

Minutes of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council

1. Call to Order

Steven de Kozlowski called the 95th meeting of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council to order at 10:00 am on November 29, 2007 at the S.C. Department of Agriculture, Ramage Conference Center, 1001 Bluff Road, 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. Stan Hutto, S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Cam Lay, Clemson University, Department of Pesticide Regulation; Mr. David Tompkins, S.C. Department of Agriculture, 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 Chris Page, Michael Hook, Walter Meitzen, and Jennifer Mock; S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division.

2. Minutes of the March 15, 2007 Council Meeting

The minutes were reviewed and a motion to accept the minutes by de Kozlowski was made and seconded by Eidson. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review of 2007 Control Operations

John Inabinet was given the floor to review the 2007 Aquatic Plant Control activities for Santee Cooper. He gave a handout on the aquatic plant control and management activities of Lake Marion, Lake Marion Impoundment, and Lake Moultrie, which was reviewed by the council. Inabinet stated that lake levels are down and 860 acres were covered at a

cost of \$223,666.19. These figures were referred to in the handout.

Inabinet reviewed a pie chart based on acreage treated for the following aquatic plants: crested floating heart, giant cutgrass, cattail, hydrilla, lyngbya, pithophora, water hyacinth, water primrose, alligatorweed, water willow, and others. Inabinet stated that a great deal of work was performed on giant cutgrass and cattail. Inabinet stated that crested floating heart is a new species that has been identified in lakes and has been difficult to deal with. A number of different chemical combinations have been used to try to control the crested floating heart species. Inabinet stated that the state of Florida is facing the same situation trying to control the species. Inabinet stated that an aerial application was performed via helicopter a few weeks ago using Clear Cast. Results are unknown at this time but early indication is that using Clear Cast via aerial application will give some relief. Inabinet stated that 21 percent of work performed was on the Santee National Wildlife Refuge and on a couple of Wildlife Management Areas for giant cutgrass and cattail. Inabinet stated that a lot of work has been pushed back due to the drought. In wrapping up the review of 2007 control operations for Santee Cooper de Kozlowski asked if there was any hydrilla left in the waters that were treated. Inabinet responded stating that 80-85 percent has been controlled.

Chris Page was given the floor to present the control operations for 2007 for SCDNR. Page provided a handout on the S.C. Aquatic Plant Management Program control operations and expenditures during 2007. Page presented the programs highlights. There were 36 plus water bodies managed, which included Santee Cooper lakes. State Park lakes were managed by trying new product this year. Page stated that using liquid 2, 4-D instead of granular 2, 4-D, cut Hutto's costs significantly. Page stated that pad plants are being targeted with liquid 2, 4-D. Phragmites was treated with over 1738 acres at about \$325,000.00. A grand total of 4204.53 acres were treated which included Santee Cooper Lakes at a cost of \$773,170.99.

Page spoke about additional funding and stated that Corps of Engineers funding was provided by the Charleston office for Phragmites control. Page indicated that this funding was used for 294 acres of Phragmites on the Intracoastal Waterway(ICWW) from

Georgetown, SC to Charleston, SC. 282 acres were also treated in the Charleston Harbor. Work was done on the Edisto River for phragmites as well as the Combahee River. The Black River and Black Mingo Creek were treated for the same plants that have been treated in the past, primarily alligatorweed and primrose. Sandy Island was treated for phragmites. Samworth WMA was mostly treated for water hyacinth. Only 10 to 12 acres were treated for phragmites at Samworth WMA. Discussion continued about the different brands and uses of herbicides.

