



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

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Blanche Bryant (York County)

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

Meeting Minutes

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present. A moment of silence was held for those people that recently drowned in Lake Wylie.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Thomas asked if any changes need to be made to the May 18 minutes. Commissioner Mead made a motion to approve the May 18 minutes. Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of Agenda

Chairman Thomas asked if any changes need to be made to the June 22 agenda. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve the June 22 agenda. Secretary Treasurer Hull seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Public Comment

Wayne Bugel – Resident of 433 River Front Parkway. He represents homeowners between Tailrace Marina and Sadler Island. Their concern is the amount of congestion on the lake between boaters and kayakers. 124 new apartments are being built now and a 5,000 square foot restaurant. This part of the lake is only going to get more crowded. Boaters speed through a certain area between the no wake buoys and Sadler Island. People in his community have had to rescue inexperienced kayakers who have fallen in the water. They see this very dangerous situation every day.

Chairman Thomas briefly explained the NCWRC's no wake buoy process and Commissioner Brennan added on about the process.

Tom Bailey – Mr. Bailey agreed with Mr. Bugel from his seat.

Tom Davis – Catawba River Group. Mr. Davis said that extending the no wake zone at Sadler Island is not the answer. He said the problem is Mecklenburg County. He had the lease agreement between Mecklenburg County and the USNWC. It does not say anything about kayakers. He added that kayakers have made this a swimming hole. Mr. Davis offered to send the lease to Marine Commissioners. The Catawba River Group plans to speak with Mecklenburg County Commissioners about this issue.

Mark Perkins – Resident of Catawba Cove. In April the LWMC was presented a plan for comment as part of McLean development. The plan shows a boat dock sticking out 110' into the river, which is about half way out into the channel. The current plan is dangerous and needs to be changed. Please listen to the citizens that use that waterway. The plans that were shared with the LWMC are dangerous.

Scott Webb – Resident of Catawba Cove. Mr. Webb expanded on what Mr. Perkins said. The master plan that was submitted was very confusing. When you look at the plan, half the bridge was missing. There will be a lot of congestion and accidents. It would be like reducing the waterway by 50%. At a recent neighborhood function, all present were opposed to the Seven Oaks Marina development. The neighborhood hopes this decision can be reconsidered.

Gary Clark – New resident on Catawba Cove. Residents are concerned about more than their cove. The plan looks like it would close off the area where people pass. He is concerned about this plan.

Pam Bugel – Mrs. Bugel commented on the Tailrace Marina/Sadler Island/USNWC issue. She pointed out that some boaters try to knock kayakers off of their kayaks. We all need to share the river. There should be more education. We need to err on the side of caution. Let's try to minimize the issue together.

CD Collins – Mr. Collins commented on the Seven Oaks Marina plan. The plan would create a funnel effect at the bridge. There are fishermen that tie up under the bridge and have their whole lives. If the Seven Oaks Marina plan goes through, we are going to have to pass a law to permanently ban fishing under the bridge and around the bridge. It would be a serious problem.

Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Joye reported that Memorial Day weekend was good and safe, but crowded. The Coast Guard was in town and rode with CMPD. Officer Joye was called at 2:00 am. Two camp counselors climbed up on the Buster Boyd Bridge and jumped off. One counselor did not know how to swim and drowned. CMPD retrieved the body from the bottom of the lake around 4:30 am. Officer Carey then reported that 4 days ago CMPD had a call about someone jumping off the I-85 Bridge over Lake Wylie. Several organizations responded and many people looked for this person, but a body was not found. The next day, another drowning occurred. A family was gathered at the sandbar at Sadler Island. A 22 year old man was kayaking with his family. He left his kayak, was wading without a life jacket, and drowned when he slipped into deep water.

