

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission**  
**July 23, 2012 7:00 p.m.**  
**CMC Healthcare Pavilion**  
**Meeting Minutes**



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

**Item 2 – Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Hanks asked that the minutes be corrected to state that he called the meeting to order not Vice Chairman Everhart. Mr. Stowe asked that the minutes be corrected to state that he did not meet with the entire Board of Commissioners only Commissioners Donnie Loftis and Mickey Price. A motion was made by Commissioner Everhart to approve the June 25, 2012 minutes as corrected. Commissioner Wanless seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Item 4 – Consent Agenda**

No items were submitted for the consent agenda.

**Item 5 – Public Comment**

Andrew Hicks reported on his Eagle Scout Project for Troop 250. He developed a Lake Wylie Boating Safety and Information Guide. He printed 900 flyers for distribution to homes in Tega Cay and marinas on the lake. The flyers were distributed the weekend of June 20<sup>th</sup>. The flyer was reviewed by North and South Carolina law enforcement officials. He has received positive feedback regarding the flyer and has granted permission for the Marine Commission to publish it on their website.

## **Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Everhart reported

- Officer Everhart reviewed the Coast Guard presence on Lake Wylie. They have been on the lake three times this summer. A new focus of the Coast Guard is better communication of inland lakes. The Coast Guard is getting a better understanding of the boating character of Lake Wylie. They would like to attend future marine commission meetings.

Gaston County Police Department – no report

York County Sheriff – Sergeant Ware reported

- The month of July has been fairly busy. They participated in one boating accident, one Jet Ski accident and one car in water accident.
- They issued five citations.
- They continue to have a problem with swimmers at Big Allison.
- They are doing some training to prepare for the DNC but do not think they will have a big presence.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Service Agency (LUESA) – No report

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 97.2’.
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 0.
- They expect to receive an application from Mecklenburg County to dredge at the boat house on Withers Cove.

Lake Wylie Riverkeeper report – Ellen Goff reported

- They received patrol reports from eight covekeepers. One covekeeper reported a boat is half way submerged on the South Fork.
- The next Riversweep meeting is July 26<sup>th</sup>. They have received the grant money from York County and will be able to increase the advertising campaign to register volunteers. Facebook and Twitter accounts will be established within a week.
- The process to conduct a tri-county meeting to discuss best practices for storm water and erosion control continues. This would be a follow-up from the July 18<sup>th</sup> article in the Gaston Gazette and a previous discussion with two Gaston County Commissioners. The purpose of the meeting is to examine possible stricter regulations and to do a better job on existing practices.
- CD Collins followed up on his report at a previous Marine Commission meeting of the erosion control failures at the new Stuart Cramer HS that is currently under construction in Cramerton. Gaston County is aware of the problem but little follow-up is being done.

## **Item 7 – Treasurer’s Report**

- Secretary Treasurer Wanless stated that the Marine Commission finished the year in the black.

**Item 8 – Executive Director’s Report** – Executive Director Joe Stowe reported

- **Law Enforcement Center** – The Core of Engineers has completed their part of the approval process for the new boat ramp. The next step is approval from DHEC and then finally Duke Energy. All permits should be completed soon.
- **Boat Show** – Mr. Stowe stated that the application for the 2013 Mid Atlantic Boat Show has been received and asked if the commissioners would like to have a booth again this

year. Commissioner Thomas thought it was good exposure for the Marine Commission. Commissioner Earhart agreed that it provided positive contact with the public. Commissioner Everhart made a motion to participate in the 2013 Mid Atlantic Boat Show. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and approved unanimously.

**Item 9 – Chairman’s Report** - Chairman Smitty Hanks reported

- **Riversweep** – the process is moving along well. A site captain is still needed for Dale’s Landing.
- **Buoy** – one more buoy broke loose. It was one of the buoys with galvanized cables.
- **Rusty Rozelle** – Mr. Rozelle of Mecklenburg County will give a presentation at the August meeting about water quality. He will discuss the past, present and future of the quality of the Catawba River.

**Item 10 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports**

- **Water Quality**
  - Commissioner Biggerstaff is studying the Clean Marina materials. He will meet with Commissioner Wanless to move forward.
- **Safety**
  - Commissioner Everhart stated there was no new information about a possible meeting of paddlers or wake boarders.
- **Recreation.**
  - **Fireworks** – Commissioner Smith stated that the follow-up meeting of the fireworks committee was held today. Next year they plan to begin the process earlier. Commissioner Everhart stated that as a safety issue the fireworks event was well handled. The boats were spread out evenly and the crowd left in an orderly manner. Sergeant Ware stated that York County also had fewer problems this year.
- **Public Information**
  - Commissioner Hull stated the mobile website is up and running.

**Item 11 - Public Comment**

No one was present for public comments.

**Item 12 – Adjournment**

With no more business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on August 27, 2012 at Gaston College East Campus 7220 Wilkinson Blvd, Belmont, NC and will begin at 7:00 pm.