Michael Hook was given the floor to discuss various water bodies. Hook stated that the Back River Reservoir remains the same. The number of acres treated was slightly less than last year with majority of the treatments being water hyacinth. Hook stated that hydrilla at Williams Station is treated twice a year. Hook stated that they have switched to a Komeen-Reward mix and seem to get better control with it. Foster Creek was clean for most of the year and Hook showed slides of what Foster Creek looked like before and after treatment. Hook stated that in 2008 they should only do maintenance treatments at Foster Creek. Winyah Bay was treated for phragmites with the same amount of acreage covered last year. Georgetown Parks were cut back from 45 acres to 3 ½ acres this year. The Black River acreage expanded but just included cleaning up the outside of the parks by water. Hook continues his presentation by showing slides of helicopter treatments. Treatments at Bonneau Ferry were about the same as last year. Rice Hope showed significant improvement and treatment was half of last years. Treatments were also done via helicopter to impoundments that haven't been treated in the past. Hook continues by showing slides of Rice Hope to give a visual of what it looks like at this time. Hook stated that 298 acres of water hyacinth were treated on the Cooper River, which is a jump from last year. 200 acres were covered by helicopter in Farmers Creek. Goose Creek acreage was a little higher this year compared to past years, but there is a little more treatable acreage due to canals being dug and development of subdivisions. 104 acres of Hydrilla was treated at Lake Greenwood. Nothing was treated on Lake Murray this year but there is a band of water primrose on the Chapin side of town. Hook stated that they looked for hydrilla on Lake Murray and have not found anything at this time. Dungannon was not treated this year due to low water. Hook stated that treating Santee Coastal was

exciting this year. Only 714 acres were treated in 2007 compared to 1500 acres in 2006. Tom Yawkey went up from 100 to 120 acres this year. It is important to figure out what they can do to get control of problem areas at Yawkey and how to be more precise at Santee Coastal WMA. The Caw Caw Interpretive Center was a new place for treatment this year for phragmites. In State Park lakes 8 ½ more acres were treated this year compared to last year, and \$5,000.00 less was spent due to switching to Liquid 2, 4-D discussed earlier. Hook closed by stating that he and Page were excited to have Walter Meitzen on their team.

The floor was given to Inabinet to discuss 2008 problem areas for the Santee Cooper Lakes. Inabinet referred to the packet previously handed out to review a comparison of vegetation by category. He is waiting on the numbers for 2007 acres.. Lake levels were reviewed. Inabinet stated that aerial flights are very interesting at this time. Inabinet stated that it is unknown if lake levels will rise which causes challenges that they have not had in the past. Particular interest is the coverage of hydrilla. There is less than 75 acres of hydrilla in the main body of the lake but the main concern is a continuous band from Elliot's/Pack's Landing to Jackson Creek, which covers an eleven mile stretch. Discussion continued about lake levels and drought conditions.

Page was given the floor to discuss the Aquatic Plant Management Plan. There were minor changes and edits to the plan. The Little Pee Dee River increased due to significant amounts of water hyacinth. Lake Murray is severely impacted in some areas with primrose so it will be potentially added to the plan. Samworth WMA was included again for treatment of water hyacinth. Santee Coastal is in the plan for phragmites control and they are looking for ways to help get and maintain control. Dollar figures are based on 2007 figures. Lake Greenwood is pushing for grass carp, but will need to be discussed. A proposed summary of planned Management operation expenditures for 2008 was also reviewed. Findings in Santee Cooper lakes indicate continued discussion of restocking grass carp and may need to be reconsidered in 2008.

Page closed discussion and mentioned that he would send a new copy of the plan to

everyone.

4. Other Business

de Kozlowski mentioned setting the dates for council meetings in 2008. The dates and times were reviewed. The next meetings are scheduled for January 25, 2008 and March 13, 2008 at the Dennis Building in Columbia. de Kozlowski mentioned that the National Aquatic Plant Management Society will be meeting in Charleston, SC. He stated that this would be a good venue for the council to meet. It will be held jointly with the SC Aquatic Plant Management Society.

de Kozlowski spoke about Corps of Engineer funding questions. He stated that it does not look good for this upcoming fiscal year. The request for money has been made again. The request has been submitted for 2009 as well. Right now all the money is going to Waterways Experiment Station for other research.

5. Adjournment

Being no further business the Council adjourned at 12:04 p.m.