

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission
February 25, 2013
Gaston College – East Campus
Meeting Minutes**



Commissioners Present: Chairman Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)
Vice Chairman Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Secretary Treasurer Ron Wanless (York County)
Commissioner George Medler (York County)
Commissioner Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Howard Virkler (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Commissioner Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Ed Hull (York County)

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

Meeting Minutes

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Everhart called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Chairman Everhart also welcomed new Clerk, Emily Parker.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Wanless to approve the January 28, 2013 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Medler and it was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Virkler to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wanless and it was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted on the consent agenda.

Item 5 – Public Comment

No one was present for public comment.

Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and SPLASH Report – Officer Everhart reported.

- SPLASH has been busy visiting different groups and was well received at the Boat Show.
- The Boat show went well overall and was staffed by Commissioners, law enforcement personnel, and citizens from both North and South Carolina.
- The law enforcement report shows nothing unusual for this time of year.
- CMPD is in the process of getting one of their boats painted.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported.

- Mount Holly law enforcement personnel located a stolen boat adrift on Lake Wylie. Officer Hamrick asked for it to be towed in. Further details are forthcoming.
- On the topic of GCPD's new boat: Commissioner Thomas asked about how to proceed with the LWMC's letter of support. Officer Hamrick said that the best approach would be one letter with all Commissioners' signatures. Commissioner Thomas agreed to be in charge of getting a letter of support written. Once written and endorsed, Commissioners Thomas and Biggerstaff can present the letter to the Gaston County Chief of Police. Commissioner Smith will send Commissioner Thomas a template to use when drafting the letter. The cost of the boat was discussed and Officer Hamrick agreed to send Commissioner Thomas a breakdown of costs and cost savings facts to potentially use in the letter of support.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Mabry reported.

- Nothing unusual happening on the water for this time of year.
- YCSO has been involved in EMS training.
- Survey has been done on the boat ramp. Commissioner Everhart asked about the need for conducting an underwater survey, and it was reported by Sgt. Mabry that there is no need at this point.

Mecklenburg County Land Use Environmental Service – David Buetow reported.

- Mr. Buetow reported on water quality results from January 2013. The Lake Use Support Index (LUSI) looks good overall. The Bacteriological Report also looks good overall. Both reports show very good numbers for last month.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported.

- Lake level – 97.4%
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 1
- Dredging conservation: No dredging to occur in March, April, May, and June.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report

- While no one was present from the Lakekeepers group, a discussion occurred amongst Commissioners about coal ash.
- Commissioner Virkler commented on grading activity happening near his residence, and how impressed he is by actions taken to prevent silt from getting into the lake.

Item 7 – Treasurer's Report – Secretary Treasurer Wanless reported.

Secretary Treasurer Wanless reviewed the financial statements. All numbers appear to be in order.

Item 8 – Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Joe Stowe reported.

- Boat Ramp Update – Clawson's Pile Driving and Construction, Inc. will put in the boat ramp. Legal Counsel Chris Clark drew up the contract, and it took less than 10 minutes to execute the contract. Owner Randy Clawson is aware of controversy surrounding the boat ramp. A surveyor has been out at the ramp site, and the project is off to a good start. Commissioner Hanks inquired about a starting date.
- Boat Show Update – Mr. Stowe reported that overall, the Boat Show was a good experience and that LWMC expressed itself well. However, he did feel like people were imposed on to attend and staff the LWMC booth to maintain full coverage during the show. After three years of representing at the Boat Show, each year has been beneficial but, going forward a purpose is needed. Mr. Stowe asked if any of the Commissioners feel strongly about the Boat Show either way, in an effort to determine

what the group thinks about continuing or not. Commissioner Wanless remarked that based on the first day (poor attendance; little traffic by the booth), he cannot justify continued presence there. Commissioner Virkler suggested that the group could consider inviting the other two marine commissions to join and help staff the event. Mr. Stowe responded that he has reached out to those organizations in the past and they have not shown any interest. Commissioner Medler said that it is extremely important that LWMC is represented at the Boat Show. A question was raised about what could be given out that would “stop traffic.” Commissioner Biggerstaff suggested boat key chains. Mr. Stowe concluded that unless anyone has strong feelings, that the LWMC will continue to participate in the Boat Show. Chairman Everhart suggested that the Commission should use more advanced AV options – should as a professionally made video – to highlight all of the good work being done by the LWMC (e.g., Riversweep, Clean Marinas, etc). It was noted that someone needs to be in charge of this project. Mr. Stowe said a proposal would be ready to share at the March meeting.

- Policy for Gifts – Mr. Stowe presented a proposed policy for gift giving. In the case of a death in the family, the options are that Commissioners could each contribute funds to purchase a gift or, money (not to exceed \$50) could be taken out of the general budget to pay for the gift. Legal Counsel Chris Clark said that there is no real risk in spending general fund money on a gift to honor a death in the family, etc., based on price. Commissioner Wanless noted that when he first joined the Commission, burgees were given to retiring commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wanless to adopt the policy’s first paragraph and Option A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Virkler and it was approved unanimously. The following gift policy language was adopted:

“The Lake Wylie Marine Commission will recognize the service of all retiring Commissioners and employees with an appropriate gift to be selected by the Chairman of the Commission and the Executive Director. Such gifts of appreciation shall not exceed one hundred dollars and will be funded from the Commission’s budget.”

“Option A: The Commission will also acknowledge significant events in the lives of those serving as Commissioners, such as illnesses and deaths in immediate family. These will also be selected by the Chairman and Executive Director and shall not exceed fifty dollars.”

- Food Lion/Riversweep Update – Mr. Stowe reported that the Commission’s contact at Food Lion, who facilitated procuring food for Riversweep, is no longer employed with the company. The next step is to see if Food Lion would still like to provide food and drinks for Riversweep.

Item 9 – Chairman’s Report – Chairman Terry Everhart reported.

- Northern Law Center Update/Water Safety Issues – The Northern office is on hold. Chairman Everhart met with residents, and he is going to meet with NC Wildlife and tour around USNWC and Saddler Island and get more public input upstream. More input is needed before making a determination of what to do about the Law Center.
- Bridge Signs Update/SCDOT – Chairman Everhart has been in touch with Victor Edwards, a traffic engineer with SCDOT. While Mr. Edwards is likely not the Commission’s primary point of contact at SCDOT for bridge sign posting, he has been very responsive thus far.

Item 10 – Clerk’s Report – Emily Parker reported.

Ms. Parker noted that a Monthly Report of Administrative Services will be included in the agenda package, and if there are any questions, to please let her know.

Item 11 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- Water Quality
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Biggerstaff reported that by next month, he hopes to announce a new Clean Marina.
 - Invasive Species – Commissioner Virkler noted that he had nothing to add at this time. Commissioner Hanks asked if grass carp are going to be available this year. Mr. Stowe said that presumably everything should proceed as planned.
 - Commissioner Smith mentioned the *Charlotte Business Journal* published on Friday, February 22 on the new Tangier Outlet and Brown’s Cove sediment issues.
- Safety – Chairman Everhart reported that buoys are floating everywhere due to high and low water events. Sgt. Mabry reported that he picked up a buoy that has a light on top of it. He will look for a number on it.
- Recreation – Commissioner Thomas reported that he has spoken with Belmont City Manager Barry Webb about River Park in Belmont. The park will have amphitheater, kayak launch (but no rentals), a playground, and fishing. Chairman Everhart noted that one of the Lake Wylie Music Festival will be held there. Commissioner Virkler brought up the idea of having a wooden boat show at Lake Wylie. After some discussion, it was determined that Commissioner Virkler should continue gathering information about the possibility of having a wooden boat at Lake Wylie. Commissioners Thomas and Medler offered their assistance.
- Public Information – Commissioner Hull was not present to give a report.

Item 12 – Public Comments (limited to 3 minutes)

No one was present for public comment.

Item 13 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

The next LWMC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on March 25, 2013 at Good Samaritan United Methodist Church (5420 Crowder’s Cove Lane, Lake Wylie, NC).