

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission
October 26, 2015
Belmont City Hall**



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

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)

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

Meeting Minutes

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 September 28 minutes. Commissioner Mead made a motion to approve the September 28 minutes. Commissioner 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 October 26 agenda. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve the October 26 agenda. Commissioner Mead 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 because the water level came up, they have been dealing with debris.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that the GCPD’s big boat was having its generator repaired.

York County Sheriff’s Office – Sgt. Mabry reported that they have received calls about loose docks. He recounted a story about recently seeing a barge with a large tree on it. He then saw floating debris in

the main channel. It turned out to be a big tree. Sgt. Mabry made a commitment to himself – and asked other law enforcement to also – to take pictures if they see barges with trees on them. Executive Director Stowe asked if the tree is a navigational hazard. Sgt. Mabry said probably not, but it is large enough where he can see it on his Sonar device.

Tega Cay Police Department – No report was given.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Executive Director Stowe reported on behalf of Sgt. Laton. Sgt. Laton said that lake traffic has slowed considerably and NCWRC is doing more on the land.

SC Department of Natural Resources – Officer JC Hough reported that things are quiet right now.

US Coast Guard – No report was given.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – No report was given.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – Commissioner Mead reported on behalf of Mr. Dave Ferguson. There was no report from the sampling site at Dutchman's Creek. They could not get there to sample because of low water levels. A swimming advisory was issued for Wither's Cove, but has now been lifted.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

- Lake level: 97.3' (target level: 97.0')
- Low inflow protocol: Stage 1
- No dredge applications have been submitted.
- Reservoir storage is at nearly 100%
- [All of the boat ramps are open.](#)
- Chairman Smith asked about the dredging job in Brown's Cove that Mr. Lawson brought up last month. Mr. Lawson did not know if they have started on it or not.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Mr. Dan Mullane reported that the only new area they are looking at is in Paradise Point, where new areas have been cleared. He will meet with Gaston County staff next week to inspect the site. Executive Director Stowe brought up seeing a barge going down the river filled with trees and debris and asked where the barge was headed. Apparently, the trees and debris came from a site near Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff's house. There was discussion about what the barge looked like. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff and Mr. Mullane will make a plan to visit the site by boat. Officer Joye said he would also visit the site by boat soon.

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation – No report was given.

Tega Cay Police Department – No report was given.

Item 6 – Follow up on No Wake Zone Request – Nivens Creek in York County

Commissioners Bryant, Medler and Brennan conducted that visit. Commissioner Medler sees no reason to put anymore markers in Niven’s Creek. He said that anymore markers would fill up the cove. Commissioner Bryant agreed. Commissioner Brennan added the concern was about people driving their boats recklessly. If lake residents see boaters driving poorly, they should call law enforcement. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to decline the request to put a no wake zone in Niven’s Creek. Commissioner Medler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Investigator Sgt. Tony Spires with SCDNR introduced himself and addressed the Marine Commissioners. SCDNR’s primary concern is public safety, then water recreation. They do not zone for private property damage. If the LWMC sends a request in, Sgt. Spires will review it. He commended the law enforcement agencies that work on Lake Wylie. He thinks their marking system is working well on the South Carolina side of Lake Wylie.

Item 7 – Follow up on No Wake Buoy at Duke Energy Public Boat Ramp at Viesta Road in York County

Commissioner Brennan said that there are three boat ramps that Duke Energy has installed. There is no marker off of this public boat ramp. Mr. Lawson said that there are actually four public access areas on Lake Wylie. Three out of four of these ramps have buoys. Sgt. Spires commented on buoy placement at that location. He reiterated that if a request comes to him – it is viewed primarily through the lens of public safety. If he did close it, he would close it at the mouth of the cove. Vice Chairman Hull added that it is indeed narrow in that cove and Commissioner Medler added that a marker is absolutely not needed. Sgt. Mabry commented that the danger comes when boaters power up when they leave the boat ramp, heading for the main channel. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff made a motion to request that SCDNR personnel look at this site and make a recommendation. Commissioner Bryant seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 8 – Revised Draft Emergency Safety Procedure

Commissioner Brennan introduced this topic. The procedure for North Carolina was agreed upon, but was not for South Carolina. Commissioner Brennan said that #5 on the Emergent Safety Issue Procedures document (“Place danger buoys when directed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources or other South Carolina law enforcement agency.”) is a place holder. Commissioner Brennan spoke with Lt. Donnie Pritcher. The idea is to flesh out what SCDNR’s procedure is so the LWMC can follow their guidelines. If there is something in the water that is hazardous, Commissioner Brennan is interested in working with SCDNR to expedite the procedure for getting a danger buoy placed quickly. Commissioner Brennan suggested approving the document as is – albeit not yet complete – and amend it upon receiving further details from SCDNR. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to accept the document included in the minutes as written to be amended at a later date with details from South Carolina. Commissioner Mead seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 9 – Update on Lake Maps

Commissioner Medler said that significant steps were made in the last few weeks. Executive Director Stowe and Commissioner Medler went to visit staff at the York County Emergency Management. The staff person they visited has updated maps of roads around the lake. They asked her to forward these maps to Kingfisher Maps in Clemson. She gave Commissioner Medler the contacts of her counterparts in Mecklenburg and Gaston counties as well. She was very helpful. Commissioner Medler called Gaston County and spoke with staff person Juan Garcia. Juan was very helpful as well and will email Justin at Kingfisher Maps with updated information. There is useful information on the US Census website too. Commissioner Medler is waiting for Officer Beckley to help him with Garmin Base Camp. Huge progress

has been made. Executive Director Stowe thanked Sgt. Mabry for supplying the contact information of the helpful staff person at York County.

Item 10 – Tega Cay Update

Commissioner Brennan reported that bids were received and three contractors have been selected. Paper work is underway to acquire the monies from the State Revolving Fund. Work should start in late November or early December. The goal of completing system restoration by June 2016 remains achievable.

Item 11 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff provided the Finance Report. The LWMC’s finances are tracking as they should be for the second quarter of the fiscal year.

Item 12 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Stowe addressed the annual Goal Setting. He said that the facilitator is lined up, we just need to find a suitable date.

Item 13 – Chairman’s Report

On the topic of the Goal Setting, Chairman Smith added that there is not a date in November or December that works for everyone. Ms. Parker will send out a request for dates in January.

Item 14 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

Item 15 – Old/New Business and Commission Projects Reports

- Water Quality –
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff did not have a report.
 - Invasive Species – Commissioner Medler reported that at November meeting he will have a report.
- Buoys – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff said that the three danger buoys have been ordered.
- Safety – No report was given.
- Recreation – No report was given.
- Public Information – No report was given.

Item 16 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

The next LWMC meeting will be held on November 23, 2015 at Good Samaritan United Methodist Church (5220 Crowder’s Cove Lane, Lake Wylie, SC).