Officer Carey spoke with Vice Chairman Smith about the configuration of the no wake buoys at Sadler Island. Boaters are confused by the placement of the pencil buoys. Officer Carey proposed a way to move buoys to make the no wake zone clearer (see attached sketches). Officer Carey has spoken with NCWRC Officer Dula about it. Law enforcement does not want to start moving buoys around for fear of breaking buoy cables. He wanted LWMC's opinion on this proposal. If everyone is amenable to this plan, the LWMC can proceed with contacting Dock Master's to get the buoys moved. Lake residents that live at that part of the lake and management at Tailrace Marina are saying the same thing about the current configuration of the no wake buoys. Commissioner Brennan asked about the buoys that were already in place at Tailrace Marina and who authorized the placement of those buoys. Commissioner Biggerstaff answered that the LWMC authorized this placement. Legal Counsel Clark quoted from the NC Administrative Code, *"The Lake Wylie Marine Commission is designated as a suitable agency for placement and maintenance of markers implementing these rules."* He recommended that the LWMC coordinate with NCWRC. His "strong hunch" is that Kate Pipkin (NCWRC) may say that LWMC has the authority to either accept or reject CMPD's proposal and move the buoys. NCWRC Officer Laton added the NCWRC does not actually place the buoys. They approve the area for the no wake zone. The LWMC has the ability to set the buoys to mark the zone correctly. To Officer Laton's knowledge, the buoys in question are not in the NCAC. Officer Dula commented that one of the biggest issues is boaters being confused about how to interpret the no wake zone, based on how the buoys are currently placed. Officer Dula also commented that he has come across several under-aged kayakers not wearing life jackets coming from the USNWC. NCWRC Officers plan to speak with the USNWC about this issue. Commissioner Brennan asked now that we all know and agree that moving the buoys is the right thing to do, how long will it be before we can do the right thing? According to Legal Counsel Clark, the buoys can be moved

tomorrow if CMPD's recommendation is approved. He added that the LWMC can make a motion to accept CMPD's recommendation. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to move the buoys according to the recommendations of law enforcement officers. Commissioner Mead seconded the motion. Discussion: There was discussion about where the buoys would be repositioned. They would not be any farther down than they are now. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. Legal Counsel Clark recommended that the Marine Commissioners talk with law enforcement after this meeting or very soon so that everyone understands the new placement of the buoys. Officer Carey added that one of the "congestion" signs near Sadler Island is crooked and needs to be straightened. Executive Director Stowe suggested that Dock Masters needs to move the buoys and that they all meet at Dock Masters to coordinate the move. Vice Chairman Smith thanked the CMPD and NCWRC for spending the time to go and talk with people at the USNWC.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that they have a hard time enforcing the buoys at Tailrace Marina because they are confusing. The Seven Oaks Marina plan is not finalized. They are going to redo it. This could take up to 18 months before the marina is under construction. GCPD's big boat is in need of repair. It's leaking hydraulic fluid. This is the second time seals have broken in 12 months. New Hope Marina is going to fix the boat. Officer Hamrick wrote two citations today – one for not having a fire extinguisher on the boat and the other was for not having enough life jackets. Chairman Thomas asked Officer Hamrick to be involved in the buoy moving process at Tailrace Marina.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Wayne Richardson reported that they had a good Memorial Day weekend, with most boaters being in compliance. YCSO dive training continues. There was a death on the lake in York County. On June 14 someone had a heart attack at the Sandbar and was found in the water. The cause of death will likely be noted as a heart attack, not a drowning. The YCSO is giving out lanyards and they are seeing more life jackets on children. The YCSO continues to clear people off of the islands at "official sunset." The only problem is trash that is left behind by people hanging out on islands. Commissioner Brennan asked if there is a way to get on television to continue promoting safe boating. Sgt. Richardson added that it is all about continuing education. He's seen more education this year than in many years in the past. Vice Chairman Smith asked about the boater that was hit last month. Officer Hamrick said there is a suspect in custody.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Officer Laton reported that boater education this year has been successful and making a positive impact on boater safety. The NCWRC is offering boater safety classes and conducting pre-launch inspections. The NCWRC's goal is to make sure people are safe.

SC Department of Natural Resources – No report was given.

US Coast Guard – No report was given.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – Rick Croasdale reported that they are conducting routine operations. They will have a boat on the lake three days a week. Their last big weekend was Memorial Day. Over three days they conducted 76 boat boardings. They had one BUI citation. They have five new members of Coast Guard Auxiliary team. The Coast Guard will be on Lake Wylie over July 4th and Labor Day. The lifejackets are staying stocked on the life jacket loaner boards because they are marked with where they belong.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – David Buetow reported on the May water quality sampling; everything looks good. Mr. Buetow is retiring next week. He said that he has really enjoyed his association with the LWMC for past 15 years. The Marine Commissioners thanked him and led a round of applause.

