

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission**  
**May 18, 2015**  
**Good Samaritan United Methodist Church**



---

**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.

#### **Item 2 – Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Thomas asked if any changes need to be made to the April 27 minutes. Commissioner Biggerstaff made a motion to approve the April 27 minutes. Commissioner Medler 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 May 18 agenda. Commissioner Brennan wanted to add a section on Riversweep. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve the May 18 agenda, as amended. Vice Chairman Smith seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

#### **Item 4 – Public Comment**

- CD Collins – He spoke about the McLean Property. Mr. Collins is worried that we are going to end up with a similar or worse situation at the Seven Oaks Marina like already exists at Tailrace Marina. It will be a dangerous mix of boaters, paddle boarders, etc.
- Mark Perkins – Homeowner on Catawba Cove. Mr. Perkins echoed Mr. Collins' concerns about the Seven Oaks Marina. Looking at the map, Seven Oaks Marina is like the middle of an hourglass. His concern is about safety and congestion.
- Scott Webb – He is a long time homeowner in Catawba Cove. He is also concerned about congestion. It appears that it's going to happen – the question is, how can it be contained? This is a good location for home sites, but a bad location for a marina.
- Ted Hendrix – Lake resident that grew up on Catawba Creek. He addressed the LWMC about the US National Whitewater Center. He reported that he almost hit a kayaker in the Sadler Island/USNWC area. The kayaker, a "kid" was scared to death. Mr. Hendrix said that there is still no training provided by USNWC. The power boaters are abiding by the rules. He asked if the LWMC can please send a letter to the USNWC about training kayakers and posting signage.

- Ed Jackson – Lake resident in Catawba Cove. He addressed the LWMC on the Seven Oaks Marina topic. He spent 12 years on Cramerton’s Planning Board. Putting the marina that far out into the cove is a bad idea.

#### **Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Carey reported that there was a near fatality on May 7. A cabin cruiser ran over a john boat. The fisherman is still on a ventilator. It was a hit and run, and they are looking into it. CMPD will have two boats out on Memorial Day weekend. The US Coast Guard will also be on Lake Wylie.

Gaston County Police Department – The Officer present reported that GCPD participated in the Coast Guard’s event on Saturday, May 16. They will also have boats on the water over Memorial Day weekend.

York County Sheriff’s Office – Sgt. Brent Mabry reported on a boat accident. This week YCSO has busy with Safe Boating Week public service announcements (PSAs). They shared two videos with the LWMC. (<http://www.yorkcountysheriff.com/services/publicServices>). After viewing both videos, the Marine Commission gave YCSO and the Clover High School students that were present a round of applause. Officer Richardson thanked Executive Director Stowe and Marine Commissioner Bryant for their work on this effort. 49-50 Clover High School students wore their lifejackets to school last week. Officer Richardson and Sgt. Mabry are very proud of the students. Commissioner Mead made a motion to write a proclamation that commends the students at Clover High School and their support for boating safety. Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Commissioner Mead will write the proclamation.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Executive Director Stowe gave the report for Officer Laton.

SC Department of Natural Resources – No one was present to report.

US Coast Guard – No one was present to report.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – Rick Croasdale reported that their May 16 event went well. 60 lifejackets were donated. He added that the location did not work well – too many people were just passing through. They will have boats on the water this weekend.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – David Buetow reported on the March water quality report. He walked through the handout with the Marine Commissioners.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

- Current lake level: 97.3 (target level 97.0).
- Drought Management Group: Normal
- Dredging: No dredge applications have been submitted.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – Mr. CD Collins did not have a report.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Dan Mullane reported that there is a lot of development happening in Paradise Point. The silt fencing looks up to par. Sam Perkins, Catawba Riverkeeper, added that they are starting to interview people that live near the Allen Steam Power. The Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation’s youth kayak program starts in June. Let me know if you know someone who could help. He extended the invite to get to know Emilee Syrewicze ([emilee@catawbariverkeeper.org](mailto:emilee@catawbariverkeeper.org)). The sooner she gets familiarized with people and existing, related organizations, the better!

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

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

Joe Lawler with S&ME reported. S&ME is helping York County Natural Gas Authority with this project. The gas company needs to get conveyance permit from Duke Energy. Commissioner Medler asked if the gas line would be run on the same side as Duke Energy's operation. Work has not started yet. They plan to bore 1,000' under the cove. Stephen Comer with YCNGA answered the more technical questions from the Marine Commission. Chairman Thomas said that a few of the Marine Commissioners would visit the site before the June meeting. Ms. Parker will coordinate a time for commissioners to visit the site.

