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**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)  
Vice Chairman Neil Brennan (Gaston County)  
Assistant Secretary Treasurer Brad Thomas (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner Blanche Bryant (York County)  
Commissioner George Medler (York County)  
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)  
Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)

**Commissioners Absent:** Secretary Treasurer Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)

**LWMC Staff Present:** Joe Stowe, Executive Director; Chris Clark, Legal Counsel;  
Emily Parker, Administrator

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## Meeting Minutes

### ***Mission Statement***

*To promote public policies and support regulations for the preservation of Lake Wylie and its wildlife and for the education and safety of the citizens who use this beautiful natural resource.*

### **Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present.

### **Item 2 – Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Smith asked if any changes need to be made to the March 27, 2017 minutes. Vice Chairman Brennan moved to approve the March 27, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Mead seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

### **Item 3 – Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Smith asked if any changes need to be made to the April 24, 2017 agenda. It was noted that Item 6 – No Wake Zone Request: Little Allison Access (York County) should be deferred to the May meeting. Vice Chairman Brennan moved to approve the April 24 agenda as modified. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

### **Item 4 – Public Comment**

None.

### **Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Joye reported that the CMPD’s boat and boathouse need to be replaced. Lake patrol officers have a meeting next month with CMPD leadership to discuss options. He noted that in the news last week there was an article about CMPD policing unincorporated areas of Mecklenburg County. Mecklenburg County may cancel its contract with CMPD which means part of Mecklenburg County would need to be policed by the Sheriff’s department and CMPD’s lake enforcement unit would shut down. The contract ends in July 2018. Officer Joye hopes discussion between agencies will lead to

more resources being spent to keep and/or enhance CMPD lake enforcement. He commented that this issue may be in the news tonight and tomorrow.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that GCPD took their small boat to New Hope Marina for maintenance. He attended an underwater SONAR class last weekend in Virginia. He commented that the training did not significantly impact what he already knows about underwater SONAR. Vice Chairman Brennan added that the Boat Slip Association at Reflection Pointe has offered a slip for mooring the GCPD boat at their marina. The Gaston County Police Department reviewed the offer and has decided to not moor their boat at Reflection Pointe Marina.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Mabry reported that the YCSO conducted a boater safety class last week and that 13 people took the class. He commented that a SCDNR officer observed the training and gave them accolades for a job well done at the end of the course.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Sgt. Laton was not present. Commissioner Thomas reported on his behalf. A media event for the NCWRC's On the Road, On the Water campaign is scheduled for May 24 at 10:00 am at Blythe Landing.

SC Department of Natural Resources – No report was given.

US Coast Guard – LT Dave Herndon and Craig Miller were present to report to the Marine Commission. They provided a handout on Lake Wylie Operations for 2017 to each Marine Commissioner to supplement their presentation. May to September are the Coast Guard's busiest months due to boating fatalities, injuries, and accidents. The Coast Guard's planned operations on Lake Wylie include the following dates: May 27-29, June 10-11 (tentative), June 30-July 4 (Operation Dry Water and July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday), August 12-13, and September 2-4. Mr. Miller noted that this is the last LWMC meeting that they will be able to attend, as they are both moving on to other assignments in the Coast Guard. The Marine Commissioners thanked them for their time and service.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – No report was given.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – Mr. Ferguson was unable to attend the meeting. He emailed the monthly report to Ms. Parker and she forwarded it to the Marine Commission.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

- Lake level: 98.3' (target level: 97.0')
- Low inflow protocol: Stage 1.
- No dredge permits have been submitted or approved in the past month.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Dan Mullane distributed a water watcher field guide to each of the Marine Commissioners. He noted that this handout is a good place to start to identify sedimentation issues. He noted that the Spider lily kayak tour at Landsford Canal State Park is happening later in May. Participants can rent or bring their own kayak. Catawba Riverkeeper Sam Perkins has been in Raleigh fighting against Senate Bill 434. Mr. Mullane mentioned that if any Marine Commissioners know any elected representatives to please talk with them about the dangers of this bill.

**Item 6 – No Wake Zone Request: Little Allison Access (York County)**

This item was deferred to the May meeting.

**Item 7 – 2017 Goals Review**

Executive Director Stowe reviewed the status of the LWMC’s 2017 Goals (see table below). He concluded that if anyone has any thoughts about how to get untouched goals started, to please let him know.

