

## **Minutes of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council**

### **1. Call to Order**

Steven de Kozlowski called the 91st meeting of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council to order at 10:00 am on July 21, 2006 in the conference room of the Georgetown County Conservation District office at 1837 North Fraser St. in Georgetown, SC. 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. Larry McCord (for John Inabinet), S.C. Public Service Authority; Mr. Bob Perry, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries; Mr. Stan Hutto, S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Mr. Marc Cribb, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, and Mr. Steven de Kozlowski, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division.

Visitors in attendance were Mr. Debbie Mann, Georgetown County Conservation District; Mr. Jack Whetstone, Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service; and Mr. Chris Page, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division.

### **2. Tour of Phragmites Test Plots**

Jack Whetstone took the Council on a tour of Phragmites treatment sites at the city park, Morgan Park on the island, and two private plantation sites.

### **Business Lunch**

The Council returned to the Georgetown County Conservation District office for a delicious chicken bog lunch prepared by Sam Ward and other district staff.

### **3. Minutes of the March 16, 2006 Council Meeting**

The minutes were reviewed, and a motion to accept the minutes as written was made. The motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Phragmites Cost-Share Program**

Debbie Mann and Jack Whetstone reviewed the newly established cost-share program that provides financial incentive to landowners to treat Phragmites on their property. Debbie passed out summary information about the application process (qualifications) and the number of applicants and total amount of cost-share funds available and their sources. DNR provided \$50K, NRCS-\$30,500, USFWS- \$30K, TNC-\$10K, and HRA-\$10K for a total of \$130,500.

The program appears to be working; 875 acres will be treated this year under the program with \$87K obligated in cost-share funds. Applicants stated to the District that they would not have treated Phragmites or would have treated less without program.

## **5. Update on Control Operations**

Chris Page gave an update on control operations. A total 1063 acres had been treated to date. All state park lakes have been treated as well as Georgetown City parks. 412 acres of Phragmites was treated on Santee Coastal, 200 acres on Yawkey Center, and 109 acres on Baruch. Hydrilla has been treated on Back River Res., Lake Greenwood, and Cooper River. Water lettuce on Goose Creek Reservoir has increased and is difficult to control.

## **6. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Jack Whetstone**

On behalf of the Aquatic Plant Management Council, he recognized Jack Whetstone for his many years of assistance to the Aquatic Plant Management Program and assistance in managing aquatic vegetation in private waters throughout the state.

Jack has been a valuable asset behind the scenes to our program for almost as long as I can remember. He is Clemson University's Aquatic Specialist and as such trains and coordinates their County Extension efforts in aquatics. He routinely holds aquatic plant workshops for county agents, professionals, and the public. If it weren't for his training and the close network we have with the extension agents we would have never known about *Salvinia molesta* in Colleton County in 1995 and recently in Jasper County and been able to mount a rapid response to eradicate it. Jack has assisted us in getting alligatorweed flea beetles on several occasions and has been a valuable source of control information.

Jack was also instrumental in getting the original grant for the Phragmites Cost-share program and worked to expand it to the multi-agency program it is today. In addition to that, he is involved other aquatic invasive species special projects like the Beach Vitex eradication effort in Georgetown County and helped write the Zebra Mussel Risk Assessment in 2002.

He has been an active member of the SC Aquatic Plant Management Society for many years and has served as a director and President. He does whatever it takes to get the job done and does what is right.

Jack was presented with a framed Certificate of Appreciation from the Aquatic Plant Management Council that read:

“For his many years of public service in the control of invasive aquatic vegetation in public and private waters and assistance to the Aquatic Plant Management Program in South Carolina” dated July 21, 2006.

## **7. Other Business**

Steve de Kozlowski informed the Council of the newly formed Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, it's membership, and purpose to develop and statewide aquatic invasive species management plan and serve as a formal network to address aquatic invasive species issues and implement the plan. The first meeting will be July 27 in Columbia.

DNR is working with the Corps of Engineers to get treatment on their dredge spoil areas. Staff has recently surveyed the Charleston Harbor sites and identified about 500 acres. Steve handed out Charleston Harbor maps with Phragmites locations and photographs. They plan to treat the Naval Weapons Base site.

The SCAPMS Annual Meeting will be Aug. 16-18 at Springmaid Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach.

## **8. Adjournment**

Being no further business the Council adjourned at 2:00 pm