

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
May 21, 2012 7:00 p.m.
Gaston College East Campus
Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Present: Vice Chairman Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary/Treasurer Ron Wanless (York County)
Commissioner Ed Hull (York County)
Commissioner Vernon Peers (York County)
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Commissioner Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)

Commissioners Absent: Chairman Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)
Commissioner Howard Virkler (Mecklenburg County)

LWMC Staff Present: Joe Stowe, Executive Director, Chris Clark, Legal Counsel,
Diane Dil, Commission Clerk

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chairman Everhart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman requested two corrections to the minutes. He requested to change “drive” to “dive” in both Charlotte Mecklenburg PD and York County Sheriff reports. A motion was made by Commissioner Wanless to approve the April 23, 2012 minutes as amended. Commissioner Peers seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda

The May 21, 2012 agenda was approved as submitted.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted for the consent agenda.

Item 5 – Public Comment

Patricia Guin of Save Lake Wylie Coves provided an update of City of Charlotte rezoning petition 2011-65. Her group continues to reach out to the public and she appreciates the support of the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation. The city council will hear the rezoning request on June 18th. The group will continue to review the regulatory disparities between the various watersheds within the county. She appreciates the commission’s efforts and granting her the opportunity to speak.

Ronnie Lawson of Duke Energy reported on a Duke Energy filing with FERC regarding the operation of charter boats at marinas. He has asked all the marina operators on Lake Wylie if they have any current or future plan to offer charter boat services. He stated that he has not heard

back from any marinas. He is required to notify stakeholders such as the marine commission of this application to FERC. He requested a letter from the Marine Commission stating that they are not opposed to this new change of use regulation. Commissioner Wanless requested Mr. Lawson to define charter boat. Mr. Lawson stated this is a company that provides boat tours or parties. This is not just for renting pontoon boats. The boats are typically larger than would fit in a normal size boat slip. Mr. Lawson will provide the commission additional information about this application.

Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Everhart reported

- More than 150 officers are currently out of state doing riot training in preparation of the DNC.
- Returned 8-10 boats that have come loose as a result of higher lake levels.
- Full staff is on the water and the equipment is operating well.

York County Sheriff – Sargent Mabry reported

- Started weekend work. They will add a student resource officer June 1.
- Additional officers will be present Memorial Day weekend.
- They are continuing training before the summer boating season starts.
- Recovered a few boats floating loose.
- The Law Enforcement Center has a roof leak that may need repaired next fiscal year.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Service Agency (LUESA) - No report

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 98’.
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 0.

Lake Wylie Riverkeeper report – Ellen Goff reported

- Covekeepers have also reported items floating in the water because of recent rain.
- Riversweep has secured an additional site – the Charlotte Yacht Club. The Whitewater Center has also agreed to participate. The details are still being worked out. Work continues on the database for notices. Site captains are being assigned and trained.
- There was a report from a resident on the South Fork about a large amount of sediment going into one of the coves. CD Collins responded and photographed the area. It appears as if the sediment has been draining into the cove for awhile. It is a result of construction at Stuart Cramer High School in Gaston County. Ms. Goff contacted the county and was referred to NCDENR. NCDENR contacted the contractor who stated they were maintaining required erosion control measures. Mr. Collins and the covekeepers will continue to monitor the situation. Commissioner Biggerstaff asked if anybody has ever been required to dredge because of any damage they caused. Mr. Collins was only aware that Reflection Point was once required to dredge.

Item 7 – Treasurer’s Report

- Secretary Treasurer Wanless stated that a few budget amendments are required to make adjustments for increased costs for buoys and contractual services. Commissioner Wanless made a motion to add \$4,000 to Safety Markers, Buoys and Signage. The new total will be \$10,000. The increase will be funded through a \$3,700 withdrawal from the Reserve Fund and a transfer of \$300 from Clean Marina Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hull and passed unanimously. Commissioner Wanless made a motion to add \$1,600 to the CCOG contract. The new total will be \$16,600. The

increase will be funded through a transfer of \$1,600 from the Clean Marina Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peers and passed unanimously.

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

- **Law Enforcement Center** – Still waiting to hear back from all stakeholders.
- **Presentation by Rusty Rozelle**– Mr. Rozelle has agreed to update the commission at a future meeting, perhaps August, on programs and regulations Mecklenburg County has implemented over the last few years to improve the water quality of Lake Wylie.
- **Buoys** – Dockmasters spent one day, 2 boats and 4 people to relocate, repair and replace buoys. One additional day is needed to complete the work. The commission has been advised by the Coast Guard Auxiliary of a few buoys that have been damaged by boats. Commissioner Thomas asked if one of the buoys in Paradise Point could be moved back 10-15 feet.

Item 9 – Chairman’s Report – Vice Chairman Terry Everhart reported

- **Buoy Update** – He recently spoke with Perry at Dockmasters about a few smaller coves that still need buoys. It is on Perry’s list of things to complete.
- **Ready, Set, Wear it.** – He thanked Joe, Lynn and Ronnie for attending the Law Enforcement Divisions event Saturday May 19. The record of the most people wearing life jackets was not broken but they will try to make it a bigger event next year. It did help to spread the word and encourage people to wear life jackets.
- **International Boating and Water Safety Summit** – He provided a report of his time at the Summit. He made good contacts and if it is the will of the commission he will work to invite speakers from the boating and paddling community to a future meeting. The commission did not have any objections.

Item 10 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- **Water Quality** –
 - Commissioner Wanless visited River Hills Marina to discuss the Clean Marina flag. During windy days the weight of the flag in combination with the necessary parts to fly the flag does cause the pole to break. Commissioner Wanless recommended one way to decrease the weight of the flag would be to remove the letters and have a single printed mirror image flag. Mr. Stowe recommended working with flag companies to determine how to create a lighter flag.
- **Safety**
 - **Buoys** – This was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- **Recreation** –
 - **Fireworks** – Commissioner Smith reported that the fireworks committee held their third meeting. The Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce is working on TV/Cable/Print publicity of the event and how to donate funds for the fireworks. Donation request letters were mailed in April and a second letter may be mailed. The committee is working on a flyer to distribute in River Hills Community mailboxes. A Facebook page has been set up. Commissioner Smith requested that the \$1,000 for fireworks be mailed soon after the new budget year.
 - **Aquapoolza** – Commissioner Thomas has met with Jeff Hall of Lake Wylie Marina about an Aquapoolza event this year. Mr. Hall asked how much support is

the Marine Commission can offer. Vice Chairman Everhart stated that the Marine Commission is not opposed to the event but cannot support it financially.

- **Public Information**

- Commissioner Hull stated the new website is complete and will go live later this month.

Item 11 - Public Comment

No one was present for public comments.

Item 12 – Adjournment

With no more business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on June 25, 2012 at Good Samaritan United Methodist Church in Lake Wylie, SC and will begin at 7:00 pm.