

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
July 25, 2011 7:00 p.m.
Gaston College East Campus Technology Center
Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Present: Chair Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)
Vice Chair Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Ron Wanless (York County)
Commissioner Bill Campbell (Gaston County)
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 7:00 pm

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Peers to approve the June 27, 2011 minutes, Commissioner Virkler seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Peers to approve the agenda as submitted Commissioner Campbell seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted for the consent agenda.

Item 5 – Public Comment

Jimmy Helms of the USCG Auxiliary was there to offer his group's assistance in moving buoys back to their proper installation location. Officer Ferrell reported that they have a group that currently does this task in SC. Mr. Stowe recommended that Mr. Helms get in touch with NC Wildlife to offer his assistance to them.

Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports

Mecklenburg County – Commissioner Everhart reported

- All is well.

- SPLASH is in good shape.
- Overall it has been a good season in the Mecklenburg County portion of the lake.
- The division continues to get good support from the CMPD.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer May reported

- During the month of June they logged 169 hours on the lake. Issued 28 verbal warnings, and 2 citations.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt Ware reported

- Provided an update on the boat fire at Tega Cay Marina. The cause is still undetermined.
- Reported on a diving accident that resulted in someone being paralyzed.
- Reported on an accidental drowning when swimming
- Busy with general boat traffic; currently one boat down

SC Department of Natural Resources – Officer Ferrell reported

- Reported on three boating accidents including one hit and run.
- Still reviewing the boat fire and proving to be difficult since the boats split into many pieces.

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

- Reviewed monthly sampling reports. Highlighted the few impaired and degraded areas. The sampling was done right after a significant rainfall. Resampled later and received much better results.
- NC DNR will be sampling fish tissues over the summer of largemouth bass, channel catfish and crappie. Will return in the fall to study other species.

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 96.8% - Storage capacity is 101% of target
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 1 (voluntary conservation).
- Flea beetles appear to be doing their job eating alligator weed.

Lakekeeper – Ellen Goff reported

- Ellen to provide a written copy of her comments – I had to attend to the computer equipment during her presentation and was unable to take notes.

Item 8 – Discussion of Lake Wylie map with Pilot

Mr. Mike Aldridge of Pilot Media provided a progress update of the new map of Lake Wylie. Currently adding road names and importing buoy information from GIS files. Mr. Aldridge presented a rough draft of the map and requested comments.

Item 9 – Treasurer's Report

Secretary Treasurer Howard Virkler reviewed the financial statements and everything appears to be in order.

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

- **Duke’s Wildlife Enhancement Grant** – Mr. Stowe provided an update about the two grants submitted: fish attractors/osprey nests and supplemental funds for Riversweep.
- **Catawba Riverkeeper Annual Meeting** – David Merryman reported on the suit against Tega Cay Water Services. The NC emphasis on surface water withdrawal agreement appears to be sidelined.
- **Annual Party for Stakeholders** – Mr. Stowe asked the commissioners if they would like to once again have a dinner event to thank the stakeholders. Commissioner Peers thinks it’s a good opportunity to meet with the group in a different atmosphere. Others agreed as well
- **Officer Elections** – Mr. Stowe requested those who like to be considered for an officer position to contact him.
- **Riversweep** – Food Lion has agreed to purchase and cook all food for the event. T-Bones will provide wait staff, tables and chairs. Boy Scouts will clean-up. Mr. Stowe provided two examples of the t-shirts for Riversweep and asked for comments.
- **Law Enforcement Center** – Will be installing a solar power night light in tree. Cost \$88.

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

- **Riversweep** – Chairman Hanks reported on promotional ideas for Riversweep. Trash bags – Commissioner Virkler will continue to research costs for obtaining printed trash bags with draw strings. Chairman Hanks has also found located whistles to purchase at \$2/each for 250 whistles with logo and new “Stow it don’t throw it” slogan. Commissioner Everhart made a motion to purchase 250 whistles. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peeps and approved unanimously. Chairman Hanks is also researching prices for arm bands. York County has expressed interest in recycling items gathered during Riversweep. Commissioner Hull will follow-up.
- **Buoy Lights** – most of the buoys had been put back before July 4th, however some are now moving away from their locations. Dockmaster will add a chain and weights to help secure the buoys.
- **Bi-State Meeting** – This meeting will be held August 12th.

Item 11 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- **Clean Marina** – Commission Campbell continues to work with the potential new marinas. Nothing new to report.
- **Garden Parkway** – Commissioner Wanless received the photos of the “picket fence” image. He is not satisfied with what was proposed. He believes the marine commission should position itself against the current design. Commissioner Thomas commented that we could provide more influence if we remain engaged while the funding is low.
- **Fireworks** – Commissioner Virkler reported that the fireworks went off great. A follow-up meeting will be held to discuss lessons learned.

- **Carolina Show Team Platforms** – Commissioner Hull reported that he and Mr. Stowe visited the site and recommends approving the requested facility improvements. Commissioner Hull made a motion to improve the facilities as requested by the Carolina Show Team. It was seconded by Commissioner Campbell and unanimously approved.
- **Spill Reporting in SC** – Commissioner Wanless reported that there was little probability that this notification requirement will be achieved. He will pursue this on a local level with York County.
- **Public Relations** – Commissioner Hull provided an update on the website. He is working with Wayne of Webwright Carolina to create a mobile version of the website. The proposal would be \$100 initial set-up charge, \$75 for changes, \$15/month hosting fee. Commissioner Hull made a motion to approve this service. Commissioner Everhart seconded and it was approved unanimously.
- **Map/GIS** – Commissioner Everhart provided a copy of the map he has been working on with Mecklenburg GIS.
- **Invasive Species** – Commissioner Virkler reported that there was no new information but that he will follow up with gathering information about the fleas that eat alligator weed

Item 12 – Adjournment

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

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on August 22, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Methodist Church in Lake Wylie, SC