

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission**  
**November 24, 2014**  
**Carolina HealthCare System**  
**Steele Creek Healthcare Pavilion – Community Room**



**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 Blanche Bryant (York County)

**Commissioners Absent:** Commissioner George Medler (York County)  
Commissioner Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)

**LWMC Staff Present:** Joe Stowe, Executive Director; Chris Clark, Legal Counsel;  
Nadine Bennett, (for Emily Parker) Clerk

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**Meeting Minutes**

(amended text appears in *italics*)

**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 October 27 minutes. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve the October 27 minutes. Vice Chairman Smith 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 November 24 agenda. Executive Director Stowe requested that Smitty Hanks be added after the Stakeholders Report. Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the amended November 24 agenda. Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Item 4 – Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Joye reported that 80% of the problems that he reported at the last meeting have been corrected. CMPD has been off the water quite a bit this month. He noted that they will no longer be patrolling on Lake Norman. The Cornelius Police Department has taken that job over. The CMPD lake patrol division will end up reorganizing, which will be good for Lake Wylie.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that GCPD is in the process of doing specialized training on the water.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Brent Mabry reported that they have been doing required monthly training and not much else has been happening. He also updated on the status of the split rail fence at the Law Enforcement Center. Originally, the neighbor worried that it would block her view if they planted trees. Sgt. Mabry spoke with her and she is now alright with the trees being planted. He has located trees that can be planted at a cost off \$30 for each seven-gallon tree. Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the funds for the Leland Cyprus purchase and installation (\$360.00). Secretary Treasurer Hull seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – No one was present to report.

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

US Coast Guard – No one was present to report.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency – David Buetow reported that there is no new data to report this month. He instead presented a brief summary of the lake use support index. The handout was prepared by Mecklenburg County. They are in the process of revising the document.

Vice Chairman Smith presented a magazine on Charlotte sustainability.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

Current lake level: 97.8 (target level 97.0), close to 10 inches above normal for this time.

Drought Management Group: Normal

Dredging: One dredging permit was approved.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Ellen Goff reported that 810 homes are being built on the Stowe property and trees are coming down. She handed out the Riversweep 2014 Budget Summary. There was a surplus of \$250.00 for next year.

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

**Added item:**

Smitty Hanks – Mr. Hanks attended the ~~Bi-state Commission~~ *Catawba Wateree Basin Advisory Commission* meeting where there was a presentation on PCBs. **They have changed a few laws so that** all grease traps have to be locked up. It is the store's responsibility to take care of PCBs in grease traps. They have not yet caught anyone involved with this dump. It's an ongoing investigation. SC has spent \$650,000 cleaning up. NC has spent close to a million. The only solution is to lock up the grease traps. SC Senator Wes Hayes reported that SC is not going to support universal *fishing* licenses. Therefore, NC will not support it either.

**Item 6 – Tega Cay Update**

Commissioner Brennan had nothing to report this month.

**Item 7 – Treasurer's Report**

Secretary Treasurer Hull provided the Finance Report. The LWMC is where we should be financially, with each of the county contributions coming in on time. We are on track with all of our accounts.

**Item 8 – Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Joe Stowe reported.

- a. 2015 Goal Setting – Executive Director Stowe said that the Goal Setting will happen on December 10 from 2:00 – 5:30 at Belmont City Hall. A copy of last year’s report was handed out.
- b. Law Enforcement Center Fence – Executive Director Stowe did not have anything to add.
- c. Northern Law Center Update – Executive Director Stowe spoke with Steven Hinshaw about the Gaston County request for Northern Law Center and a secure area with 24/7 access. His plan is to give the commission an office in his building as well as two boat slips. The decision was to take it a step at a time, but the site is available for use.
- d. Water Quality Update/David Baize – Executive Director Stowe spoke with the Assistant Bureau Chief of SC DHEC. He is receptive to a meeting.
- e. Proposed 2015 LWMC Meeting Schedule – Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to accept the 2015 schedule as presented. Commissioner Hegarty seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Item 9 – Chairman’s Report**

- a. US National Whitewater Center Meeting – Chairman Thomas said they met at the request of the Whitewater Center. It was an informative meeting. They are open to cooperation and would like to go forward with making things work. They have changed their policies with their safety briefing. They emphasize that it is an open and public waterway and advise people to stay clear of motorized boats. They expressed concern about not inundating their guests with too much information. They moved the safety meeting to a point closer to check-in. Hopefully, this will lead to help for that congested area. However, the USWNC plans to expand.

**Item 10 – Clerk’s Report**

Ms. Bennett had nothing to add.

**Item 11 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports**

- Water Quality –
  - Clean Marina/Clean Boating/Buoys – Commissioner Biggerstaff is recovering from surgery. Chairman Thomas spoke with him. Hopefully there will be a faster turnaround on buoy replacement and repair.
  - Invasive Species – There was no report.
- Safety – Executive Director Stowe noted that a Safety Director is needed. Safe boating week is a big deal, and the marine commission needs to be involved. Safe boating classes also need to be publicized. Life jackets need to be promoted.
- Recreation – Chairman Thomas had nothing to add.
- Public Information – Secretary Treasurer Hull had nothing new to report.

**Item 12 – Adjournment**

Commissioner Brennan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Smith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

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***There is no December meeting. See you in 2015!***