2017 GOALS	GOAL STATUS
<b>Public Relations – Commissioner Goff, lead</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit at least two (2) additional media spoke people, in addition to Paul Cameron.</li> </ul>	To do.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange radio interview on Charlotte Talks (90.7 WFAE, local NPR station).</li> </ul>	In progress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide and facilitate tours of Lake Wylie for elected officials, staff, stakeholders, developers, water users.</li> </ul>	To do.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LWMC website overhaul process – <i>Chairman Smith to appoint Sub-Committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Get quotes (at least 3) for website re-design.</li> <li>○ Sketch website re-design process (timeframe, contents, task assignments, budget, etc).</li> <li>○ Enhance mobile presence.</li> <li>○ Determine if a Video for is viable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	In progress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and update the LWMC website for accuracy and out of date content before the Boat Show.</li> </ul>	Done.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required reading – <i>All Marine Commissioners</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LWMC website (end of January 2017)</li> <li>○ By-laws (by March 2017)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Done.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance public relations presence:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop and ensure publication of press releases for different events/times of year (e.g., Riversweep; Boater Safety Week)</li> <li>○ When a press release is approved by the Chair, send to all Marine Commissioners -- FYI only.</li> <li>○ Examine media list and develop contacts who will support PR efforts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To do.
<b>Water Quality</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation (complete by April 1, 2017)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ York County Commissioner _____ arrange for obtaining results of South Carolina’s periodic water testing (York County – contact Rock Hill Assistant Manager)</li> <li>○ Vice Chairman Brennan arrange for obtaining results of Belmont’s periodic water testing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To do.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sedimentation/Runoff – <i>Chairman Smith to appoint Sub-Committee comprised of Marine Commissioners from each county to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Address the various Planning and Zoning Boards in the three counties to raise concern re the insidious sedimentation issue.</li> <li>○ Bring/facilitate parity among the three local county governments regarding the Stormwater run-off regulations to prevent lake sedimentation and increase the fines for failing to do so (Long term goal -- may exceed Dec 31, 2017).</li> <li>○ Create and distribute sedimentation and stormwater education materials (audience: residents, elected officials, staff, stakeholders, developers, water users, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	In progress.
<b>Riversweep</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to lead (co-chair), support, and sponsor – <i>Vice Commissioner Brennan, Commissioner Goff, other Marine Commissioners</i></li> </ul>	In progress.

○ March 2017 – first planning meeting	
<b>Safety – Commissioner Bryant, lead</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue life jacket awareness program – Ready, Set, Wear It! – with local high schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Add: High Schools participating in Riversweep, etc.</li> <li>○ Follow-up on invitations sent to high schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set up in-person meetings with high school principals</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Goal: Get all high schools in Lake Wylie area to compete.</li> <li>○ YMCA holds kids swim lessons – advertise life jacket awareness at YMCA.</li> <li>○ Ready, Set, Wear It! is May 20-27, 2017</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	In progress.
<b>Law Enforcement Center (South Carolina) – Chairman Smith</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Goal: Set up in person mtg at LEC – assess situation/next steps.</li> <li>● Northern Law Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Goal: Clearly define Northern Law Center (i.e., location, mission, users, space needs, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	In progress.

### Item 8 – Riversweep 2017 Update

Vice Chairman Brennan reported that the Riversweep Planning Committee met on April 19. Funding requests have been sent to several past contributors and to a few new ones; all were contacted in advance of the mailings. It is anticipated that these donations will be sufficient to cover all 2017 Riversweep expenses. In addition to the offer of the president of the Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce to advertise Riversweep, Property Matters Realty of Gastonia has agreed to ask the presidents of the several HOAs they manage to spread the word as well to their respective owners. Unless another benefactor like the Leinenkugel Brewing Company comes forward, there will not be any after-event parties this year. The Riversweep Planning Committee awaits the decision of the LWMC regarding the caps and shirts for 2017.

On the topic of Riversweep t-shirts — the plan is to use last year’s logo so any new shirts can be distributed along with shirts remaining from last year. There were three t-shirt color options on display. Commissioner Goff moved to select sapphire blue as the 2017 t-shirt color. Vice Chairman Brennan seconded the motion. Discussion: Vice Chairman Brennan noted that there are shirts and hats leftover from last year and that both new and old shirts can be handed out since the shirt design is the same. Therefore, the Marine Commission may not need to purchase as many t-shirts and hats this year. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

### Item 9 – Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Thomas provided the Treasurer’s report. He stated that Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff is getting stronger every day.

### Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Stowe reported:

- Mr. Stowe noted that Perry Johnston recently broke his hip. He had a hip replacement surgery and is on the road to recovery.
- Update on the Stakeholder Appreciation Gathering – The Gathering will be held at The Red Fez Club on Thursday, May 11 starting at 6:30 pm. Ms. Parker will send an invitation via email.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CCOG Conference was held on April 6 in Mooresville. Over 140 staff and elected officials were in attendance from all over the greater Charlotte region. He noted that CCOG sent the Water Management Group a thank you note.
- Cabela’s is having an event on Saturday, May 20 and the LWMC was invited to set up a booth. Vice Chairman Brennan moved to support Cabela’s by setting up a booth at the May 20 event. Commissioner

Goff seconded the motion. Discussion: Chairman Smith asked Marine Commissioners to see if they can come out and staff the booth. Ms. Parker will send out a notice to the Marine Commission to see who is available. Ms. Parker will see if SPLASH is available as well. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

- Mr. Stowe has a friend that has a product that gets rid of sedimentation in brackish water. Commissioner Thomas asked if a permit is needed to test such a product in the lake. Ronnie Lawson said that it would be considered a dredge and therefore would require a permit.

### **Item 11 – Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Smith reported that she attended the April Officers meeting and the Riversweep planning meeting. She tried to attend the life jacket event the other day, but missed it. Earlier in the month, she went to a corporate Earth Day challenge where the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation was one of the hosts. Different corporations were stationed at different sites to clean up and learn about the environment. Chairman Smith was with the Piedmont Natural Gas group at the Carolina Raptor Center.

### **Item 12 – Clerk’s Report**

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

### **Item 13 – Old/New Business and Commission Projects Reports**

#### **Old Business**

- Water Quality –
  - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Medler said that Executive Director Stowe delivered the Clean Marina flags. He will visit Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff and get information from him about the Clean Marinas program. Commissioner Medler will re-inspect each Clean Marina starting from the south and working north. He hopes to have half of the re-inspections completed by the May meeting.
  - Invasive Species – Commissioner Medler did not have a report.
  - Sedimentation – Commissioner Goff said there are two legislative bills – one in North Carolina’s legislature and the other in South Carolina’s. SC Senate Bill 105 proposes to restrict citizens’ ability to challenge permits. North Carolina Senate Bill 434 proposes to repeal the riparian buffer zone requirement along the Catawba River. Commissioner Goff moved that the LWMC write a letter of concern to state legislators in the Lake Wylie area in South Carolina and Mecklenburg and Gaston counties for the North Carolina bill, as well as reach out to the Lake Norman Marine Commission. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Goff said that she does not know any representatives at the present time, but does not mind reaching out anyhow. A comment was made that District 48 in York County does not have a representative right now. Commissioner Bryant will be glad to help with this effort. Vice Chairman Brennan asked Legal Counsel Clark to draft a letter that would go to the legislators in question. Mr. Clark will draft the letter and all parties can review it. Commissioner Thomas agreed that any and all letters coming out of the LWMC should be reviewed by the Executive Committee and Legal Counsel. A vote was taken and approved unanimously. Commissioner Goff will coordinate with Mr. Clark on the letter.
- Buoy – No report was given. Commissioner Thomas said that he had a conversation with Terry Everhart. Mr. Everhart will put together a detailed synopsis of what is involved with his work (tasks, time, etc.) whether related to SPLASH or buoy maintenance and installation. Commissioner Thomas will coordinate with Mr. Everhart henceforth.
- Safety – Commissioner Bryant reported on the 2017 Ready, Set, Wear It! life jacket challenge. Five area high schools are involved: Nations Ford HS, York HS, Northwestern HS, Clover HS, and Fort Mill HS. She hopes that next year a Marine Commissioner from North Carolina can join this effort. She reported that she spent \$870 and purchased 1,000 lanyards. At the first event, held at Nations Ford HS, a reporter was there, pictures and video were taken, and the kids were excited to participate.

- Recreation – No report was given.
- Public Information – Commissioner Goff reported that the website redesign will kick off by her meeting with Rabell Creative on Thursday. In reviewing the information on the website, it needs to be combed through. She commented that it has to be easier to get to the answer. Commissioner Goff distributed a handout that addresses developing an elevator speech. She asked that the Marine Commission review it and email her thoughts before the May meeting.

Commissioner Thomas moved that written communications from the Lake Wylie Marine Commission need to go through the LWMC Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee deems it appropriate for legal review, so be it. Vice Chairman Brennan seconded the motion. Discussion: Clarification was made that we are talking about written communications and not verbal communications. Commissioner Mead added that when he has been contacted by the media about a Marine Commission-related issue, he prefaces his comment by saying, "I'm not speaking for the Commission, but I think..." Commissioner Goff reassured Commissioner Bryant that in a publicity environment – such as Ready, Set, Wear It! events where media is present – she should not feel burdened to scrutinize every word she says. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

#### **Item 14 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

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