

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission
July 22, 2013
Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church
Meeting Minutes**



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

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

Meeting Minutes

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Everhart called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Secretary Treasurer Wanless to approve the June 24, 2013 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Biggerstaff and it was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Everhart asked if any additions or changes needed to be made to the July 22 agenda. Vice Chairman Thomas wanted to add York County Bridge Naming Update under Item 14 – Old Business.

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

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted on the consent agenda.

Item 5 – Public Comment

None.

Item 6 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and SPLASH Report – Chairman Everhart reported. Officer DeCarlo is no longer with Chairman Everhart’s unit. The CMPD has been very busy with high water events and removing debris from the lake (e.g., fallen trees). The US Coast Guard was on the lake on July 3rd and 4th. The CMPD is currently seeking to fill Chairman Everhart’s partner’s position. In a few

months, they will start looking to fill Chairman Everhart's position as well. Over the holiday the CMPD wrote several citations, mainly for life jacket and registration violations, but no careless and negligent citations. CMPD has increased their patrolling of the Saddle Island area. Chairman Everhart said they have been making a point to talk to and educate more people (e.g., paddlers out after sunset).

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Ron Robinson was present. He reported that GCPD dispatched 9 calls, made 21 boat assists, made 126 safety inspections, issued 58 written warnings, issued 7 citations, administered 4 alcohol tests, removed 61 hazards, and issued 2 warrants.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. J.E. Ware reported that everything went alright on the July 4th holiday, other than the storms that came through. There is still debris in the water that is hard to see since it's below the surface.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Sgt. Barry Rowell reported. The NCWRC spent more time patrolling the area in question where kayaks are being rented. They also had the Bat Mobile set up at the Copperhead Island Access Area on July 4th and made 6-7 Boating While Impaired cases, even though the weather was not great for boating that day.

SC Department of Natural Resources – No one was present to report. However, Chairman Everhart reported on behalf of Officer Ferrell. They have hired 4 officers to join his section and they have been busy writing citations, primary for life jacket and registration violations, etc.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency – David Buetow reported. The water quality results for fecal coliform for June are good overall (all blue dots). The next round of testing will start tomorrow for metals.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported.

- Lake level: 97.7.
- Drought Management Group – this group is not meeting right now.
- Storage index is at 85.2%; target storage index is at 75%.
- All stream flow indicators are above 100%.
- All ground water levels are in the normal range.
- No dredging has occurred.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Executive Director Stowe reported for Mr. Collins. He relayed that there will be a media event to publicize the lawsuit against Duke Energy regarding the Riverbend coal ash ponds held tomorrow on Mountain Island Lake. Special guests are supposed to attend and tour the lake.

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

Item 7 – Follow up Items:

- *Approval of Proposed FERC Permit for Amenities in Cramerton (McGill Associates)*
Chairman Everhart provided a review of this project and what transpired at the June 24 LWMC meeting. Several marine commissioners went out to look at the site. Vice Chairman Thomas commented that it is a fairly straight forward project, from downtown Cramerton to Goat Island.

Commissioner Biggerstaff made a motion to approve the project. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Thomas. The motion was approved unanimously.

- *Approval of Request for Comments on New PSNC Natural Gas Line (S&ME)*

Secretary Treasurer Wanless provided a brief review of the questions from May 20 LWMC meeting. All of his questions were answered satisfactorily. Secretary Treasurer Wanless made a motion that the LWMC support their project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Biggerstaff and approved unanimously.

Item 8 – Riversweep Update

Commissioner Hanks commented that the Riversweep planning committee met on July 11th. They decided to have another meeting just for site captains on August 20th from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Then, from 7:30 pm – on is the regular Riversweep planning meeting. The boat captains will meet at the Good Samaritan Methodist Church in Lake Wylie, South Carolina. They still need a volunteer to manage the boat captains. The planning committee wants to make it so boat captains ferry just people, not trash. There will be no food provided at Riversweep this year. Executive Director Stowe and Commissioner Hanks are going to meet with the t-shirt designer this week. A maximum of 1,000 t-shirts will be ordered. The website will be up and ready with online registration on July 28. Commissioner Hanks commented that a lot of trash has moved south, due to recent the high water events.

Item 9 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Wanless reported that the LWMC finished the year in commendable financial shape. All contributions were received from all three counties. Commissioner Hanks had a question about what was reported as of June, related to administrative costs. Ms. Parker said she would look into this and get back him.

Audit Update – Legal Counsel Chris Clark is in the process of reviewing the paperwork. This issue will be addressed at a later date.

Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Joe Stowe reported.

