

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
June 25, 2012 7:00 p.m.
Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
Meeting Minutes



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

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Vernon Peers (York County)
Commissioner Ed Hull (York County)

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Everhart to approve the May 21, 2012 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Biggerstaff seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Virkler to approve the June 25, 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

No public comments were received.

Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Everhart reported

- Reviewed the “Ready – Set – Wear-it” event from May. A new world record was set. This year 3,993 people attended compared to 1,685 in 2011. Lake Wylie officially had 67 participants.
- The department is continuing training and will participate in a BWI exercise this week.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported

- 12 calls for service. One boat fire at Dale's Boat Landing. 52 safety inspections. One arrest. One call for a domestic violence report. Assisted with a truck in the lake at the Southpoint boat landing. Stolen raft. Drowning on South Fork.
- Did a sonar training exercise with Charlotte FD.

York County Sheriff – Sergeant Ware reported

- Participated in an exercise with alcohol enforcement team. So far alcohol use is lower than previous years. They are gearing up for the 4th of July.

SC Department of Natural Resources – Officer Ferrell reported

- The summer is off to a slow start – only minor boat or jet ski accidents.
- Worked with Charlotte FD to rescue injured in a boating accident.
- Issued warnings for safety violations

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

- Reviewed the Bacteriological and LUSI reports from May 2012. There have not been any significant changes in the numbers. All are good.

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 97'.
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 0.
- No dredging applications have been received. Dredging will be allowed beginning in July.
- Hopefully Duke Energy's FERC license will be renewed in January 2013. There are many projects that are waiting to be started once the license has been renewed.

Lake Wylie Riverkeeper report – Ellen Goff reported

- Seven covekeepers on patrol on the lake.
- Subcontractor clearing the undergrowth on parcels on the South Fork and Mill Creek. Only clearing trees under 4" and adhering to all requirements.
- CD Collins rescued someone stranded on the lake.
- Engineers with York County working with Autumn Cove and Marlin Bay neighborhoods to tie into the sewer system.
- Some clear cutting on Big Allison needs to be reviewed.
- Riversweep appears to be well organized this year. Still waiting on funds from York County grant which is slowing down the media campaign. They are encouraging support from marinas to help find boat captains. Lake Wylie Marina has offered the use of a pontoon boat at the event.
- CRF Executive Director Rick Gaskins met with NC DNR to discuss sediment issue at Stuart Cramer HS. Mr. Joe Stowe met with Gaston County Commissioners Donny Loftis and Mickey Price to discuss what can be done to stop sediment and determine some best practices within the three counties.
- CRF Annual Meeting will be July 21st at 10:00 at the Bartlett Tree Laboratory on Zoar Road in southwest Charlotte.

- Sam Perkins, the new Riverkeeper, was introduced. Mr. Perkins looks forward to working with the commission.

Item 7 – US Coast Guard

- Lieutenant Adam Morehouse of the US Coast Guard discussed their activities and purpose for patrolling on the lake. They are carrying out standard Coast Guard protocol which concerns recreation, safety and boater education. A new initiative is to increase their presence on interstate lakes and waterways. They recently did a ride along with lake law enforcement. This helps communication. They helped with the recent “operation dry water.” They plan two more visits this summer. He stressed the importance of the local Coast Guard auxiliary.
- Commissioner Biggerstaff asked why the Coast Guard patrols some but not all lakes. Lieutenant Morehouse stated the authority is because the lake connects two states and is capable of sustaining commerce.
- Commissioner Wanless asked if the Coast Guard has a role in the upcoming DNC. Lieutenant Morehouse stated they will have a significant presence.

Item 8 – Executive Director Report – Executive Director Joe Stowe reported

- **Riversweep** – Mr. Stowe asked if anyone else would like to help design the t-shirt for Riversweep. Commissioner Virkler volunteered to help.
- **Law Enforcement Center** – the notification requirements for the boat ramp for all agencies has been completed. The project review period is underway. Work on the boat ramp will start once approved.
- **CCOG Contract** – the officers have reviewed the proposed FY12-13 contract and the services being provided. The contract is being increased to \$17,000. Commissioner Wanless made a motion to approve the contract. The motion was seconded by commissioner Everhart and approved unanimously.
- **Legal Agreement** – There is currently an informal agreement for legal services to be proved by Tillman Wright, PLLC. Mr. Stowe recommends that the agreement be formally recognized for the next year. Commissioner Wanless made a motion to continue the current arrangement for legal services with Tillman Wright, PLLC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Everhart and approved unanimously.

Item 9 – Treasurer’s Report – Secretary/Treasurer Ron Wanless reported

- **Public Hearing for the Consideration of the FY 12-13 Budget Ordinance** – Commissioner Wanless mad a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Everhart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chairman Hanks asked for public comments. Having heard none, Commissioner Wanless made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Everhart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Wanless reviewed the budget and asked for questions. Hearing none, Commissioner Wanless made a motion to approve the proposed “Version 2” FY12-13 budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Everhart and approved unanimously.

Item 10 – Chairman’s Report – Chairman Smitty Hanks

- **Buoy Update** – some buoys continue to break loose but they are the ones with galvanized cable not the newer stainless steel version.

- **Riversweep** – The group is making good progress.

Item 11 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- **Water Quality**
 - Chairman Hanks has located a flag company to produce a much lighter weight Clean Marina flag. He has received a quote to purchase 12 flags for \$800. This money has been allocated in next year's budget. They should last 8-10 months.
 - Chairman Hanks presented former Commissioner Bill Campbell with a plaque in appreciation of his service to the Marine Commission and the Clean Marina program in particular.
 - Grass Carp – the grass carp program has been very successful in controlling the spread of hydrilla. Because of this, the demand has increased and also the price. Therefore, grass carp will not be put into the lake this year. The lake will be closely monitored to determine if the problem worsens.
- **Safety**
 - Paddlers – Commissioner Everhart is waiting to hear back from the American Canoe Association and the Wake Board trade association regarding a meeting with the public to discuss safety concerns. Commissioner Everhart wants to be proactive and provide paddle boat rental operators with better safety instructions. The same message needs to be distributed to all.
 - Commissioner Smith asked for an update about the safety concern raised by Peter Hagerty. Commissioner Everhart will follow up but buoys are like stop signs, some people will always disobey them.
- **Recreation**
 - **Fireworks** – Commissioner Smith reported that the fireworks committee held their final meeting. They will continue to raise money but the group is very close to reaching their goal.
 - **Aquapoolza** – Commissioner Thomas reported that the Aquapoolza will be held July 14 from 2-5 pm at the Lake Wylie Marina.
- **Public Information**
 - Chairman Hanks reported that the new website is up and running and encourages everyone to visit and report any errors to Ms. Dil.

Item 12 - Public Comment

Dr. Jarman thanked the commission for allowing the fish attractors to be placed on the buoys. He is still working with SC DEHC and the Core of Engineers about the location of the osprey nests.

Item 13 – Adjournment

With no more business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on July 23, 2012 at CMC Healthcare Pavilion in Charlotte, NC and will begin at 7:00 pm.