Duke Energy – No report was given.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Dan Mullane reported that there are a couple new development sites – one on New Hope Road near Amberjack's. Silt fences are up with a drainage pond; this site looks good. Another site is on RiverPointe Drive. There is a possibility that land was filled in with coal ash. The color of runoff is grayer than usual.

There is a development on Wilkinson right where McAdenville and Belmont line up. They will keep an eye on that site. He added that there's a site below Crowder's Creek and 274, a large piece of land has been cleared. Silt fences are up on this site; they will keep an eye on this site as well. Mr. Mullane is anxious to see what the next rainfall does to this site. Commissioner Brennan asked about silt fences and what is required. If there's a slope, there must be two layers of fencing. Commissioner Mead said that Mecklenburg County's standard is that runoff must be contained, whether it takes 2, 4, or 10 silt fences. Runoff is prohibited. Vice Chairman Smith asked Mr. Mullane if he has been down to Palisades Parkway, there is a lot of clear cutting going on and that area is in the back part of Boyd's Cove. She requested that he visit this site.

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation – No report was given.

Item 6 – Follow Up on Request for Comments: York County Natural Gas Authority Concord Road Pipeline Project (submitted by S&ME)

Commissioner Medler reported that Secretary Treasurer Hull, Commissioners Bryant and Medler met with two engineers at the site and discussed the project at length. In Commissioner Medler's opinion, this project is satisfactory and worth approving. Commissioner Medler made a motion to approve the gas line on Concord Road. Commissioner Biggerstaff seconded the motion. Discussion: They plan to bury the gas line 20' below the riverbed. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Item 7 – Request for Comments: Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park (submitted by WK Dickson)

Adrian Miller, Assistant City Manager in Belmont, presented to the group. The City is preparing to construct a park on the river front. He added that since the City put together the initial site plan, they have acquired Dale's Landing. They envision this area being a canoe and kayak launch site. The park will be open to the public and will have trails, water access and educational programs. Commissioner Medler asked about the location of the park. The park will go from the Highway 74 Bridge and to the cemetery. Executive Director Stowe asked about the safest way to get people across Catawba Street to get to the park. Adrian asked that there will be a pedestrian connection from the parking area. Chairman Thomas asked that a few Marine Commissioners conduct a site visit. Ms. Parker will help with coordinating this visit.

Item 8 – Request for Comments: Ebenezer Park Shoreline Stabilization Project (submitted by Habitat Assessment and Restoration Program, Inc.)

Karri Cecil Blackmon, President of Habitat Assessment and Restoration Professionals, presented to the group. Her company is working with York County on this project. Executive Director Stowe asked about how this project is being funded. She said that York County is paying for it. Secretary Treasurer Hull asked if the plan includes a swimming area. She answered, no, the scope of the project is limited. The focus is 500' along the front of the park. Chairman Thomas asked that a few Marine Commissioners conduct a site visit. Ms. Parker will help with coordinating this visit.

Item 9 – Update on Lake Maps

Commissioner Medler updated the group on actions taken in the past few weeks to move the lake map concept forward. He visited Perry Johnston at Dock Masters, a map store in Charlotte, and also West Marine. He visited West Marine and got hooked up with Kingfisher Maps and Justin Gray. Mr. Gray was very helpful and they would love to have more information. They can add anything to a map, as long as it is 100% correct. Kingfisher Maps is located in Clemson, South Carolina. Commissioner Medler is waiting for the first run of maps. Once they get the maps, they will have a map viewing meeting for ideas about what to add to the maps. Executive Director Stowe would like roads added. Commissioner Medler added that if we order 200 maps, we can get free shipping and buy them for \$4.29 per map. The LWMC would be categorized as a distributor. If the LWMC is a dealer, they would be \$5.99 each for 30 maps. Retail at West Marine is \$12.99 per map. The downside is that the next printing will be in a year. Mr. Gray would like the information the LWMC wants on the next run of maps by November.

Item 10 – Tega Cay Update

Commissioner Brennan reported that Tega Cay's consultant delivered plans to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control – State Revolving Fund (SCDHEC-SRF) for "Division I, Gravity Sewer Rehabilitation Project" and the City is awaiting comments on, or approval of, the plans. Tega Cay will begin the advertisement of the project beginning in June of 2015. With plans submitted to SCDHEC-SRF the City is hopeful that financing for a comprehensive system rehabilitation project will begin in the very near future.

