

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
March 27, 2017
Belmont City Hall



Commissioners Present: Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Vice Chairman Neil Brennan (Gaston County)
Assistant Secretary Treasurer Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Blanche Bryant (York County)
Commissioner George Medler (York County)
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)
Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)

Commissioners Absent: Secretary Treasurer Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)

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

Meeting Minutes

Mission Statement

*To promote public policies and support regulations for the preservation of Lake Wylie and its wildlife
and for the education and safety of the citizens who use this
beautiful natural resource.*

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Smith asked if any changes need to be made to the February 27, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Mead moved to approve the February 27, 2017 minutes. Vice Chairman Brennan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of Agenda

Chairman Smith asked if any changes need to be made to the March 27, 2017 agenda. Vice Chairman Brennan moved to approve the March 27 agenda. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Public Comment

None.

Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Joye reported that their unit is working on a proposal to take to their Chief related to needed boat equipment. They are going to ask for a new boathouse and two new boats. A new boat is the highest priority.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that there is still an issue on the bilge pump on their smaller boat. He is going to an underwater SONAR body detection training in Virginia in April. Vice Chairman Brennan added that this week the Boat Slip Association at Reflection Pointe will review the possibility of mooring the Gaston County Police Department boat at their marina.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Mabry reported that lake patrol equipment wearing out is a common occurrence. He also said that one of the hazard buoys is missing near the law enforcement center and there was another buoy found out of place near Camp Thunderbird. The YCSO conducted a boater safety class last Saturday. Eight people participated and they all passed. The age range of participants went from 11 to 63 years old.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Sgt. Laton reminded the group about the felony BWI training scheduled for April 24 at 9:00 am. It will be held at Southmont Fire Department on Hwy 8 (11030 Hwy 8), south of Lexington, NC. He reported that in March NCWRC officers had issues with two people. One did not cooperate, was tased and taken to the Mecklenburg County jail.

SC Department of Natural Resources – No report was given.

US Coast Guard – No report was given.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – No report was given.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – No report was given.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

- Lake level: 97.7' (target level: 97.0')
- Low inflow protocol: Stage 1.
- No dredge permits have been submitted or approved in the past month.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Commissioner Goff reported on behalf of Dan Mullane. On March 29, water watcher training will be held in Belmont at Gaston College from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. If interested, register on the Catawba Riverkeeper website.

Item 6 – Communications: Website Redesign Recommendation

Commissioner Goff reported on the recommendations for website redesign. A summary report was included in the agenda packet. She acknowledged that a redesign of the LWMC website is needed and certain website features are needed that we do not have. Those features include being able to access the site from a mobile device, designing the site on an industry standard platform (e.g., WordPress) that is easy to update, having improved searchability on the web, and improving website organization so people can find information faster. Commissioner Goff noted that the LWMC website is for dissemination of information and linking out to information, instead of other more involved functions. She said that the plan is to not pursue social media and that making website updates are not in CCOG's purview.

Commissioner Goff stated that she interviewed four web design firms and that the prices quoted are in line with what the designers are capable of offering. Each firm said that development time would take approximately three months. After reviewing her own notes and getting proposals from the firms, her recommendation is that the Marine Commission use Rabell Creative. Their quote is for \$4,500.

This firm is capable of meeting the LWMC's needs, but not so large that the Marine Commission would pay for extra overhead. Rabell Creative is a husband and wife team and they use WordPress as their design platform.

Vice Chairman Brennan noted that \$1,000 was allocated at the beginning of the fiscal year for website. At this present time, nearly \$550 remains in that line item. Commissioner Goff said that to do this project, it would require 50% down and 50% upon satisfied completion of the project. The Marine Commission would be looking at an expenditure of ~\$2,000 in this fiscal year (by June 30, 2017) and ~\$2,000 in the next fiscal year (starting July 1, 2017). The total cost for this project would be \$4,500, a one-time cost. It would be an additional \$5.00 per month for service from Rabell Creative.

Vice Chairman Brennan moved to accept the recommendation provided by Commissioner Goff and allocate funds to implement the Rabell Creative group to redesign the Lake Wylie Marine Commission website. Commissioner Mead seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Hegarty asked if there is a termination fee associated with WebWright Carolina. Commissioner Goff answered that she is not sure. The vote taken and approved unanimously.

Item 7 – LWMC Bylaws Update

Legal Counsel Clark introduced this agenda item. He distributed a redlined version and a clean version of the bylaws to each Marine Commissioner and walked through the redlined version and talked about each proposed change.

Legal Counsel Clark asked if anyone had any questions. Vice Chairman Brennan had a question about the part of section 7.2 that references the budget being mailed to Marine Commissioners each year. He asked if language could be added that references the budget being sent via email or electronic mail. Mr. Clark agreed to make that change. Commissioner Bryant had a question about Section 3.6 and Mr. Clark clarified that he removed a footnote from that section.

