

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
September 22, 2014
Belmont City Hall



Commissioners Present: Chairman Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Vice Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary Treasurer Ed Hull (York County)
Commissioner Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Commissioner Neil Brennan (Gaston County)
Commissioner Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner George Medler (York County)
Commissioner Ron Wanless (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 August 25 minutes. Commissioner Everhart made a motion to approve the August 25 minutes. Secretary Treasurer Hull 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 September 22 agenda. Executive Director Stowe said that Dr. Jarman from Gaston County PAWS would like to give an update on fish attractors and osprey nests. He suggested this presentation go between Items 6 and 7. The Election of Officers was also added to the agenda before Adjournment. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve the September 22 agenda as amended. Vice Chairman Smith 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 it is been a quiet month. CMPD lake patrol continues training.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick had no report.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Wayne Richardson reported that YCSO issued 3 tickets and 5 warnings; it was a slow Labor Day weekend. They are continuing with training and certification for their dive team.

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

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

US Coast Guard – US Coast Guard Auxiliary Vice Commander Rick Croasdale reported that they will continue to put boats on the water a couple of times per week through October. They will return to the water in the spring.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency – David Buetow reported on water quality sampling results from September 2. There was one change in LUSI scores – from green to blue. All fecal coliform levels were good in September. September is the end of monthly summer sampling. LUESA will go to every other month until May. May – September is monthly sampling period. Commissioner Brennan added that he met with Mr. Buetow and his supervisor. They contacted Dave Chestnut of SCDHEC about monitoring and sampling. SCDHEC will come speak to LWMC about SC water quality monitoring and data. This request will be coordinated by Executive Director Stowe through Bi-State Commission contact David Baize.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

Current lake level: 97.4 (target level 97.0)

Drought Management Group: Normal

Dredging: No dredging applications have been submitted.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – CD Collins reported that this past Friday, Lakekeeper members went out to clean up the area around Tailrace Marina, USNWC, and Saddler Island. 30 people showed up to help. They gathered 40 bags of trash from Saddler Island. The group also encountered an inexperienced kayaker (who had rented her paddle craft from the USNWC) who had inadvertently flipped her boat over. She was not able to turn it back over by herself. The group helped her get the boat upright and to safety. Mr. Collins made the point that the USNWC is still renting kayaks to people that do not know what they are doing with regard to operating paddle craft.

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

Item 6 – No Wake Zone Requests

- Reflection Pointe (Gaston County) – Mike Gullede is leading the effort to request a no wake zone around the marina at Reflection Pointe. They are concerned with more homes being built around the marina, increased crowding on the lake, and erosion caused by constant wakes being sent towards shore. Constant waves can be hazardous. Mr. Gullede thinks this is a real safety issue. A no wake zone is being requested for the area around the marina, not the whole cove. Chairman Thomas and Commissioner Brennan will visit the site in question before the October meeting.
- Nivens Creek (York County) – Biagio Cerbelli spoke to the group about his no wake zone request. The Nivens Creek area has seen a huge increase in volume due to growth in Fort Mill and Tega Cay. There is a no wake zone in place, but many boats travel through the area between the no wake zone and the shore, sometimes towing tubers and skiers. Mr. Cerbelli believes this is a

real safety issue. He would like to see a no wake zone put in place right in front of the entrance to Nivens Creek. Commissioner Medler asked if Mr. Cerbelli filed this with South Carolina. He had and the state assigned Tony Spires to the request. Sgt. Richardson (YCSO) agreed that this area is very dangerous. He offered to speak with Mr. Spires. Commissioner Medler will visit the site in question before the October meeting.