Tega Cay staff has continued with the lift station maintenance program, effecting repairs to system service lines that had been improperly maintained by the past owner, clearing blockages, and overhauling the ultra violet disinfection system. The GIS inventory of the collection system is now available online and can be accessed by City staff from the field. There were two sewer system overflows (SSOs) during the past few months, April 19 and May 5, because of heavy rains. SCDHEC issued Notices of Violations and the City responded as required. No fines are anticipated as the City continues to proceed with the requirements of the Consent Agreement and continues to await the funding promised by South Carolina which is pending the state approving the corrective action plan.

Item 11 – Riversweep Update

Commissioner Brennan reported that a second planning meeting was held on June 17. All but one of the fourteen site captains has been identified. There will be less emphasis on paid advertising this year. The planning team is approaching city and town councils for both advertising and donations. So far, Belmont has agreed to contribute financially to Riversweep. Commissioner Brennan is going to meet with the Mount Holly City Council and the Rock Hill City Manager. Pre-registration for Riversweep will begin on August 1 on the LWMC website via a link to the Riversweep website: www.lakewylieriversweep.com. We will need to update the website with donors as they join. The USNWC has offered use of kayaks again this year. Commissioner Brennan said that Riversweep planning team members and Marine Commissioners are encouraged to solicit donations from owners of businesses we all patronize.

Item 12 – Treasurer's Report

Secretary Treasurer Hull provided the Finance Report. The LWMC's finances are tracking as they should be.

FY 14-15 Budget Amendment – Secretary Treasurer Hull made a motion for Centralina to make budgetary adjustments as shown in the proposed FY 15 budget amendment that is included in the agenda packet. Commissioner Medler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 13 – FY 15-16 Budget

a. Public Hearing for Consideration of the FY 15-16 Budget Ordinance – Secretary Treasurer Hull made a motion to enter into Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing and approving the FY 16 budget. Vice Chairman Smith seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

There were no comments from the public.

Commissioner Brennan made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Mead seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

b. Discussion and Approval of FY 15-16 Budget Ordinance – Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the FY 16 budget. Commissioner Mead seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and the FY 16 Budget approved unanimously.

Item 14 – Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Joe Stowe reported.

- a. Consideration of Contracting with CCOG for Administrative Services for FY 15-16 – Secretary Treasurer Hull made a motion to approve the contract with Centralina for FY 16. Commissioner Hegarty seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- b. Executive Director Stowe talked about letter the LWMC sent to South Carolina regarding the area at Big Allison Creek and the Highway 274 Bridge. Sgt. Tony Spires, Investigator with SCDNR, provided a prompt and thorough

response in writing about a no wake zone request (denied) for this area. Ms. Parker was asked to send Sgt. Spires a courteous response.

- c. Watson Insurance – The LWMC Officers had a conference call with our contact at Watson Insurance. The insurance the Marine Commission has is adequate and the company is going to issue a credit to the insurance policy.

Item 15 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Thomas did not have a report.

Item 16 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

On the topic of speaking with the media, Legal Counsel Chris Clark recommended is that if any Marine Commissioner is contacted by the media, please refer the journalist to Chairman Thomas or Executive Director Stowe. Legal Counsel Chris Clark asked if Chairman Thomas or Executive Director are willing to take questions from the media. They agreed to do so.

Item 17 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- Water Quality –
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Biggerstaff reported that Commodore Yacht Club, Lake Side Marina, Tega Cay Marina, and Harbortowne Marina have been successfully re-inspected. Tailrace Marina, River Hills Marina, and Pier 49 are left to be inspected.
 - Invasive Species – Commissioner Medler spoke with Ken Manuel with Duke Energy. It is early, but there has been no trace of hydrilla on the lake.
- Buoys – Commissioner Biggerstaff added updates on a few buoys.
- Safety – Commissioner Bryant did not have a report.
- Recreation – No report was given.
- Public Information – Secretary Treasurer Hull did not have a report.

Item 18 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The next LWMC meeting will be held on July 27, 2015 at Belmont City Hall (115 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC).