

Minutes for the July 5, 2017 - LGA Monthly Meeting (APPROVED)
Lake Gaston Baptist Church

At 9:30 AM President Bill Heflin called the meeting to order. Bill led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance and then requested a moment of silence. Bill requested a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded and passed.

In attendance were President Bill Heflin, Vice President Mozine Lowe, Directors' John Cataldo, Jeff Dowhan, Carol Warfel, Wally Sayko, Tony Moran, Jack Saunders, Don Carson, Brian Goldsworthy and Executive Director Moira Underwood. Also participating were 24 members/guests and one representative from the press.

Nominating Committee Chair Clarence Drumgoole presented the slate of officers for 2017-2018. They are:

President - Mozine Lowe
Vice President - Don Carson
Treasurer - Jack Saunders
Secretary - Brian Goldsworthy

President Bill Heflin motioned the slate be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. At the conclusion of the vote, Mozine presented outgoing President Bill Heflin with a small token of appreciation for his two years of dedicated service to the LGA as its president. Bill handed over the gavel to Mozine who made comments thanking Bill for his efforts to increase membership through the HOA's and guiding the LGA through the early days of QRR.

Mozine then introduced Governmental Relations Chair Don Carson who led the discussion on this month's topic, "QRR, One Year Out". Unfortunately, our featured speaker, Ashley Hatchell from the Wilmington office of the US Army Corps of Engineers, was unable to attend. Technical difficulties with the remote Power Point presentation resulted in Don using the slides prepared by Ms. Hatchell. Don first defined QRR as the Quasi River of the Run. In short, QRR permits higher flow rates through the Kerr Dam which in turn shortens the time when Lake Gaston is in flood control during a major rain event.

Ms. Hatchell's slides made three key points:

1. Corps declares official flood operations, which allows operational changes at Gaston and Rapids dams. Dominion can operate Gaston to elevation 203 feet when the Corps declares flood operations (up to 201 feet during the spawn season April - June).
2. Under QRR, flood operations are declared when the Corps requests releases at or above 20,000 cfs (cubic feet per second).

3. Under previous flood operations (pre QRR), there would have been 61 days under declared flood operations. Post QRR, we had only 43 days of declared flood operations.

The presentation noted the Corps released over 30,000 cfs roughly last April/May 2016 but due to QRR the lake didn't exceed 201 feet. During Hurricane Matthew last October, the lake briefly went over 201 feet.

[Did you know? 1 cubic foot per second basically converts to 449 gallons so in one minute that's about 27,000 gallons. We all know how heavy a 5 gallon pail of water is. So a release of 20,000 cubic foot per second roughly translates to almost 9 million gallons of water per minute or 13 billion gallons per day entering Lake Gaston from the Kerr Dam. The whole lake holds about 150 billion gallons when at 200 feet].

Director Wally Sayko, Environment Chair, provided an update on the first phase of the June Revegetation Project. Phase 2 is scheduled for July. We are in year 3 of the 5 year project working in conjunction with NC State and the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council to introduce native vegetation to the lake. There will be more on this important topic at next month's LGA meeting.

Director Carol Warfel, Lake Gaston Clean-Up Chair, reported the May 20 annual Lake Gaston Clean-Up day was deemed a worthwhile project and efforts will continue over the year to enhance education to keep the lake and surrounding area clean and possibly adding different areas for collection sites.

If you would like more information about any of the LGA committees or would like to come out and help at one of the special events, please email info@lakegastonassoc.com or visit www.lakegastonassoc.com.

As a reminder, our next meeting will be on August 2 and AJ Reyes, Extension Associate, NC State University Department of Crop Science, will provide an update on the Vegetation Project and treatment efforts.

During the Q&A, it was suggested as a future topic a discussion about water willows; the good and the bad.

With no further comments, Mazine closed the meeting at 10:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Goldsworthy, Secretary