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Tim Joseph asked that I send this to all on our distribution list.

As most of you know, spawned by Commissioners of Roane County, the ***Watts Bar Ecology and Fishery Council*** was established, and has begun the difficult task of pulling together Watts Bar Lake stakeholders into a productive and comprehensive body of volunteers to address the numerous aspects of the invasive aquatic plants that have gained a foothold in the shallow littoral zone of Watts Bar. Roane County Commissioners are reaching out to the Commissioners and other political entities of Meigs, Rhea, and Loudon Counties, and hope to have these counties' representatives and other stakeholders

This council cannot reach its goals without volunteers/stakeholders actively participating in one or more of the seven Working-Groups established by the council. It is imperative that work begins quickly, for time is the friend of invasive aquatic plants. If we are to comprehensively address the many issues, and reach a consensus for sound technical recommendations/solutions/actions in a reasonable timeframe, dedicated volunteers need to support and actively participate.

If you enjoy Watts Bar Lake and want it to continue to have a healthy and productive ecosystem for all users, please attend the next meeting and consider joining the council to take part in this most important endeavor. If we do nothing, there is no question whatsoever that most areas less than 10 feet deep will be completely filled with extremely dense mats of invasive aquatic plants. This can happen in only a few short years. It is imperative that this problem be dealt with now. It has already begun, many property owners' docks are encased by the plants, and they cannot get their boats out of their coves, and swimming or fishing is impossible of course.

The next meeting of the Council is planned for Tuesday, May 9th at the Kingston Community Center, Banquet Room from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. To get on the WBEFC mailing list or request information, please send an Email to wbeffc@outlook.com We will keep you informed on Council progress and meeting dates, etc. **Please plan to attend and take a seat on the Council—we need your expertise and assistance—thank you.** Tim

NOTE: ERA-Spring City will be hosting an Informational Meeting regarding the aquatic plant infestation issue on Watts Bar. The Meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm on May 3rd at the Spring City Town Hall Meeting Room. TVA's Aquatic Plant Specialist; Dr. Brett Hartis, will deliver a presentation covering the facts and Myths of the issue. Dr. Tim Joseph will provide a brief presentation on the *Watts Bar Ecology and Fishery Council*.



HYDRILLA – GUNTHERSVILLE RESERVOIR



