

**Chairman Pitts called the Special Meeting of the LAMSBD to order at 7:25 PM on February 18, 2008 to discuss the hydrilla situation and related issues.**

**Members present: Seats 1, 2, 3,4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 Absent - Seat 9:**

**Chairman explained that Doug Charles of Charles Aquatics, Dr. Haller and his assistant from the University of Florida, Ryan Hamm and Patrick McCord from Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission along with Dharmen Setaram, Aquathol Representative had met on February 8 and observed and discussed proposed plan for treatment of the North Lake including drawdown, chemicals and carp. They spent two and a half hours observing the lake via boat and discussing situation. Dr. Haller is an expert on Hydrilla, as is Dharmen Setaram. Both travels all over the States assessing situations where hydrilla and other invasive plants are a problem.**

**A new proposal has been received from Charles Aquatics formulated by Dr. Bill Haller, Mr. Dharman Setaram (Aquathol rep), Patrick McCord and Ryan Hamm of FWC. Aquathol K has been chosen for this treatment. Goal - knock back current hydrilla infestation 80 to 90% while preventing a fish kill.**

**Application will be in two partial treatments to prevent oxygen depletion but a fish kill is always possible with a draw down or a major hydrilla treatment of this nature.**

**Initial Aquathol treatment will treat all coves in the North Lake with the exception of the large northwest cove. The NW cove will be a fish refuge and an area of more normal oxygen levels. Acreage of initial treatment area as determined by Mr. McCord of FWC is 35 acres and the rate of Aquathol set by Mr. Setaram is 3.ppm. Total Aquathol to be applied has been calculated for the initial treatment to be 463 gallons. Cost for treatment \$29,600. Treatment will directly target hydrilla in coves (except NW cove) and indirectly target hydrilla in main body of lake.**

**No other proposals were presented to the Board for this project.**

**University of Florida has offered the use of 2 hydro labs at NO cost. Hydro labs are buoys with computer recorders that track oxygen content and temperature of lake after treatment. If the Hydro labs record low oxygen readings, valves will be opened on the upper lake to increase the water and oxygen in the north lake. If we had to rent or purchase these labs it would cost thousands of dollars but due to Dr. Haller's interest in this project he was able to get U of F to loan them to us for the project.**

**The second treatment for the NW cove will be conducted, if necessary, following results from initial Aquathol treatment. Some control of hydrilla is expected in the NW cove. Should this treatment be necessary the estimated cost would be \$5340 based on using 83 gallons of Aquathol.**

**On day of treatment fish barriers will be fixed to prevent carp can escape. Doug Charles will make repairs at NO Cost to the District.**

**An unidentified guest complained a resident near him was burning tires in the lake. Chairman advised we appreciated his concern however, this meeting is for the specific purpose of dealing with the hydrilla.**

**Cooper Murphy, Treasurer reported we currently have a balance of \$39,500. in checking account. Contingency fund has \$58,503. available. Legal services, mowing, drain tube maintenance, erosion control, etc. must then be deducted from that number.**

**Secretary volunteered to defer payment for her services until next years taxes begin to come in. No decision was made. She will continue to bill on a monthly basis unless board votes to accept.**

**Dr. Haller emphasized that we are not trying to eliminate all of the hydrilla because that would be impossible, we are trying to eliminate enough of it so the carp can maintain it. We may need to introduce additional carp immediately after we see some results of chemical treatment. This means that we may be looking at an additional 300 carp at \$8.00 each or an additional \$2400.**

**There are some serious erosion issues under the mattress on the North Lake Dam. Chairman met with Mr. Bueme and he knows several contractors who are familiar with repairing this type material. He will advise them we have a limited budget and are looking at emergency repairs and then with a plan to do additional repairs down the line.**

**Following lengthy discussion it was decided Dr. Haller would be contacted to determine weather patterns prior to scheduling the initial treatment.**

**Sue Sheahan had met Dr. Haller and other reps and feels they are really concerned about our situation and has come up with an excellent plan based on knowledge each expert had with similar situations.**

**Dr. Haller had stated that should we have to bump up the chemical concentration it should be minor. He feels what his group has recommended is the BEST SHOT WE HAVE.**

**A couple of people on Black Creek have mentioned they are having some erosion when the valve is opened to release water from the North Lake.**

**Rob Bowmaster said if we used all of our Weed & Vegetation Control Money (\$17,000), use Water Quality Testing funds (\$3,500.) along with \$1,500.00 of Habitat Improvement Fish and \$10,000 out of Erosion Control in addition to the balance of \$8,000 in Reserve for Contingencies we would have \$40,000.00 which could be used.**

**Because of the increased hydrilla growth in the South Lake it is unanimously agreed that we need carp put in the lake as soon as possible. However, Game and Fish has not given us a permit for any Carp at this time. Doug Charles and Secretary have spoken to Ryan Hamm but a permit has not been amended or issued.**

**Rob Bowmaster made a motion, seconded by Ski Gapinski that the Board approve the use of up to \$35,000 of District's current budget on the plan developed by Dr. Haller, Dharmen Setaram, G & F Comm. and other knowledgeable contributors.**

**Treatment date to be determined by Dr. Haller based on weather conditions.**

**Further discussion - Mark McMillan feels we are putting all our eggs in one basket leaving very little funds for any other emergencies that may occur. Over the last couple of years we have spent a large amount of funds on weed control. In the NW cove where it is separated from Lake Ryan people have called him concerning the erosion resulting from the lack of bulkheads and rain we just had. The islands where the springs come out and under the tree limbs have been directly affected in areas that were dredged. It was reported to him by a caller that they had seen someone pour 5 gallons of diesel fuel on weeds in the lake.**

**Vote: For motion, Laura Rhodes Larry Pitts, Ski Gapinski and Cindy Clark  
Against: Cooper Murphy, Ernie Thomas and Mark McMillan - motion passed 4 to 3.**

**Cooper Murphy questioned why they did not consider using granular instead of liquid Aquathol? Expense was greater using granular. Bob Rumble who had been present on February 8<sup>th</sup> remembered Dr. Haller explaining the liquid applied at 3. ppm versus the traditional 1.ppm works very fast eliminating other variables from entering the equation. Did Dharmen make any other recommendations on alternate chemicals? Larry will get answers.**

**Have we seen a map indicating exactly how much chemical will be dispensed in specified areas. Will someone be monitoring the dispensing of the chemical?  
Answer - YES - Both Dharmen and Dr. Haller is going to be here and anyone interested in first hand view is welcome to be at the dam or observe from their back yard.**

**There were questions concerning private donations through the committee that is being set up by lakelot individuals to assist in some of the costs the MSBD is incurring but until they can speak to an attorney, there are few answers. Volunteers**

**wishing to assist in their effort were invited to attend meeting scheduled specifically for this purpose.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM**

**Marie Mathewson  
Secretary**

**Approved\_\_\_\_\_**

**File tape nos. 295 Sides A & B and tape no. 296 Side A  
Pages 666 thru 669**

**Meeting held following LALLOA Regular Monthly Meeting held on  
February 18, 2008 at the Lake Asbury Community Building.**