

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission**  
**May 23, 2016**  
**Belmont City Hall**



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**Commissioners Present:** Vice Chairman Ed Hull (York County)  
Secretary Treasurer Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Blanche Bryant (York County)  
Commissioner Neil Brennan (Gaston County)  
Commissioner George Medler (York County)

**Commissioners Absent:** Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)

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

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**Meeting Minutes**

**Moment of Silence**

Executive Director Stowe asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Chairman Smith's sister Gwynn Little and for the passing of Dr. Bill Jarman.

**Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions**

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

**Item 2 – Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chairman Hull asked if any changes need to be made to the April 25 minutes. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff made a motion to approve the April 25 minutes. Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Item 3 – Approval of Agenda**

Vice Chairman Hull asked if any changes need to be made to the May 23 agenda. Legal Counsel Clark said that he had an item to add after the Clerk's Report. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve the May 23 as amended. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff 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 big boat is back in the water and their smaller boat is in the shop. Five Coast Guard officers will be on the water with CMPD this weekend.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that their big boat is out of the shop and the smaller boat is getting serviced. Both boats will be on the water this weekend.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Mabry reported that the YCSO was not at River Sweep because they were teaching a boater safety class. YCSO will be on the water this weekend.

Tega Cay Police Department – No report was given.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Sgt. Laton reported that they have been conducting pre-launch boat inspections at Copperhead Island. The purpose of the pre-launch check is to help boaters before they hit the water. They are giving out stickers to boaters who have the pre-launch check. Sgt. Laton talked about a no wake zone matrix that the NCWRC has put into place for consistent documentation. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff asked for a copy of it and Sgt. Laton said he would get him one.

SC Department of Natural Resources – Sgt. Plemmons reported that their lake activity is about to begin. They will have two boats on the water. Like NCWRC's pre-launch inspection, SCDNR conducts courtesy boat inspections (CBIs) at Ebenezer Park.

US Coast Guard – No report was given.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – Rick Croasdale reported that one of their leaders, John Brindle, passed away earlier in the day. He mentioned an upcoming Cabela's event on June 11 and 12. They will also have two boats on the water this weekend.

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

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

- Lake level: 98.1' (target level: 97.0')
- Low inflow protocol: Normal
- No dredge permits have been issued. It is fish spawning season. No dredging is allowed until July 1.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Mr. Dan Mullane reported that they are still watching the same big developments and that River Sweep was successful.

### **Item 6 – River Sweep Update**

Commissioner Brennan reported that the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Riversweep event was held on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 14 sites along Lake Wylie. Turnout was low compared to previous events. Nonetheless, a good bit of trash and debris was collected by the 239 volunteers who supported or embarked 39 boats, 13 kayaks, and one barge: 189 bags of trash, 45 bags of recyclable items; 38 tires (seven still on the rim), 31 large pieces of Styrofoam and dock floats, one kayak, and miscellaneous other debris that filled two and a half industrial size dumpsters.

The Leinenkugel Brewing Company was a new sponsor this year, and their support was outstanding and varied. They provided posters advertising the event, tents for use of the administrators at each of the 14 sites, a prize for an individual at each site, Panthers and Knights tickets prizes for seven Boat Captains, after parties at the Riverview Raw Bar and Grill and T-Bones for Boat and Site Captains and their guests; and logo coolers and portable grills as raffle prizes at the after parties. Cabela's contributes a gift bag of items and Home Depot donated weather radios that were included in the prizes won. The planning committee will reconvene to assess the steps forward for Riversweep 2017.

### **Item 7 – Treasurer’s Report**

Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff reported that the LWMC is still looking for an auditor, and that we have requested funds from the three counties for FY16-17.

Review Draft Proposed FY16-17 Budget – The draft proposed budget for FY16-17 is included in the LWMC agenda packet. He asked that everyone review it before the June 27 meeting and let him know if there are any questions. The LWMC will adopt their FY16-17 budget at the June 27 meeting.

### **Item 8 – Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Stowe reported that:

- Ed Ware is cutting the grass at the Law Enforcement Center and Sgt. Mabry will continue with bush-hogging.
- Clean Marina flags have been distributed to the Clean Marinas.
- Cabela’s is having an event on June 11-12 and they want the LWMC to participate. Mr. Stowe asked if any of the Marine Commissioners are interested. Some noted that they would be out of town. He asked Ms. Parker to send an email out asking if people are willing and able to participate.

### **Item 9 – Chairman’s Report**

No report was given.

### **Item 10 – Clerk’s Report**

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

### ***Added Item***

Legal Counsel Clark introduced new legislation that has passed the NC House of Representatives called “Sheyenne’s Law” (HB 958). It will call for stronger punishments for boating while impaired. Legal Counsel Clark is not recommending any action. The effective date penciled in on December 1, 2016. Commissioner Brennan made a motion for the LWMC to consider writing a letter of support for this legislation. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Discussion: it was determined that the Chairman and/or Executive Director will sign the letter and Legal Counsel Clark will work to draft the letter. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

### **Item 11 – Old/New Business and Commission Projects Reports**

- Water Quality –
  - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff is working to re-inspect Clean Marinas.
  - Invasive Species – Commissioner Medler noted that grass carp will be stocked in the fall.
- Buoys – On May 11 Executive Director Stowe and Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff rode with CMPD across the whole NC side of the river to inspect buoys. They were going to write buoy numbers down, but some buoys had the same or wrong numbers and some buoys were out of place. CMPD agreed to help move the buoys back into place.
- Safety – Commissioner Bryant reported that this was the second year of conducting the life jacket challenge. This year, Clover High School and Fort Mill High School participated. Fort Mill High School went ahead and did it without the LWMC’s help. Clover High School had 130 people participate! Sgts. Mabry and Richardson did a great job. They are getting a trophy made. Next year, they want to include more schools. It was noted that John Marks did a good article in the *Lake Wylie Pilot* about this effort.
- Recreation – No report was given.
- Public Information – No report was given.

**Allen Plant Coal Ash Update**

Commissioner Brennan reported that based on the corrective actions taken to date, the Dam Safety risk assessments of both the inactive and the active coal basins at the Allen Stream Plant have been reduced from “High” to “Intermediate.” Both basins have shallow slope stability control issues remaining to address and both plants have spillway piping repairs to address. Duke has proposed that, in lieu of repairing the existing spillway piping, the piping be replaced with new spillway piping for each basin. NCDEQ is reviewing that proposal which they anticipate will be approved. Once these issues are rectified, it is anticipated the Dam Safety risk assessment will be “Low” on both basins. However, the approval process on the spillway proposals and remaining discussions and final approval of the shallow slope stability issues at both basins will likely extend the estimated completion time of all required corrective actions to later in the year.

Commissioner Medler added that the US Power Squadron put up a life jacket loaner board at Tega Cay Marina.

**Item 12 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

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