

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
November 28, 2011 7:00 p.m.
Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Present: Chair Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)
Vice Chair Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary/Treasurer Ron Wanless (York County)
Commissioner Vernon Peers (York County)
Commissioner Ed Hull (York County)
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner Bill Campbell (Gaston County)
Commissioner Howard Virkler (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)

Commissioners Absent: None

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 Wanless to approve the October 24, 2011 minutes, Commissioner Campbell seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Chairman Hanks to add Officer Doug Hord to the agenda to request funds for the International Boating and Water Safety Summit. Commissioner Everhart seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted for the consent agenda.

Item 5 – Public Comment

No one was present for public comments

Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports

Mecklenburg County – Commissioner Everhart reported

- SPLASH was at the Carousel Parade and had good TV coverage.
- Commissioner Everhart requested funds from the commission to attend the Boating and Water Safety Summit in the spring. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to provide up to \$500 for airfare for Commissioner Everhart to attend the summit in San Diego, Ca. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed unanimously.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hord reported

- Gaston County is off the water and relying on Charlotte-Mecklenburg for calls. They will be attending nine parades this holiday season.
- Officer Hord requested funds to attend the International Boating and Water Safety Summit in the spring. Commissioner Everhart made a motion to provide up to \$500 for airfare for Officer Hord to attend the summit in San Diego, Ca. It was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and approved unanimously.
- Mr. Stowe requested reports from both officers after the summit.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt Mabry reported

- Also officially off the water. Recently working on tornado damage.
- Expects to bring forward a request for funding for a conference later this year.

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

- Reviewed monthly sampling reports. All LUSI scores are in the good range.
- Chairman Hanks asked for any reports on the recent fish sampling. Mr. Buetow will follow up and report back as soon as he has information.

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 97'
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 1.
- Two dredging applications have been approved and are active. The application to approval time frame is approximately 3-4 months.
- Mr. Stowe presented a \$2,000 check from the Duke Energy Foundation and requested a thank you letter be sent to Hugh Barwick.

Lakekeeper – David Merryman reported

- The issues of duck hunting have been discussed throughout the area. There was a report of two hunters on Mill Creek near the NC 274 Bridge. It may have been in the bird sanctuary.
- A freshwater jellyfish bloom has been reported on Lake Norman. These jellyfish can sting but cannot penetrate the skin. They have also been seen in Lake Wylie.
- Union of Concerned Scientists was in town recently to discuss a report on the Catawba River being stressed by power plants. Their specific concern was on the water withdrawals necessary to run the power plants.

Item 7 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Wanless reviewed the latest financial statements. Revenues and expenses seem to be in line.

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

- **Law Enforcement Center** – Two trees were recently removed. A budget amendment will be needed to allocate additional maintenance expenses. He will contact Joe Carriker to discuss two potential locations for a boat ramp.
- **Osprey Nests** – Bill Jarman reported that progress is being made to place osprey nests. There have been a few stumbling blocks but it is moving forward. SCDNR will supply marker buoys for the fish attractors.
- **Joint Meeting** – David Hoyle Jr., Chairman of the NC Wildlife Board of Commissioners, has agreed to address both commissions at a joint meeting. Mr. Hoyle requests that commissioners provide him with a few questions prior to the meeting. The date, time, and place is to be determined.
- **Goal Setting** – He and Chairman Hanks met with Jennie Stultz to discuss facilitating next year’s goal setting session. Mr. Stowe reviewed Ms. Stultz’s fee schedule. Commissioner Virkler made a motion to spend up to \$1,000 to Ms. Stultz to facilitate. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed unanimously. Commissioners Peers and Wanless recommend including the follow up that Ms. Stultz can provide.
- **2012 Meeting Schedule** – Mr. Stowe reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for next year. There is one conflict. This year Memorial Day is the fourth Monday. Commissioner Everhart made a motion to move the May meeting to the prior Monday (5/21) and to approve the schedule as proposed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

- **Buoys** – Walsh will replace four leaking buoys. No date when they will be delivered. He met with NC Wildlife for suggestions about better anchoring the buoys. He has purchased the required hardware and will try their recommendation.
- **Bi-State** – The next meeting will be December 2nd at the Lee Dukes Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- **Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant** – he attended the most recent meeting regarding this future treatment plant.

Item 10 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- **Clean Marina** – Commissioner Campbell stated they was nothing new to report and stated that discussions are needed about how to move this forward during the goal setting session.

- **Garden Parkway** – Commissioner Wanless reviewed the previously stated concerns with the proposed design of the Garden Parkway bridges, such as: the number of surface penetrations, aesthetics, and debris being trapped during heavy rain events. He made written response to the NC Turnpike Authority with alternate ways to meet the commission’s desires. As a result of the letter and an additional meeting, the Turnpike Authority agreed to add a requirement that all construction designs address those issues specifically. Mr. Bob Clay, the Gaston County representative of the NC Turnpike Authority, introduced himself and thanked the commission for the time and attention given to this project. He requested that the commission write a letter to the Turnpike Authority to move forward with this project and to assure that the company awarded the project will meet with the commission. Commissioner Wanless agreed to draft the letter.
- **Fireworks** – Commissioner Virkler reported that Camp Thunderbird has started planning for next’s years firework fundraising.

Item 11 - Public Comment

No one was present for public comments.

Item 12 – Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Everhart to adjourn the November 28, 2011 business meeting; seconded by Commissioner Thomas. The motion was approved.

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on January 23, 2012 at CMC Healthcare Pavilion, 13640 Steelescroft Parkway, Charlotte, NC.