

Lake Wylie Marine Commission



**September 25, 2006
7:00 p.m.**

**Belmont City Hall
115 North Main Street
Belmont, NC**

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Chairman Joe Stowe (Gaston County), Vice Chairman Ron Montgomery (York County), Commissioner Billy McLean (Gaston County), Secretary/Treasurer Sandy DuPuy (Mecklenburg County), Commissioner Don Cloninger (York County), Commissioner Bo Ibach (Mecklenburg County), Commissioner Dave Cully (Mecklenburg County)

LWMC Staff Present: Mike McLaurin, Executive Director, Annette Lawing, Clerk, Chris Clark, Legal Counsel

Topic	Discussion Summary	Action
Welcome & Introductions	Chairman Joe Stowe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.	
Approve Minutes – August 28, 2006	The minutes from the August 28, 2006 meeting were approved	A motion was made by Commissioner McLean to approve the August 28, 2006 LWMC meeting minutes. Seconded by Secretary/Treasurer DuPuy. The motion was approved.

Topic	Discussion Summary	Action
Consent Agenda	Consent Agenda - None	
Public Comments	Public Comments - None	
Hydrilla Update	<p>Hydrilla Update – Mr. Ken Manual with Duke Energy updated the Commission on the Hydrilla in Lake Wylie</p> <p>Hydrilla is an exotic aquatic plant that is native to Africa, Asia and Australia. As an invasive plant, it has invaded several lakes on the Catawba River. Hydrilla can develop dense mats at the lake’s surface, which can eventually replace native aquatic vegetation and cause problems for recreational and municipal users of water in the Catawba River Basin. This plant is capable of rapid growth and can infest lakes to depths of 20 – 25 feet. For example, when the Hydrilla was first discovered in Lake Norman it was less then 2 acres. Within 4 years, it had grown to 400 acres. Quick response is needed to control this plant. A small amount has been detected in upper Lake Wylie and chemical applications are being applied to these beds. Lake Wylie has a total of 13,443 surface acreages with approximately 3,400 acres for potential Hydrilla infestations. This plant does extremely well in soft sediment areas where there has been a huge build up of nutrients over the years. The most effective way of controlling Hydrilla is the use of chemicals or sterile grass carp. Once these fish are stocked, control can generally be obtained in one to two years. Hydrilla is not the only concern in Lake Wylie. Water Hyacinths and Water Lettuce are common plants in backyard water gardens that have also been detected in the lake. These plants, too, are exotic aquatic plants that are invasive and will spread throughout the lake very quickly.</p> <p>Vice Chairman Montgomery asked Mr. Manual if cold water would kill these plants since they prefer warm water. Mr. Manual replied that if the lake experience hard freezes that it could indeed kill off a lot of these plants. However, the area near the nuclear plants where there are warm water discharges, these plants will flourish.</p> <p>Chairman Stowe asked what the prognosis was in upper Lake Wylie where Duke Energy applied herbicides to this area. Mr. Manual answered by stating that the plants are showing effects of this application but it will be about 2 weeks before they can assess the results.</p>	

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Hydrilla Update (continued)	<p>Ken Manual suggested that the Lake Wylie Marine Commission form a Hydrilla Committee to study and get a better understanding of what these and other invasive plants could do to our water supplies. Chairman Stowe will form such a committee at the October LWMC business meeting. Commissioner Cully suggest that a Covekeeper be a part of this committee.</p> <p>Commissioner Cloninger asked how much of the Hydrilla at Mountain Island Lake had been diminished since the grass carp was added? Mr. Manual replied that within 6 months most all of the Hydrilla that was visual at the top of the water was gone. Grass Carp cannot reproduce; therefore, they must be restocked occasionally.</p> <p>Executive Director Mike McLaurin added that educating the boaters is also very important to keep this problem under control. Mike stated that Hydrilla could also spread into other lakes when fishermen have Hydrilla stems on their boats, lures or trailers and submerge them into another lake.</p> <p>Ken Manual invited the Lake Wylie Marine Commission to attend a lakeside “Show and Tell” near Hwy 73 at Caudle Creek. This area has a large infestation of Hydrilla that has recently been treated with Grass Carp. Seeing first hand could educate and familiarize the commission what Hydrilla looks like and what this plant can do to a lake. Executive Director Mike McLaurin will coordinate with Mr. Manual to schedule this outing and will report back to the Commission.</p>	
Presentation of the 2005-2006 Audit	<p>Presentation of the 2005-2006 Audit – Shelia Mulkey with Dixon Hughes reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shelia Mulkey with Dixon Hughes gave an overview of the LWMC 2005-2006 audit. The Lake Wylie Marine Commissioners and staff were given copies of this audit prior to the business meeting for review. 	
County Reports	<p>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Dept and SPLASH Report – Officer Everhart reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On September 9th, CMPD participated with SCDNR in a joint operation. ➤ August 2006 Activity Summary: (104) Calls for Service, (69) Boats Inspected, (3) Boats Assisted, (3) Citations Issued, (67) Warnings ➤ Down to three (3) officers for the winter months ➤ SPLASH report – Used at a Cancer Benefit. Batteries in SPLASH will need to be replaced soon. They are not holding their charge for long period of time. 	