**Item 7 – Follow up on Request for Comments: Expand Seven Oaks Marina (submitted by Permits 4U)**

Commissioner Biggerstaff said that many Marine Commissioners went to view the site. His main concern is the dock coming out the 110'. He asked Mr. Hinshaw and Mr. Heller to consider removing 1 boat slip. If that is done, Commissioner Biggerstaff would be alright with the project. Mr. Hinshaw said they are going to remove 2 slips at the end of the dock. Commissioner Brennan brought up statute [15A NCAC 10F .0333](#) which is about speed limit near ramps. The statute says, *"No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any public boat-launching ramp, dock, pier, marina, boat storage structure or boat service area."* If this marina is in place that the buoys that are there now at the bridge would be moved to accommodate the public marina. He does not know if the LWMC needs to request this move, or if NCWRC would direct that the buoys be moved. The impact would be a greater no wake zone. The question is who initiates the request. Mr. Hinshaw and Mr. Heller have to make the request of the LWMC to start the process of adjusting no wake buoys. Chairman Thomas told Mr. Hinshaw that working with NCWRC to move no wake buoys is about a year long process and to please incorporate this process into their project timeline. Commissioner Biggerstaff made a motion to approve the project with the removal of the last two (2) boat slips. Commissioner Medler seconded motion and it was approved unanimously. It was reiterated that moving buoys is a separate request.

**Item 8 – Follow Up Request for Comments: Replacement of SC 274 Bridge over Lake Wylie (submitted by Mead & Hunt)**

Chairman Thomas and Vice Chairman Smith made the site visit and had no issues with anything that was proposed. Commissioner Biggerstaff made a motion to approve the project. Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Chairman Thomas commented that this has been a model project. He suggested that other developers conduct surveys like Mead & Hunt.

**Item 9 – Update on Lake Maps**

Commissioner Medler reported that he and Secretary Treasurer Hull have been in contact with Perry Johnston of Dock Masters. They are attempting to map the roads that meet Lake Wylie. They are mostly incorrect on the old map of the lake. The Map Committee will meet in the next two weeks. Sgt. Mabry suggested that the LWMC get in touch with each of the counties and their GIS departments for mapping assistance.

**Item 10 – Tega Cay Update**

Commissioner Brennan reported that the Preliminary Engineering Report has been returned to the City of Tega Cay for SCDHEC's comments to be included. The City will submit the revised plans in two parts – first part around May 26 and the second part in June. Once the government approves the final plans, the funds that have been authorized will be released to begin the main line refurbishment and repair, probably in July. During the major Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) on April 19 and 20, crews worked non-stop to stem the flow but could not stay ahead of the ingress of rain water to the system that caused the SSOs. There have been no fines assessed for these SSOs as the Consent Agreement under which the Tega Cay is operating gives them a period of time to correct the deficiencies can result in SSOs in heavy rain conditions.

**Added Item: Riversweep Update**

Commissioner Brennan reported that Riversweep will be on Saturday, October 3 this year. An inventory of the materials returned or leftover from Riversweep 2014 reveals that there is a good amount of signage, tarps, grabbers and small gloves in stock for this year. The Site Captains from 2014 have been asked if they will serve again this year, and seven of the 14 have committed – awaiting word from the others. The first meeting of the planning committee is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20 at the Bagel Boat.

**Item 11 – Treasurer’s Report**

Secretary Treasurer Hull provided the Finance Report. The LWMC’s finances are tracking as they should be. Funds are coming in and going out as they should. If any Marine Commissioners have budget requests for the FY 16 budget, please let Ms. Parker know.

**Item 12 – Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Joe Stowe reported.

- Purchase of Buoys and Buoy Equipment – \$246 has been spent on hardware for buoys. He is waiting to hear about the cost of the 6 buoys. The plan is to order the buoys this week.
- Update from Meeting with NCWRC – Commissioner Brennan and Executive Director Stowe went to NCWRC meeting on Sadler Island buoys last week. The buoys that are in place are temporary buoys. Everyone present at the meeting voted to have the buoys in place permanently. NCWRC will likely vote on this issue in July and by September, the temporary buoys will become permanent.
- Letter for SCDNR for No Wake Buoys – Executive Director Stowe presented the letter that Vice Chairman Smith wrote and praised it. A motion was made by Commissioner Mead that the letter should be submitted as written and should be signed by Chairman Thomas. Commissioner Medler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Item 13 – Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Thomas did not have a report.

**Item 14 – Clerk’s Report**

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

**Item 15 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports**

- Water Quality –
  - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – So far, Commissioners Biggerstaff and Medler have inspected Commodore and Lake Club Marinas.
  - Invasive Species – Commissioner Medler, Vice Chairman Smith, Commissioner Biggerstaff, and Executive Director Stowe was present on May 15 when Duke Energy put 300 grass carp in the lake to keep the hydrilla issue under control.
- Buoys – Commissioner Biggerstaff added that the buoys are in place at the USNWC. Vice Chairman Smith asked Commissioner Biggerstaff to ask Perry Johnston if the buoys at Boyd’s Cove have been moved.
- Safety – Commissioner Bryant was not present.
- Recreation – There was no report.
- Public Information – Secretary Treasurer Hull did not have a report.

**Item 13 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned 8:13 at pm.

---

***The next LWMC meeting will be held on June 22, 2015 at Carolinas HealthCare System – Steele Creek Healthcare Pavilion (13640 Steelescrot Parkway, Charlotte, NC) and will start at 7:00 pm.***