

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

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

Steven de Kozlowski called the 87th meeting of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council to order at 10:00 am on July 22, 2005 in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot off Hwy 378, three miles west of Lexington. 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 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; Ms. Jeannie Eidson, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control; Mr. Miller White, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, and Mr. Steven de Kozlowski, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division.

Visitors in attendance were Mr. Chris Page and Mr. Michael Hook, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division, and Mr. Tommy Boozer, S.C. Electric and Gas.

### **2. Minutes of the March 3, 2005 Council Meeting**

The minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

### **3. Status of Control Operations**

Chris Page gave an update of control operations for the year. Most of the work so far was aerial application of Phragmites with the herbicide Habitat. Approximately 923 acres of Phragmites has been treated to date at Santee Coastal Reserve, Baruch Institute and Yawkey Wildlife Center. Systematic control of water primrose that had been started last year showed promise to reduce the number of acres of hyacinth treatment in coming years.

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

a. Corps of Engineers Phragmites Environmental Assessment-The Chairman informed the council that the COE is drafting 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. He expects the assessment to be out for public review in August.

b. Private property cost-share-

In order to encourage the treatment of Phragmites on private property, DNR is coordinating efforts with The Nature Conservancy USFWS, Historic Ricefields

Association, Winyah Bay Focus Area, and the Georgetown County Conservation District to implement a public/private cost-share program. Funds would be used to reimburse property owners for up to 50% of control costs. Application forms are being worked out and contracts will be needed. The plan is to run the program through the Conservation District since they already have similar programs for other activities and are affiliated with the DNR.

#### **5. Field Trip**

The Council traveled to Hook Landing and boarded boats to tour Lake Murray. Chris Page and Tommy Boozer pointed out water primrose problem areas on the northern side of the lake near Smallwood Estates. Control options were discussed along with restrictions in using certain herbicides on Lake Murray due to individual homeowner drinking water intakes and irrigation systems. Sites around Wessinger Island that contained hydrilla last year were surveyed using depth finders and hand rakes. No hydrilla was found. The Council stopped off at Wessinger Island to inspect an established habitat enhancement project. Buttonbushes and cypress trees were growing well. The group returned to the landing.

#### **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Council adjourned about 1:00 pm.