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<p>County Reports (continued)</p>	<p>Gaston County Police Department – Officer Osborne reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lake Patrol Unit is off the lake except weekends when needed ➤ Will not have a boat at Riversweep on October 7th. The engine in the boat is being replaced. <p>York County Sheriff’s Office – Sgt. Brent Mabry reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One (1) boat out of service. Are down to one (1) boat until next spring. ➤ Continuing to have problems with missing or damaged buoys <p>N.C. Wildlife Resources – No report</p> <p>Tega Cay Police Department – No report</p> <p>S.C. Dept of Natural Resources – Sergeant Todd Campbell reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The problem of damaged and missing buoys has been addressed at a recent SC DNR Captain’s meeting. ➤ One (1) boating accident, (0) Drowning ➤ Received Homeland Security boat, up to four (4) boats are available for use. <p>Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Service Agency (LUESA) – David Buetow reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Distributed the Lake Wylie Water Quality Conditions report for August 2006. The lowest Water Quality Index reading was 66 (Good) at Browns Cove (Upper). ▶ Mr. Buetow also distributed the Lake Wylie Bacteriological Results for August 2006. These readings had fairly good results. In July, samples were taken to test for MTBE (Methyl tert-butyl ether). MTBE is an additive that is found in gasoline that could become a pollutant in the water supply. The test results were negative. This test is done annually. <p>Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Kermitt Taylor reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dock Applications Approved (14) ➤ Boat Ramp Applications (9) ➤ Stabilization Applications Approved (12) ➤ Lake level is at 97.9 	

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<p>County Reports (continued)</p>	<p>Lake Wylie Covekeepers – C.D. Collins reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Riversweep is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th. Eight (8) sights from Harbor Town Marina to Wylie Dam. Commissioner McLean donated a DVD player on behalf of the LWMC to be given as a prize during the Riversweep. Mr. Collins requested that some of the more expensive prizes be auctioned off to help raise money to repair some of the Covekeeper equipment. Chairman Stowe did not like the idea of asking for donations and then auctioning them off. <p>Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation – Woody Woodward reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Host the Kayak Water Polo Club at McDowell. Team went to Colorado and brought home a National Championship. ➤ In the process of hiring an Outdoor Recreation Specialist that will assist Jason Holden in doing water based programs at Lake Wylie and Mountain Island Lake. ➤ Woody reported that he would no longer be the liaison for the Lake Wylie Marine Commission. Jason Holden, Operational Manager of McDowell Nature Preserve, and David Rash, Park Watch Coordinator, will be reporting at the LWMC meetings beginning in October. 	
<p>Request for No Wake Zone</p>	<p><i>Request for No Wake Zone</i></p> <p>At the LWMC August meeting, the Marine Commission had received a request from Mr. Jack Young of the Catawba Yacht Club requesting a No Wake Zone at the cove south of Youngblood Road West. Approximately 13 area residents were there with Mr. Young. At that meeting, the Marine Commission also received a report from Charlotte Mecklenburg Lake Enforcement Officer, Terry Everhart. The officer reported that the Lake Enforcement Unit had monitored the cove on several different occasions and their recommendation was that there was not enough boat traffic to justify having a No Wake Zone. In addition, the cove is wide at its mouth and narrows to shallow area in the back part of the cove. The decision of the commission was to deny the request for the No Wake Zone request by the Catawba Yacht Club.</p> <p>Commissioner McLean asked the commission what could have Mr. Young done differently to better his chance of getting the request approved? Executive Director Mike McLaurin responded by saying that this request was reviewed and analyzed thoroughly by the Lake Enforcement and by the LWMC. Mr. Young also followed the procedures correctly. All information that is gathered has to be considered and if the request is denied, other options can be looked at in lieu of a No Wake Zone. The commission will continue</p>	<p>A motion was made by Vice Chairman Montgomery to deny request for a No Wake Zone at the cove south of Youngblood Road West submitted by the Catawba Yacht Club. Seconded by Commissioner Cloninger. The motion was approved.</p>

