

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission
February 28, 2011 p.m.
Good Samaritan Methodist Church
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 Vernon Peers (York County)
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner Bill Campbell (Gaston 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

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Wanless to approve the January 24, 2011 minutes, Commissioner Peers seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Wanless 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

No one was present to give public comment.

Item 6 – Policy of Donating Money to Support Non-Profits Operating Budget

Chairman Hanks and Mr. Stowe reported that they spoke with York County attorney regarding the statement, “it is not lawful for York County or any other governmental entity to make a charitable contribution with tax revenues or other public funds” in the white paper on Agency Funding from York County’s Manager, Mr. Jim Baker. They are comfortable with proceeding with adopting the resolution as written. A motion was made by Commissioner Wanless to adopt

the resolution of donating money to support non-profits operating budget. It was seconded by Commissioner Everhart and approved unanimously.

Item 7 – Stakeholders Reports

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Dept and SPLASH Report – Officer Chris DeCarlo reported

- Both boats in the water and available for calls.
- Been active working on off-lake assignments such as larceny or break-ins
- Attended the boat show and made some good contacts

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported

- New interim chief establishing a few new policies and procedures, recommended inviting him to a future meeting

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt Ware reported

- Also active helping out with other law enforcement needs.
- Another boat safety class has been scheduled for 4/2/11 from 9-5 at Law Enforcement Training Center on Stoneybrook Drive.

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

- Reviewed testing results of metal, continue to be below state standards and at the same level of previously tested month.

Don Ceccarelli from the Whitewater Center reported on a few operational changes in the past months

- Previously draining the center has been on a closed loop system. Now the water is released into the lake system. Testing is done prior to draining. It goes through Long Creek and passes through a 250' natural habitat buffer. If levels are high, the water is redirected back into the channel's closed loop system.

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 97.5%
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 1 (voluntary conservation).
- It may soon change to Stage 2 if target changes in upcoming meeting.

Item 8 – ReVenture Park

Tom McKittrick gave the commission an update on the 607 acre former Clariant site known as ReVenture Park, a renewable energy park. The future development site will include a mix of green businesses, including a commercial composter. But the heart of the development is a 20-megawatt waste-to-energy power plant that would use Mecklenburg County's residential and yard waste as a fuel source. More community meetings will be held as the project continues.

Item 9 – Garden Parkway

Jennifer Harris from the NC Turnpike Authority reviewed the progress made to construct the Garden Parkway. The parkway will cross the lake in three places. Each crossing was reviewed and information about number of bridge supports, distance between the supports, and bridge clearance.

Commissioner Thomas expressed his concern about who would handle the sedimentation sampling. He stated that the sedimentation issues of prior construction projects were not well managed. Commissioner Wanless stated his concern about the number of bridge piers. He would prefer to see longer bridge spans and fewer piers. Commissioner Hanks expressed his concern with the amount of silt that will enter the lake as a result of the construction.

Item 10 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Howard Virkler asked for support from the commission to research obtaining a new auditor because of poor performance. Commission Virkler made a motion to research finding a new auditor. It seconded by Commissioner Everhart and approved unanimously.

Item 11 – Executive Director’s Report – Executive Director Joe Stowe reported

- **Boat Show** – had a great turnout and in the next few months they will discuss participating again next year.
- **Riversweep** – attended an organizational meeting to discuss estimates and needs. Planning for 1000 attendees. Need more boat captains and site captains.
- **Law Enforcement Center** – Mr. Stowe met with a heating and air contractor to discuss converting the system from electric to gas to reduce monthly operating cost. The payback is too small and too long to make this conversion economically justifiable.
- **Boater Safety Course** – attended with Commissioners Thomas and Hull.
- **Boater Laws** – developed a brochure to identify the differences between the laws in the two states.

Item 12 – Chairman’s Report - Chairman Smitty Hanks reported

- **Boat Show** Chairman Hanks thanked everyone for their participation at the boat show.

Item 13 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- **Buoy Update** - Chairman Hanks mentioned that there is still one buoy missing at the NC74 Bridge.
- **Clean Marina** – Commission Campbell continues to work with the next two marinas on the project list: Harbortown and Tailrace. Ordered new flags. Considering a Clean Marina workshop in the future.
- **Fireworks** – Commissioner Virkler held a meeting with the firework committee to discuss the plan to build a sustainable program. A Patriot Party will be held at T-Bones on April 2nd for people who purchase LKW stickers.

- **Buoy GIS** – Commissioner Everhart continues to work with the Mecklenburg County GIS to have large scale maps. Buoy GIS project looking hopeful to continue into SC.
- **SC Sewage Spill Notification** – Commissioner Wanless stated that no progress has been made on this initiative. He will continue with his efforts on the county level. He recently received a contact name who may be help to help in his efforts.
- **Food for Riversweep** – Commissioner Thomas is researching potential sources to provide food for 1000 volunteers.
- **Wooden Boat Show** – Commissioner Virkler researching the possibilities of hosting a wooden boat show. He will continue working on this project.

Item 14 – Public Comments

No one present for public comments

Item 15 – Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Wanless to adjourn the February 28, 2011 business meeting; seconded by Commissioner Peers. The motion was approved.

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on March 28, 2011 at the CMC Steele Creek Healthcare Pavilion in Charlotte, NC.