Vice Chairman Brennan moved to accept changes Legal Counsel Clark has recommended to our bylaws, as amended. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Item 8 – Riversweep 2017 Update

Vice Chairman Brennan reported the Riversweep Planning Committee met on March 15. The fund balance carried over from last year is \$699. Fund raising efforts for 2017 have begun, and the City Managers of Belmont and Mount Holly are receptive to entertaining requests to the respective City Councils for both monetary and notification support as has been done in the past. He reported that the Leinenkugel Corporate sponsorship will not be available this year. The company has new owners, and funds for such projects are no longer available.

The Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce includes Belmont, Mount Holly, Cramerton, Lowell, McAdenville, and Stanley. The Chamber functions have proven to be good venue for meeting potential Riversweep volunteers, and Chamber President Ted Hall has indicated they will provide notification of Riversweep through the Chamber website later this year.

Hillary Zorman of the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation referred Mr. Dick Edwardson of Lake Hickory to Vice Chairman Brennan regarding initiating a Riversweep event there, and he asked about our process. Vice Chairman Brennan forwarded and discussed with him the slides of the presentation provided to Lake Wateree residents about conducting Riversweep and will continue to provide whatever assistance he requests.

Item 9 – Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Thomas provided the Treasurer’s report. He updated the group on Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff’s condition. The first FY18 budget meeting will be held on Wednesday. Commissioners Goff, Mead, and Thomas are on the budget committee.

Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Stowe reported:

- Update on the Stakeholder Appreciation Gathering – It will be held at The Red Fez Club, either on May 4 or May 11. Executive Director Stowe asked to let him know about any conflicts by later this week.
- Mr. Stowe attended a water quality meeting last Friday. At that meeting, he learned about a CCOG-sponsored event that will feature a session on water quality and quantity. The event will be held on April 6 in Mooresville.

Item 11 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith reported that she attended the monthly officers meeting. SPLASH has been requested at Camp Thunderbird in late April.

Item 12 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

Item 13 – Old/New Business and Commission Projects Reports

Old Business

- Water Quality –
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Medler is going to take over the Clean Marinas program. Commissioner Goff requested that he make sure all marinas know about Riversweep.
 - Sedimentation – Commissioner Goff reported that the Catawba Riverkeeper has agreed to offer an abridged version of the water watcher training just for Marine Commissioners. Chairman Smith asked if this could be in the context of one of the LWMC’s regular meetings. Vice Chairman Brennan asked about the comparison between how different counties handle sedimentation and runoff issues. He requested this comparison from Dan Mullane at the February meeting.
 - Invasive Species – Commissioner Medler did not have a report.
- Buoy – No report was given.
 - Mr. Terry Everhart distributed a proposal to the Marine Commission about handling buoy maintenance and installation. He would like to take over buoy maintenance and installation of No Wake buoys only, in North Carolina only. He said the rate would be a flat rate of \$50/hour. This flat rate does not cover supplies. Either the Marine Commission can buy supplies and Mr. Everhart can store them, or Mr. Everhart can buy and store them for a fee.
 - Vice Chairman Brennan asked about danger buoys. It was clarified that the state handles danger buoys.
 - Executive Director Stowe asked if Mr. Everhart has a place where supplies can be stored. Mr. Everhart responded that he does and he does not have any reservations about storing buoy supplies.
 - Commissioner Thomas asked if Mr. Everhart plans to work alone. Mr. Everhart said it would be \$100/hour for actually installing or placing buoys because it takes two people to do this work. The cost would be \$50/hour, per person.
 - Commissioner Hegarty commented on how dangerous it is to have missing buoys. He is happy that someone is willing to keep up with buoys in a timely fashion.
 - Commissioner Thomas moved to contract with Land and Lakes Services to provide maintenance for North Carolina No Wake buoys. Commissioner Bryant seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

- Safety – Commissioner Bryant reported that she is coordinating with area high schools on the life jacket awareness competition, and they are looking at several dates in April. She asked about ordering lanyards. Sgt. Mabry added that his promotions budget for this fiscal year is gone. The lanyards cost less than \$1/per lanyard. He ordered them in quantities of 400 in the past. Chairman Smith asked her to investigate the cost and quantity of lanyards. Vice Chairman Brennan moved that the Marine Commission allocate up to \$1,000 for the lanyards and allow Commissioner Bryant to spend up to \$1,000 on lanyards. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Bryant clarified that her role is to investigate the purchase of lanyards. Commissioner Goff advised that because of time, Commissioner Bryant should go ahead and order the lanyards. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.
- Recreation – No report was given.
- Public Information – Commissioner Goff said that more information is forthcoming.

Executive Director Stowe would like the 2017 Goals to be added to the April 24, 2017 agenda.

Item 14 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.
