

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission**  
**February 23, 2015**  
**Good Samaritan United Methodist Church**



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**Commissioners Present:** Vice Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)  
Secretary Treasurer Ed Hull (York County)  
Commissioner Neil Brennan (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner Blanche Bryant (York County)  
Commissioner George Medler (York County)  
Commissioner Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)

**Commissioners Absent:** Chairman Brad Thomas (Gaston County)

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

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**Meeting Minutes**

**Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions**

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

**Item 2 – Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chairman Smith asked if any changes need to be made to the January 26 minutes. Commissioner Biggerstaff made a motion to approve the January 26 minutes. Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Item 3 – Approval of Agenda**

Vice Chairman Smith asked if any changes need to be made to the February 23 agenda. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve the February 23 agenda. Commissioner Hegarty seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Item 4 – Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – No one was present to report.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that after July 1, 2015 CMPD will no longer patrol on Lake Norman. Law enforcement from the Town of Cornelius will take over that duty.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Brent Mabry reported on the YCSO upcoming boater safety training classes. He noted that spaces are filling up. He also mentioned that Palmetto Pride has several of the monofilament fishing line containers mentioned at a previous LWMC meeting. Executive Director Stowe says that using these containers would be a great Eagle Scout project.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Lieutenant Jeremy Harrill expressed thanks for people that attended Sgt. Barry Rowell’s funeral. He reported that they are interviewing sergeants this week. Hopefully a new sergeant would start in April. Once that person starts, Lt. Harrill will make sure they are aware of and attend LWMC meetings. On March 5 the NC Wildlife Resources Commissioners will vote on the no wake zones for Saddle Island under temporarily rule. He also mentioned boater safety and compliance checks that NCWRC conducts at boat entry points on the lake. The NCWRC teaches courses at the Bass Pro Shop in Concord. They also offer courses online. The NCWRC is all about partnering with agencies that support and educate about safe boating.

SC Department of Natural Resources – No one was present to report.

US Coast Guard – Rick Croasdale, Lake Wyle Coast Guard Auxiliary Patrol, reported that training for new and old members is underway. They will offer a boater safety training on Thursday 2/26 at 10:00 am at Lake Wylie Library. The Coast Guard Auxiliary will be at Cabela’s Grand Opening on March 14-15. They will conduct boating safety class at Lake Wylie Marina on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month through October.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency – David Buetow reported on the January Water Quality report. He presented the revised, updated map that he shared last month. He added reference values, per Commissioner Brennan’s comment from last month. Bacteriological results look good for January. The LUSI index improved from last month. On this report the trophic state index score increases as you go down the lake showing that there are more nutrients and algae in that area. Commissioner Brennan asked if there a label on the Y axis. Executive Director Stowe mentioned the upcoming NC Lake Management Society spring one-day workshop scheduled for April 28 and encouraged people to attend. Mr. Buetow said the program for that workshop should be coming out soon.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

Current lake level: 97.5 (target level 97.0)

Drought Management Group: Normal

Dredging: No dredge applications have been approved. Mr. Lawson noted that we are about to enter fish spawning season – no dredging allowed from March – June.

Mr. Lawson received a question about Duke Energy’s license to manage the Catawba-Wateree River. Duke applied for that license in 2006 and expired in 2008. The license must be renewed annually. Duke received its water quality certification from South Carolina. They filed with FERC in February and are waiting to hear back. He hopes they have a license by this summer. He talked about process after the license would be issued. Commissioner Brennan asked for clarification about the license itself. Mr. Lawson answered that the license gives an entity the ability to manage the lakes or “projects” along the Catawba-Wateree River. There are 11 lakes from Lake James in North Carolina to Lake Wateree in South Carolina.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – CD Collins reported that they are trying to assign Cove Keepers to patrol certain areas of the lake. Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation (CRF) Executive Director Rick Gaskins is leaving the Riverkeeper Foundation to live abroad for a year. A new hire, an environmental attorney, will take over the CRF Executive Director position.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – No one was present to report.

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation – No one was present to report.

### **Item 6 – Catawba Yacht Club (Mecklenburg County) No Wake Zone Application**

Doug Conley presented to the LWMC. He's the new Chairman of the Catawba Yacht Club (CYC). The previous CYC Chairman submitted the proposal to put in no wake zone. The CYC is mostly about sailing and rowing, but they do have some power boats. They host sailing competitions and rowing events. The CYC and its clients are active users of the lake and they also store many boats in the water. They also see power/speed boats speeding by the CYC. They propose primarily for safety reasons and for the wake that hits the marina, putting no wake buoys at a certain spot (see drawing included in the February agenda package. Vice Chairman Smith asked if the CYC has petitioned this site before. Another gentleman related to CYC answered that they tried once or twice before, but not in the past several years. Vice Chairman Smith noted that the first step is to get a recommendation from CMPD law enforcement and then for Marine Commissioners from Mecklenburg County to visit the site. Commissioner Hegarty asked a question about zoning. Vice Chairman Smith said that the Mecklenburg County Marine Commissioners will coordinate a visit, preferably on a Saturday morning. We will need to let CMPD Officer Joye know. This topic will be on the agenda at the March 23 LWMC meeting.

### **Item 7 – Tega Cay Update**

Commissioner Brennan reported that the next 90 day report required by the Consent Agreement is due in March. He spoke with Greg Harrington of the SC DHEC Regional office in Lancaster, SC. SC DHEC is working with newly hired Tega Cay employees to ensure they understand the proper operation of the system and the sampling of effluent that is discharged into the lake after treatment. Tega Cay is responsible for training of the operators. SC DHEC monitors the operation and provides regulatory guidance thereby indirectly enhancing the training program. Tega Cay is charged with sampling the effluent and reporting the results to SC DHEC. SC DHEC's Manager of Engineering recently met with the concerned parties to review the progress. A CSI, a comprehensive review of the system with sampling of effluent, was conducted recently and a report will be forthcoming on that inspection. No new spills have been reported.

### **Item 8 – Treasurer's Report**

Secretary Treasurer Hull provided the Finance Report. The LWMC's finances are in good shape. We are looking at moving some monies out of the SunTrust checking account into the SunTrust savings account.

### **Item 9 – Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Joe Stowe reported.

- a. Website Updates – It was noted that a few items on the website are out of date and need to be removed. Ms. Parker will work this out with the webmaster.
- b. Updating Lake Maps – Executive Director Stowe requested that someone head up a new Map Committee. Commissioner Medler and Secretary Treasurer Hull volunteered to lead this effort.
- c. Report on 2/19 NCWRC Hearing – He reported that there were three factions present – Landowners above the USNWC, the USNWC, and LWMC and Riverkeeper. He referenced handouts from the public hearing. Legal Counsel Clark added on about a sentiment that came up at the hearing about returning the LWMC to its origin role of advisory not regulatory. He noted that the enabling legislation has never changed and the LWMC has had a regulatory function since its inception. Mr. Clark added that he LWMC has not really exercised its regulatory authority. It conducts a public hearing to submit an application to NCWRC. He is not aware if the LWMC has ever exercised its regulatory authority, even though the LWMC does have it.
- d. Safe Boating Week plans (Adams Outdoor company, banners, etc) – The group is still trying to get bill boards to help with advertising. Executive Director Stowe has not heard back from Adams yet (they have not said no). The plan is to go to at least four high schools to propose the plan about who can come up with the largest number of people wearing life jackets.
- e. Cabela's Grand Opening (March 14-15) – They want the LWMC to be there with the tent and SPLASH. The Grand Opening event will happen from 11 am – 5 pm on both days. Executive Director Stowe

would like people to sign up for 3 hours. Ms. Parker will print more of the smaller LWMC brochures. She will also send out a schedule so Marine Commissioners can sign up accordingly.

- f. LWMC Presentations – On March 11, Mr. Stowe and Chairman Thomas will make a presentation to the Catawba Sail and Power Squadron and also to the Belmont Rotary Club.

**Item 10 – Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Thomas was not present to report.

**Item 11 – Clerk’s Report**

Ms. Parker had nothing to report.

**Item 12 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports**

- Water Quality –
  - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioners Biggerstaff and Medler will start re-inspecting the Clean Marinas this summer. They will need 7 Clean Marinas flags. Executive Director Stowe will order them.
  - Invasive Species – There was no report.
- Buoys – Commissioner Biggerstaff reported that the fire department was called in Withers Cove – another buoy came loose. Dock Masters will get to it as soon as possible. The buoys at Copperhead/McDowell have been moved back to the position where they were supposed to be. One of the buoys at Copperhead/McDowell is moving back.
- Safety – Commissioner Bryant had nothing new to report.
- Recreation – Chairman Thomas was not present to report.
- Public Information – Secretary Treasurer Hull had nothing new to report. Please let him know if anything needs updating on the website.

**Item 13 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

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***The next meeting will be held on March 23, 2015 at Carolina HealthCare System – Steele Creek Healthcare Pavilion (13640 Steelescroft Parkway, Charlotte NC)***