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Request for No Wake Zone (continued)	to work with Mr. Young and these residents to look at other options.	
Update on Plans Review Guidelines	<p><i>Update on Plans Review Guidelines</i> - Vice-Chairman Ron Montgomery reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The guideline will be developed be a tool that would improve communications between the Marine Commission and developer. These guidelines still need work done to them before the Commission can implement this process. Vice Chairman Montgomery suggests that he and Executive Director Mike McLaurin continue their work on this project and report back to the commission in October or November. ➤ Commissioner Cloninger asked if all three funding counties were going to participate in these guidelines. Montgomery stated that he hoped that the Marine Commission would work with the counties in order that the Marine Commission will have a more formal review of developments occurring along the lake. The commission ultimately only has control over boat slip approvals but if the guidelines are not met regarding erosion control, the commission can hold off approving boat slips until such guidelines are met. ➤ Executive Director Mike McLaurin suggested that a statement be added to these guidelines indicating that the commission will bill the developer for any costs that the engineering firm charges the LWMC for reviewing plans. 	
Update on the Interbasin Transfer Application by Concord and Kannapolis	<p><i>Update on IBT</i> – Chairman Stowe reported</p> <p>There were two public comment meetings that were held in September. The September 7th meeting was held in Valdese and had a very large attendance. The second public meeting was held on September 15th at Olympic High School in Charlotte. After these meetings, it was reported that the decision for the proposed IBT have been postponed until January 2007. The public comment period was also extended into October. The Chairman encouraged everyone to contact the EMC and voice their opposition to the IBT application from Concord/Kannapolis.</p>	
Update on the Law Enforcement Facility Contract	<p><i>Update on the Law Enforcement Facility Contract</i> – Chairman Stowe reported</p> <p>Chairman Stowe has signed the contract between Duke and the Lake Wylie Marine Commission. The sub-lease agreement has been sent to York County to be reviewed by the legal staff and the County Manager. A copy of the sub-lease agreement has also been given to Todd Campbell with SCDNR for their review. The next steps after receiving these sub-leases back from York County and SCDNR will be submitting for permits in</p>	

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Update on the Law Enforcement Facility Contract (continued)	York County, getting bids for construction of facility and raising funds.	
Review of the Marine Commission Goals Worksheet	<p><i>Review of the Marine Commission Goals Worksheet –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Public Information, Information Sharing – Secretary/Treasurer Sandy DuPuy – received several Stakeholder Surveys from the Environmental and Law Enforcement agencies that report to the LWMC. DuPuy would like to see more commissioners complete this survey as well. Will make this information available to the commission once more surveys are received. ➤ Public Information, LWMC Calendar – Commissioner McLean updated the Commission stating that due to timing and distribution/sponsor issues, producing a LWMC for the 2007 year can not be completed. ➤ Public Information, LKW Tags/Decals – Commissioner McLean distributed a report detailing the different options of marketing the LWMC. From this information, McLean believes that the most cost efficient marketing options are license plates and decals. Pricing for oval plastic tags (1000) is \$2.50/each. Wholesaling \$5.00, retailing them for possibly \$7.00. Oval plastic decals (1000) are \$.45/ea. Wholesaling at \$2.00, retailing them for possibly \$4.00. Commissioner Cully suggest to price out plates/decals in color; possibly blue and white. ➤ Public Information, Lake Wylie Maps – Commissioner McLean has not yet received a response from Chris Rohre of Lake Wylie Living magazine as to the total distribution and cost to have custom maps inserted in their magazine. The Marketing Committee agreed that this is a great way of marketing Lake Wylie, except very costly. ➤ Public Information, Posters – Commissioner McLean displayed two posters that CMPD Officer Terry Everhart had brought back from the Water Safety Conference that was held in Florida. These posters advertised the Law Enforcement agencies that patrol in Lee County, FL. McLean would like to hire a local photographer to possibly photograph the Law Enforcement agencies that patrol Lake Wylie and create a similar poster. This kind of advertisement will promote public safety. Emails have been sent from the marine commission clerk to the Law Enforcement agencies to possibly schedule this photo shoot during the Lake Wylie Riversweep coming up on Saturday, October 7th. 	

