

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
January 24, 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 Vernon Peers (York County)
Commissioner Ed Hull (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

Mr. Joe Stowe asked for a correction in the “Approval of the Agenda” section of the minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Peers to approve the November 24, 2010 minutes with Mr. Stowe’s correction, Commissioner Everhart seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Smith requested that we move Commissioner Virkler’s item up because he needs to leave the meeting early. A motion was made by Commissioner Wanless to amend the agenda, Commissioner Hull seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted on the consent agenda.

Item 5 – Policy of Donating Money to Support Non-Profits Operating Budget

Mr. Chris Clark reported that the purpose of the resolution is to establish a policy that the commission would not be able to provide monetary donations for operating expenses to non-profit agencies. However, after receiving a white paper on Agency Funding from York County’s Manager, Mr. Jim Baker, he recommends that the commission table the discussion. Mr. Clark would like further explanation 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.” The commission agreed to table the discussion until additional information is obtained.

Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Dept and SPLASH Report – Officer Terry Everhart reported

- CMPD is reviewing specifications for a new motor for one of the boats.
- Splash was in Carousel Parade and Lake Wylie Winter Parade in December.
- Officer Everhart is developing a Clean Marina sticker to add to SPLASH.
- Both boats in the water and available for calls.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported

- Attended training in Virginia Beach on the new digital sonar.
- Boat available for emergency use only.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt Brent Mabry reported

- Rescheduled the boat safety class to 2/8/11 from 9-5 at Law Enforcement Training Center on Stoneybrook Drive.
- Requested \$395 to pay for registration at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Savannah, GA. Mr. Clark made the recommendation to wait on funding until more information about the York County white paper. A motion to pay for the registration was made by Commissioner Wanless, seconded by Commissioner Hull and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Virkler arrived at this time and his discussion items were moved up so he could leave for another commitment.

Item 10 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- The key chains have been ordered for the boat show
- Commissioner Virkler read his marketing plan for the fireworks event this summer. Mr. Stowe expressed concern about funding fireworks in light of the York County paper on agency funding. Commissioner Virkler stated that all the money goes through Camp Thunderbird and our role is to promote the event and encourage donations. The “Campers to Camp” program would be funded by the excess firework donations. This portion of the donation would be tax deductible. Commissioner Everhart questioned how the two (fireworks and campers) were related and how was the commission going to manage the tax-deduction portion of the project. Commissioner Virkler stated that Camp Thunderbird would manage the tax deduction part of the project. The “Campers to Camp” program was created as a way to make at least a portion of the donation a tax deduction.
- Commissioner Virkler passed around proposed examples of the tent backdrops and feather flag. Commissioner Campbell, the coordinator of the Clean Marina initiative, was concerned with the integration of two projects (Patriot and Clean Marina) that may not at this point need to be integrated. He continued that we spent a considerable amount of time designing the logs and color scheme and we should not move away from this. Commissioner Wanless also agrees that these are two separate functions. Commissioner Campbell stated that we already have an established program and perhaps we could consider the feather flag for the recertification. He prefers staying with a light-weight

flag. Commissioner Everhart agrees that the current flag is about Clean Marina and the feather flag is an attention getter. The logo is important and should be maintained. Commissioner Hanks recommended establishing a task force to review the light-weight flag and feather flag. A motion was made by Commissioner Campbell to establish a task force of himself, Mr. Stowe and Commissioner Peers to purchase 10-12 lightweight flags of the original design by the February meeting. It was seconded by Commissioner Hull and passed (7-1 Commissioner Wanless opposed).

Item 6 – Stakeholders reports – Continued

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.
- Mobile home property owners were fined for a sewage spill at their location. They are also required to develop an operations plan to prevent future spills.

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).
- Allison Creek Access is still closed to repave parking lots, waiting on warmer weather.
- Looking forward to meeting with Duke on Feb 1st.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper – CD reported

- Spoke about a recent article in Gaston Gazette.

Item 7 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Howard Virkler did not report on finances.

Item 8 – Executive Director’s Report – Executive Director Joe Stowe reported

- **Boat Show** – Unless otherwise indicated, Mr. Stowe will sign up the commissioners to four hour time slots to work at the boat show.
- **Law Enforcement Center** – Mr. Stowe is looking at ways to reduce the utility operating costs at the law enforcement center
- **Clean Water Management Trust Fund** – Mr. Stowe and Commissioner Campbell met with Bern Shumack of the CLWTF to discuss grant money available to help marinas pay for needed improvements to achieve Clean Marina status. He will work on this to be prepared for the Feb 2012 grant cycle.

Item 9 – Chairman’s Report - Chairman Smitty Hanks reported

- **Goal Setting Workshop** - Chairman Hanks thanked everyone for their participation in the goal setting workshop. The workshop highlighted the importance that the commission needs to get their names out there.
- **Funds for Seminars** – The commission is able to fund this as long as it meets the goals of the commission.
- **Purchasing Policy** – Commissioners are allowed to spend up to \$350 with approval by the Executive Director. Commissioners may pay for the items and be reimbursed by CCOG. Otherwise commissioners will need to request a purchase order from Diane Dil before making any purchases. A full policy will be included in the next month’s agenda package.

Item 10 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- **Buoy Update** - Chairman Hanks mentioned that there was a buoy missing at the NC74 Bridge.
- **Clean Marina** – Commission Campbell is working with the next two marinas on the project list: Harbortown and Tailrace.
- **Public Relations** – Commissioner Hull is working with workshop facilitator Bob Nauheimer to develop plan goals. May need to refine and confirm projected dates.
- **Hydrilla Control** – Commissioner Virkler stated that the current controls appear to be doing well and that they will replenish in the spring.
- **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.
- **Food for Riversweep** – Mr. Stowe recommended the commission holds off on this item until we receive an update about the county’s Agency Funding white paper.

Item 11 – Public Comments

No one present for public comments

Item 12 – Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Chair Everhart to adjourn the January 24, 2011 business meeting; seconded by Commissioner Peers. The motion was approved.

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on February 28, 2011 at Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Lake Wylie, SC.