

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission**  
**April 25, 2011 p.m.**  
**Belmont City Hall**  
**Meeting Minutes**



**Commissioners Present:** Chair Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)  
Vice Chair Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)  
Secretary Treasurer Howard Virkler (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner Ron Wanless (York County)  
Commissioner Bill Campbell (Gaston County)

**Commissioners Absent:** Commissioner Vernon Peers (York County)  
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Ed Hull (York County)

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

**Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Hanks called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

**Because there was not a quorum Chairman Hanks moved to Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports**

**Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports**

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported

- There was a drowning at the hot hole. It was determined to be a swimming issue as a result of underestimating the distance, alcohol and lack of a life preserver.
- Currently training with the Charlotte Fire Department using the new sonar system.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt Mabry reported

- There was a drowning as a result of a boating accident – overturned canoe
- Continues to offer and participate in training
- Has agreed to mow the grass at the law enforcement facility every two weeks for \$50 each cut. He will notify Diane Dil for payment via email after every two cuts.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Service Agency (LUESA) – David Buetow reported

- Followed up about Commissioner Wanless' question about on-going programs to reduce fecal coli bacteria.
  - Sewer overflow – responds to sewage spill calls and is responsible that clean-up is done properly
  - Monitoring lake and streams at 30 points across the country on a monthly basis

- Walks streams on a 5 year rotation
- Uses aerial infrared photography to look for temperature anomalies that may indicate seeping sewer lines
- Mr. Stowe inquired if the department has received any reaction to the fish advisory. None so far.

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 97.7%
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 1 (voluntary conservation).

Lakekeeper – CD reported

- Meetings continue for organizing Riversweep.
- A meeting is scheduled with the Paradise Point HOA for fireworks

**Commissioners Everhart and Biff arrived during the stakeholder reports section.**

## **Item 2 – Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wanless to approve the March 28, 2011 minutes, Commissioner Everhart seconded and it passed unanimously.

## **Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by Commissioner Virkler to approve the agenda, Commissioner Campbell seconded and it passed unanimously.

## **Item 4 – Consent Agenda**

No items were submitted on the consent agenda.

## **Item 5 – Public Comment**

Bill Simpson is concerned about the ski boats with ballast tanks that create large wakes. He understands there is a balance between property owners and lake users. However, he questions the legality of boats that are altered to create larger wakes. Commissioner Everhart recommends that if it is the same offender perhaps he could inform law enforcement. Boaters cannot engage in careless and negligent behavior.

## **Item 7 – Catawba River Group**

Tom Davis asked to withdraw this item as the Mecklenburg County commission is still reviewing the ReVenture Park application.

## **Item 8 – Upgrade to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Boathouse Facility**

Mr. Stowe and Chairman Hanks visited the site and believe the proposed upgrade will improve the facility and not harm the lake or water quality. Commissioner Wanless made a motion to approve the proposed boathouse upgrade. It was seconded by Commissioner Virkler and approved unanimously (Vice-Commissioner Everhart abstained).

### **Item 9 – Treasurer’s Report**

Secretary Treasurer Howard Virkler spoke with a few auditors and stated they are all significantly more expensive. He recommends retaining the current auditor and correcting the internal issues that cause the audit to be late.

### **Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report** – Executive Director Joe Stowe reported

- **Duke Foundation award** – presented a check for \$2,000 from Duke Energy.
- **Riversweep** – attended a planning meeting to identify clean-up sites, potential site captains and boat captains. Because there are so many new volunteers a training meeting will be held in late August or September. They are closer to a food supplier and still working to determine the number of shirts to order.

### **Item 11 – Chairman’s Report** - Chairman Smitty Hanks reported

- **Gaston County QNRC** - Chairman Hanks announced that the QNRC to discuss water issues and project partnerships. A commissioner and Mr. Stowe will attend. Others are welcomed to join. Commissioner Campbell expressed interest in attending the meeting.
- **Nivens Creek** – Diane Dil is working with Annette Demeny to learn the process of requesting new no wake zones and contact SC DNR about Nivens Creek request from last year.

### **Item 12 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports**

- **Buoy Update** - Chairman Hanks has not heard back from Walsh Marine regarding new potential tool to attach light to buoy.
- **Clean Marina** – Commission Campbell reviewed agenda for upcoming clean marina workshop to be held April 27<sup>th</sup> at Tega Cay Country Club.
- **Fireworks** – Commissioner Virkler reported that many buckets have been distributed to collect donations for fireworks. A letter to previous donors has yet to go out.
- **Buoy GIS** – Commissioner Everhart hopes to go back out and survey as the weather gets warmer.
- **Map** – Commissioner Virkler will work with Mr. Stowe to research getting a new lake map created.
- **Garden Parkway** – Commissioner Wanless stated that the Turnpike Authority has selected the type of bridge based on funding limitations. He agreed to work with Mr. Stowe to remain in contact with the Turnpike Authority about the bridges.
- **NCDNR office** – Commissioner Campbell stated his concern about possible closing of Mooresville DNR office.

### **Item 13 – Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Everhart to adjourn the April 25, 2011 business meeting; seconded by Commissioner Virkler. The motion was approved.

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on May 23, 2011 at the Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Lake Wylie, SC.