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Finance	<p>Finance and Activity Report – Executive Director Mike McLaurin reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mecklenburg County contract has signed and mailed to Mecklenburg County. Second quarter invoices have been sent. 	
Other Business	<p>Chairman’s Report – Chairman Stowe reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Election process – amended Bi-laws – act as a nominating committee. Mike-Chris will write up and be on agenda in October <p>Executive Directors Report – Mike McLaurin reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SPLASH trailer – Commissioner McLean may have a lead on a used trailer. Commissioner Ibach suggested that the commission apply for the Boat US Grant and use the grant monies toward the purchase of the trailer or the graphics. McLaurin noted to the commission that the deadline for submitting for the Boat US Grant is November. ➤ After motion was made and approved to allot up to \$4,000 of the LWMC fund balance towards purchase of a new SPLASH trailer, graphics and batteries, Terry Everhart is to coordinate with Executive Director Mike McLaurin on providing estimates that he accumulates for these items. These costs will be brought back to the commission at their October meeting. <p>Commissioners Comments –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commissioner Cully suggest that the commission appropriate \$250 in gift cards from local merchants as a gift to the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation to be given away as prizes at the Riversweep. ➤ Commissioner Cully also suggest that the commission begin a “seed money” program to prepare for the Law Enforcement facility. Monies will be needed for various expenses and the commission might want to consider hiring a grant writer that can petition some of these funds. ➤ Secretary/Treasurer DuPuy would like to see the website updated. Vice Chairman Montgomery would like to see the commission allot some funds to the marine commission website. Executive Director Mike McLaurin encouraged the commission to send in suggestions or additions to the website to him and he will get Parker Web Developers to make the needed changes. Commissioner McLean feels it important to have banners and notices regarding events happening around the lake. Website needs to stay fresh. <p>Other Business (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Executive Director clarified that the \$2,000 for updating website will be out of the fund balance and the budget will be adjusted accordingly. 	<p>A motion was made by Commissioner Cully that the LWMC budget up to \$4,000 out of the fund balance to purchase a 5’x8’ new trailer, graphics for trailer and new batteries for SPLASH. Commissioner Clonger amended the motion by adding that a used trailer can be purchased if it meets standards. Seconded by Commissioner Ibach. The motion was approved.</p> <p>A motion was made by Commissioner Cully for the LWMC to appropriate \$250 in gift cards as a gift to the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation to be given away as prizes</p>

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		<p>at the Riversweep on October 7, 2006. Seconded by Vice Chairman Montgomery. The motion was approved.</p> <p>A motion was made by Vice Chairman Montgomery for the LWMC to appropriate up to \$2,000 to be used for updating the LWMC website. Seconded by Commissioner Cloninger. The motion was approved.</p>
Public Comments	<p><i>Public Comments –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Roy Hyberg with CME is managing the road project in York County. Four years ago CME reported to the commission about the Big Allison Creek bridge expansion. A FERC Conveyance Permit is required and an official letter from the commission is needed in order to complete this process. Mr. Hyberg will provide Executive Director Mike McLaurin with all of the required permitting paperwork and has requested to be put on the agenda for the LWMC October meeting. ➤ Vice Chairman Montgomery asked when the project will be completed. Mr. Hyberg projects that the construction of the bridge should be completed in 2007 but could very well be a multi-year project. 	
Election of Officers	<p><i>Election of Officers –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chairman Stowe welcomed newly appointed York County Commissioner, Troy Blackmon to the LWMC meeting. 	

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Election of Officers (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two current LWMC Commissioners', Dave Cully and Ron Montgomery, terms have expired and are rotating off the LWMC. They both were given a framed Certificate of Appreciation and photos of Lake Wylie. Commissioner Dave Cully and Vice Chairman Ron Montgomery emphasized how important the lake is to them and how much they enjoyed working with the Lake Wylie Marine Commission throughout the years. ➤ Legal Counsel Chris Clark explained the procedure regarding the Election of Officers. Noting that the current Chairman has already served two terms, if nominated again, he will have to receive a unanimous vote from the commission in order to win the seat. All other seats require majority vote. ➤ Commissioner Bo Ibach nominated Joe Stowe as Chairman. With no other nominations and receiving a unanimous vote from the commission, Joe Stowe will remain the Chairman of the Lake Wylie Marine Commission. ➤ Commissioner Bo Ibach nominated Billy McLean as Vice Chairman. With no other nominations, Billy McLean is the new Vice Chairman of the Lake Wylie Marine Commission. ➤ Commissioner Bo Ibach nominated Sandy DuPuy as Secretary/Treasurer. With no other nominations, Sandy DuPuy will remain Secretary/Treasurer of the Lake Wylie Marine Commission. 	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm	The meeting was adjourned on motions by Commissioner Ibach and Secretary/Treasurer DuPuy.
Next Business Meeting Date and Location	The next LWMC business meeting will be held on October 23, 2006 at 7:00 at River Hills Community Association, 102 Hamilton Ferry Road, Lake Wylie, NC	

Annette Lawing, Marine Commission Clerk

Date