- LKW Stickers – Executive Director Stowe provided background on the oval LKW stickers and asked for thoughts on whether or not to have them printed again. Commissioner Virkler mentioned giving them out to Clean Marinas. A guest said that they could be sold in conveniences stores. Executive Director Stowe asked for volunteers to come up with a plan for how to use the stickers. Commissioner Hanks volunteered to lead this project.
- Nominating Committee for Officers – This is the time of year that the LWMC appoints a nominating committee. September is the LWMC’s annual meeting and officer elections are held at that meeting. A nominating committee – which is usually comprised of the current slate of officers – needs to be appointed at tonight’s meeting. Commissioner Hanks made a motion that the current slate of LWMC officers serve on nominating committee. Commissioner Virkler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- New Business Follow Up – Northern Law Center: Executive Director Stowe’s conversation with Joe Carriker of Duke Energy revealed no obvious location for the Northern Law Center. South Point Landing is not an option. The group was asked to continue to look for a possible site on the Gaston County side of the lake.
- Slide Show for the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show – If someone would like to put it together, we need to start working on it. Vice Chairman Thomas is in favor of this idea. Commissioner Medler said

that he did a slide show for the Commodore Yacht Club and he thought that it did not go over that well. However, Commissioner Medler did have a banner and had more response with the banner than with the slide show. Vice Chairman Thomas said that having a big screen and audio would be preferable. No one volunteered to lead this effort during the meeting.

Item 11 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Everhart reported.

- Saddle Island/Tailrace Marina/US National Whitewater Center Update – The CMPD has increased their visibility and educational efforts. Chairman Everhart is aiming to have a write up by the August meeting. This is more of an issue between the US National Whitewater Center and law enforcement; more so than the LWMC.
- Update on May 2013 Request to Modify an Existing “No Wake Zone” – By the book, this is not a true no wake zone. Chairman Everhart reviewed the situation. He has been in contact with Officer Ferrell (SCDNR) and has been to the site twice. The assessment of the situation is complete, and the report is almost finished.

Item 12 – Saddle Island Sign Update

Commissioner Hanks stated that two (2) 4’x8’ ¼ inch signs have been ordered. Executive Director Stowe and Commissioner Hanks went to look at the site and the areas where posts could be driven were all under water. Local pile driver Mr. Jerry Wilkins informally estimated \$1,200.00 to drive the piles. Commissioner Hanks made a motion to approve a maximum of \$1,200.00 to drive pilings in order to put the signs up. Secretary Treasurer Wanless seconded the motion. Discussion: Chairman Everhart asked if Duke Energy had approved installing signage. Ronnie Lawson reported that according to Duke Energy’s Shoreline Management Guidelines, signs must be placed below the full pond of Saddle Island but nearer the shoreline so that it does not become a navigational hazard. It is permissible if they are navigational signs and they are not in navigation lanes. Mr. Wilkins stated he was going to put them as far as he can onto Saddle Island. He plans to drive 16’ pilings and he wants the bottom of the signs to be 5’ above full pond. Commissioner Hanks met with USNWC representatives on smaller signage at marinas and USNWC. They will buy their own signs. Commissioner Hanks amended the motion to approve \$1,275.00 to install the signs 6’ above full pond. Commissioner Medler seconded the amended motion. The vote taken was taken and approved unanimously.

Item 13 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker reported that she submitted the LWMC’s deposit for the booth at the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show. She received the FY13-14 contract from Mecklenburg County (only county contract received so far). Ms. Parker noted that a Monthly Report of Administrative Services has been provided to the LWMC, and if there are any questions, to please let her know.

Item 14 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- Water Quality
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Biggerstaff listed the marinas that have been re-certified as Clean Marinas. Ms. Parker will work with him to get certificates printed for the re-certified Clean Marinas. The certificates should list the year they were originally certified (“*Clean Marina since [year]*”). Commissioner Medler asked about having the certificates done by the August meeting and inviting Clean Marinas representatives to attend the next meeting. It would be good to give all Clean Marinas the opportunity to get their picture taken and in the *Lake Wylie Pilot*. Chairman Everhart congratulated Commissioners Biggerstaff and Medler on a job well done.

- Invasive Species – Commissioner Virkler noted that there is nothing new to report this month.
- Buoy – Commissioner Hanks commented that (six) 6 pencil buoys have been ordered and as well as requests for hardware.
- Safety – Chairman Everhart noted that there was not too much else to report on safety. Conversation arose about printing the revised LWMC booklet. Ms. Parker will follow up on the price of printing booklets (printing them at CCOG vs. getting them printed at Kinko’s or a similar place).
- Recreation – Vice Chairman Thomas had nothing to report at the present time.
- Public Information – Commissioner Hull mentioned getting the Clean Marina re-certification information added to the website, and also adding Riversweep to the front page of the website including registration information.

- Old Business
 - York County Bridge Naming Update – Secretary Treasurer Wanless revisited the idea of naming bridges in York County. All bridges are currently named by state road number and/or body of water name. The marine commission can proceed with getting bridges named, but it would be up to the marine commissions to provide the signs, etc.

Item 15 – Public Comments (limited to 3 minutes)

No one was present for public comment.

Item 16 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

NEW LOCATION

**The next LWMC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, August 26, 2013 at Belmont City Hall
(115 N. Main Street, Belmont, North Carolina)**