, and DPR would like to be notified of any future cases.

Hook will be investigating a possible *Salvinia molesta* population.

Lay moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Eidson and carried unanimously.

5. Adjournment

Being no further business the Council adjourned at 11:50 a.m.