Added item: Gaston County PAWS Presentation – Dr. Jarman with Gaston County PAWS announced that this Saturday is Youth Day for 6 to 16 year olds with an accompanying guardian. For more information, click [here](#). He addressed the annual projects on Lake Wylie – fish attractors and osprey nests. This year, two Eagle Scouts are helping with these projects as part of their Eagle Scout project work. Scout Collin Petruska updated the group on the work he did this summer with placing more fish attractors in the lake. Dr. Jarman talked about osprey nests. They will place 4 new nests this year, making 25 total nests. Scout Austin Rose presented to the group about his Eagle Scout project – constructing and placing wood duck boxes. He described the boxes. The goal is to increase wood duck population in the area. He is seeking approval for his wood duck box project. Commissioner Biggerstaff made a motion to approve Mr. Rose’s Eagle Scout project. Commissioner Hegarty seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 7 – Riversweep 2014 Update

Commissioner Brennan reported that the planning team is focused on a big PR push this week since Riversweep is on October 4. So far, there are 37 boats arranged, 34 groups/254 participants, 218 individuals signed up to participate. The current total is 509 volunteers. An additional 20 kayaks (loaned from the Riverkeeper) will be used to get into shallower places at Paw Creek (5), Harbortowne (5), and Seven Oaks (10). WBTV aired a Riversweep spot last Saturday. This year, funds have been sufficient to cover expenses. They will have 300 grabbers on hand. Tarps and gloves still need to be purchased. Next year, the planning team will be sure to pick a date for Riversweep 2015 that does not conflict with other similar events.

Item 8 – Tega Cay Update

Commissioner Brennan reported that Dave Chestnut of SCDHEC offered to come speak to the Lake Wylie Marine Commission about their monitoring program and data. On the topic of Tega Cay Sewer Repairs, a request has been submitted for the 90 day Progress Report from the City of Tega Cay regarding their sewer repairs. Commissioner Brennan has not yet received this Report. When he does, he will forward it to the group.

Item 9 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Hull provided the Finance Report. The marine commission is where we should be financially. Funds for Q1 came in from York County. Funds for Q1 (and Q2 in the case of Gaston County) have been requested and should come in the next couple of weeks.

Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Joe Stowe reported.

- a. Nominating Committee Report – Executive Director Joe Stowe said that the Nominating Committee did meet. The Election of Officers will happen before Adjournment.

Item 11 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Wanless and Commissioner Everhart for their dedicated service to the Lake Wylie Marine Commission and to Lake Wylie. Everyone present gave them a round of applause for their service. Former Commissioner Virkler was also recognized.

Item 12 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker had nothing to report.

Item 13 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

Water Quality –

- Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Biggerstaff reported that he did receive Clean Boater pamphlets. They have been given out to different marinas in the area.
- Invasive Species – Commissioners Biggerstaff and Medler divided up (one going north and one going south) to look for alligator weed. They did not see any that was floating and moving in the water.

Buoys – Commissioner Biggerstaff reported that he has received a couple of emails about buoys. Each situation is being handled.

Safety – Commissioner Everhart said that SPLASH has a new storage shelter.

Recreation – Chairman Thomas had nothing to report.

Public Information – Secretary Treasurer Hull had nothing to report.

Added item: Election of Officers

Legal Counsel Clark explained the election process and led the election of officers. He stated:

- For the position of Chairman – Executive Director Stowe said the Nominating Committee recommends Chairman Brad Thomas. Hearing no further nominations, Chairman Thomas will continue serving as Chair.
- For the position of Vice Chairman – Executive Director Stowe said the Nominating Committee recommends Vice Chairman Lynn Smith. Hearing no further nominations, Vice Chairman Lynn Smith will continue serving as Vice Chair.
- For the position of Secretary Treasurer – Executive Director Stowe said the Nominating Committee recommends Secretary Treasurer Ed Hull. Hearing no further nominations, Secretary Treasurer Ed Hull will continue serving as Secretary Treasurer.

That concluded the Election of Officers. Legal Counsel Clark congratulated the officers.

Commissioner Medler asked the two Eagle Scouts to stand and everyone gave them a round of applause.

Item 14 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

The next LWMC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, October 27, 2014 at Good Samaritan United Methodist Church (5220 Crowder’s Cove Lane, Lake Wylie, SC).