

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

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

Steven de Kozlowski called the 88th meeting of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council to order at 10:00 am on November 17, 2005 at the SC Department of Agriculture, Ramage Conference Center across from William Brice Stadium, Columbia, 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. John Inabinet, S.C. Public Service Authority; Mr. Marc Cribb, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division; Mr. Stan Hutto, S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Mr. Miller White, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries; John Hensel, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control – OCRM; Cam Lay, Clemson University Department of Pesticide Regulation; David Tompkins, Department of Agriculture; and Mr. Steven de Kozlowski, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division.

Visitors in attendance were Mr. Chris Page, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division.

### **2. Minutes of the July 22, 2005 Council Meeting**

The minutes were reviewed, and approved as written.

### **3. Review of 2005 Control Operations**

Chris Page gave an update of control operations for the year through explanation and viewing of a power point presentation. Table 2005-B Summary of SC Aquatic Plant Management Control Operation and Expenditures During 2005, Phragmites Control Update, and Summary of Planned Management Operation Expenditure for 2006 were

handed out for review. Also handed out were copies of DNR's Illegal Aquatic Plants and a generic pamphlet from Arkansas titled "Aquatic Invaders can Spoil American Waters" through the Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership, which we are a member. Due to rebidding the applicator contract the aerial application cost went from \$118 to \$75 per acre allowing more area to be treated. Approximately 3390 acres of aquatic nuisance plants have been treated to date at an expense of \$542,673 by DNR. Use of other watercraft has improved the manner in which treatments could be applied. Slides showed significant control of treated aquatic areas. Areas reviewed included the following:

<b>Area</b>	<b>Treated</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Herbicide</b>
Back River	Water Hyacinth	315.5	Renovate 3, Reward
Water Primrose	52	Renovate 3	
Hydrilla	179.5	Komeen/Reward	
Baruch/Winyah Bay	Phragmites	80	Habitat
Black River/Mingo Crk	Alligatorweed	12	Habitat
Bonneau Ferry	Primrose, Hycinth, 146		Habitat/Renovate 3
Frog's bit, Lotus			
Cutgrass, Cattails			
Cooper River	Primrose, Hycinth 197		Renovate 3/Reward
Hydrilla	60.5	Komeen	
Delta Plantation	Salvinia Molesta	3	Reward/Sonar
Donnelly WMA	Frog's bit, Cattail, 114		Habitat/Renovate 3
Swamp Loosestrife			
Goose Creek	Hyacinth, Water	232	Renovate3/ Reward/
Lettuce, Primrose		Habitat	
Lake Greenwood	Hydrilla, Naiad	33	Aquathol-K
Lake Murray	Water Primrose	18	Renovate 3
Pee Dee River	Phragmites	9	Habitat
Samworth WMA	Phragmites,	66.5	Habitat
Hyacinth			

Santee Coastal	Phragmites	1729	Habitat
Santee Delta	Phragmites,	32.5	Habitat
Willows			
Waccamaw/Sandy Isl.	Water Hyacinth,	6	Habitat
Phragmites			
Tom Yawkey	Phragmites	105	Habitat

Some discussion was held as to Phragmites control and treatment. The Chairman stated that this year DNR treated a little more Phragmites than was treated 1995 through 2004. He stated that this was due to lower cost of aerial treatment, funding from Water Recreational Resource Funds, and greater availability of control funds due to successful hydrilla control. (See attachment – Hydrilla 2005). A lot of DNR property was treated for Phragmites this year. Over 800 acres were treated on private property in the Georgetown area. Suggestion of a Marsh Master to be used for future problems areas when treating Phragmites.

Phragmites is a problem on the National level. A \$1.9 million grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has criteria for control of invasive species such as Phragmites and landscape surveys, so DNR is looking to tap into these monies. Hyperspectral study done earlier this year has not yielded any usable information or data for DNR. Santee Cooper hired Remetrix to do similar hyperspectral studies on Santee Cooper Lakes. If DNR is able to secure funds from the grant, a hyperspectral study is one of the things that DNR would like to have done.

The Chairman informed the council that the Corps of Engineers has drafted an Environmental Assessment to allow for the use of Aquatic Plant Control Program cost-share funds for the control of Phragmites. These federal funds could be used to treat Phragmites in public waters in SC. The Corps of Engineers has recognized Phragmites as a problem in their own document. Next step is to ask for their assistance in controlling the problem. If we cannot get their support in controlling Phragmites on dredge spoil areas then control of Phragmites is a waste of time in adjacent public areas, due to ease of

spreading.

Landowner Cost-share Program is materializing through Marc Cribb and the Conservation District, and the Georgetown Conservation District in order to encourage the treatment of Phragmites on private property. Landowners treat their own area, meet criteria, provide proof, provide GPS so that when we get the data and 50/50 cost-share can be met. Program is already going on through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Fund. The plan is to run the program through the Conservation Districts since they already have similar programs for other activities and are affiliated with the DNR.

#### **4. Aquatic Plant Coverage and Management Recommendations on Santee Cooper Lakes**

John Inabinet handed out a packet containing the “2005 Aquatic Plant Control Breakdown Per Lake” and the “2005 Santee Cooper Lake Aquatic Plant Control Activities.” Spending less, 544 acres at a cost of \$112,861. 78% of treatment work done in Lake Marion, almost entirely hydrilla control on subimpoundments. They are working with DNR and SEAPRO Corp. to be able to control hydrilla without any harm to other beneficial native vegetation in Potato Creek Impoundment. Monitoring of Sonar (product) through SEAPRO. SEAPRO would determine amount of concentration of Sonar to control hydrilla. Treatment done later in the year so that other plants would not be harmed by the herbicide. Due to this, result will not be known until next spring. Hydrilla stressed, but full results not known. Appears that native vegetation has survived.

Previously contracted with Tennessee Valley to do aerial photography and interpretation to give numbers on amount of vegetation. Turn around time has been a problem. Contracted now with Remetrix for multi-spectral photography. Results for first run in June data already in. Raw data/final product should be to Santee Cooper by December 15. Turn around time much more effective. With multispectral photography, Santee Cooper can identify well over 20 different species. Technology and results have

improved. Santee Cooper looking to use this information in several different way to help spread cost around.

Hydrilla regrowth study was not done this year, normally done every other year.

Committee that met last week was set up by a Cooperative Agreement between DNR and Santee Cooper years ago. Committee looks at all data, vegetative cover, etc. of the lakes to make recommendations to the council on management of Santee Cooper Lakes.

Recommendation last week was that the Committee did not recommend restocking of grass carp in Santee Cooper in 2006.

## **5. Draft 2006 Aquatic Plant Management Plan**

Chris Page has been working on the draft plan based on growth during the past year. The complete 2006 plan will be emailed to the Council before January 2006.

## **6. Other Business**

- Funding: Not counting on federal cost-share dollars for 2006, but not giving up yet. Water Recreational Resource Funds Ok for now but may be in jeopardy if state determines to suspend collecting gas tax to lower cost at the pump.
- DNR is working on getting a private consultant to help facilitate the development of a statewide ANS Management Plan. Hope to start in January.
- Tentative Future Meeting dates:  
Thursday, January 12; Thursday, March 9; Friday, July 21; and Thursday, November 16, 2006

## **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Council adjourned about 12:00 pm.

