

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
August 27, 2012
First Presbyterian Church – Belmont, NC
Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Present: Chair Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)
Vice Chair Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary Treasurer Ron Wanless (York County)
Commissioner Howard Virkler (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner Ed Hull (York County)
Commissioner Vernon Peers (York County)

Commissioners Absent: None

LWMC Staff Present: Joe Stowe, Executive Director, Chris Clark, Legal Counsel,
Diane Dil, Commission Clerk

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Hanks called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Item 2 – Rusty Rozzelle, Mecklenburg County, Presentation

Rusty Rozzelle, Mecklenburg County's water quality program manager, presented an overview of the programs provided by Mecklenburg County to monitor and improve the water quality along the Catawba River and Lake Wylie. He offered two areas where the Marine Commission can help – 1) they can encourage other jurisdictions to do similar post construction controls like Mecklenburg County and 2) they can assist in getting bathymetric surveys of other coves to establish a baseline of existing sediment levels. This information can possibly be used to enforce dredging requirements in the future.

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Everhart to approve the July 23 2012 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Wanless seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Item 4 – Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Virkler to approve the August 27, 2012 agenda as submitted. Commissioner Everhart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Item 5 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted for the consent agenda.

Item 6 – Public Comment

There was no one present for public comments.

Item 7 – Stakeholders Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department - Commissioner Everhart reported.

- They are extremely busy with DNC training. They will be on the water for the Labor Day holiday.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported

- During the month of August they had 10 boater assists, 96 boat inspections, 14 vocal warnings, and 12 citations. They completed 20 hours of training.
- They are getting quotes for a new boat.
- The Labor Day holiday will be their last weekend on the lake.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Ware reported

- They have returned to only having two people on the lake.
- There has been an increase in assistance needed below the dam. This has mostly been for canoe and water rescues.

US Coast Guard – Brian Kelly reported

- Over the summer they conducted 225 safety inspections, 18 terminated boat outings, 9 BUI, and multiple boater registration infractions.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Service Agency (LUESA) – David Buetow reported

- Mr. Buetow reviewed the July and August sampling reports. There were a few high numbers. They sampled those areas again a few days later and the numbers returned to below 100. They attribute these high numbers to heavy rain events.
- He reminded commissioners of the NCLMS 2012 Annual Meeting which will be held in Charlotte October 4th.

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 96.42
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 0 (voluntary conservation).
- He has not received any dredging requests.

Lakekeeper – Ellen Goff reported

- They had seven volunteers patrolling the lake. There was a report of runoff from a home construction site. It was resolved by City of Charlotte engineering.

- Meetings continue for organizing Riversweep. They have 182 participants after minimal promotion. The PSA commercial has been updated. Print ads will be ready within the next few weeks.

Item 8 – Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Wanless reported that all counties have been invoiced and that payments should be received in September.

Item 9 – Executive Director’s Report – Executive Director Joe Stowe reported

- **Law Enforcement Center** – should have all paperwork completed and ready to be presented to Duke Energy in the next few weeks.
- **Riversweep** – will meet with Food Lion to discuss logistics of supplying food at four different sites. They will encourage people to pre-register. They have met with the printing company and who will provide 1000 t-shirts for volunteers and hats for boat captains.
- **Joint Meeting with Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission** – This will be held October 4th at the Gaston Country Club. NC Wildlife Resources Commission Chairman David Hoyle will speak. He has asked both commissions to provide him with questions before the meeting.

Item 10 – Chairman’s Report - Chairman Smitty Hanks reported

- **Riversweep** - Chairman Hanks stated that Bill Campbell has agreed to be the boat captain for Dale’s Landing.
- **Riversweep Funds** – the York County grant that was given to Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation for Riversweep has restrictions on how the money can be spent. The CRF has asked if they could purchase the t-shirts and the Marine Commission could pay for a different expense. Chairman Hanks stated the Marine Commission will need financial statements to know where the money needs to go. Commissioner Virkler stated he feels the commission should allow the CRF pay for the t-shirts and the Commission should pay for something else. Commissioner Wanless requested that the CRF provide a statement of these restrictions and a list of what other expenses they have for this event. Commissioner Everhart is concerned about using county funds to pay for certain Riversweep expenses. Commissioner Virkler made a motion that because of the urgency and upcoming date of Riversweep that the officers decide how the Marine Commission’s funds for Riversweep are used. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and approved unanimously.

Item 11 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- **Water Quality** – Commissioner Biggerstaff reported that all the Clean Marinas have a new flag. Commissioner Virkler stated that he received a concern from a resident about people installing fish attractors made from rebar. These are being installed in shallow areas where people swim and risk being impaled. Ronnie Lawson of Duke Energy stated these have not been approved and people can remove them when they are discovered.

- **Safety** – Commissioner Everhart had nothing to report.
- **Recreation** – Commissioner Thomas had nothing to report.
- **Public Relations** – Commissioner Hull stated that he had received positive feedback about the new website.

Item 12 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on September 24, 2012 at the Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Lake Wylie, SC.