

Sep 2, 2015 LGA Monthly Meeting Minutes (approved)

The meeting began at 9:30 AM. The President, Bill Heflin, called the meeting to order and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He then called for a moment of silence. In attendance were Al Potter, Tony Moran, VP Mozine Lowe, Bill Lindenmuth, Clarence Drumgoole, Jeff Dowhan, Wally Sayko, Moira Underwood, Carol Warfel, John Cataldo and Jack Saunders. One member of the press was in attendance, Khai Hoang of the Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald.

The six members and visitors in the audience introduced themselves.

Mozine Lowe introduced Pam Ballew, the Exec Dir of the Center for Energy Education. With her was Walter Putnam, one of the Geenex Directors from Charlotte. Walter is engaged with many initiatives in the surrounding areas introducing “solar farms” to the local landscape. The solar panels used are collectors with the photovoltaic units to convert sun energy to electricity in the panels with the energy wired to control units which add the energy to the existing local electric infrastructure (Dominion Power) and is managed as a resource with the overall power grid.

Pam Ballew is engaged in expanding the public knowledge of renewable energy and is carrying out the vision of the parent company Geenex which includes the idea that the renewable energy source can provide new fields of study, new opportunities for business, jobs and education. She has already accomplished startup activities with NC State University and is working with local school system leaders. She has also established a solid working relationship with the NC Museum of Science and is working to have many educational and recreational opportunities as part of what the Center offers to the local area and eastern North Carolina. She has established a relationship with Halifax Community College which is also going to offer off campus courses at the Center for Education Energy.

There were numerous questions at the end of the presentation regarding the potential for residential solar panel installation and power generation, and the economics of this energy source relative to others with some mention of the subsidies allowed. There were some closing comments about the future of hybrid opportunities collecting solar generated energy in the day and wind generated energy at night and the potential for great strides in battery technology.

President Bill Hefner presented LGA hats and float key fobs to the presenters and a round of applause was given.

Bruce Johnson provided an overview of the progress that can be seen over the years through the feedback graphics provided back to the Volunteer effort to track the efforts as time goes on. Bruce also made some overall comments about trends that are being noted and about new

application for lynbya treatment. Bruce indicates there are over 40 volunteers who have indicated interest this year in assisting in the whole lake survey. He also noted that only one plant is protected on the lake and that is by Dominion (not NCWR) and it is water willow which is a native plant that helps protect shoreline.

Mozine Lowe then reported on the activity co-sponsored by she and Walter Lowe and the LGA. It was a well appreciated event participated in by personnel from the Sheriff Departments of Halifax, Northampton and Warren Counties. John Cataldo addressed the upcoming event for the Virginia officers of the Brunswick and Mecklenburg Sheriff Offices. It will be held on Sep 12 at the Club in Gasburg.

The Secretary's Report of the August meeting prepared by Don Carson was approved by the Board.

The Treasurer's Report as of Sep 1 was approved and the 2016 Draft Budget was approved for publication in the Oct/Nov Bulletin to have members identify any questions.

Tony Moran gave a membership report noting that at the end of August there were 2067 personal and business memberships. He highlighted the opportunity for sponsor/new member discounted memberships and urged members to use the services of business members. He also gave credit for the initiation and pursuit of Homeowner Association Memberships which have bolstered the member numbers.

Bill reminded Committee Chairs to use the list of potential volunteers to increase member participation. He asked if there were other issues or concerns and none being identified the meeting was adjourned.

Reported by the very temporary Secretary for this Sep 2 meeting. Jack D. Saunders, Director Northampton County (1 of 2)