

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
October 24, 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)
Secretary/Treasurer Ron Wanless (York County)
Commissioner Howard Virkler (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Bill Campbell (Gaston 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 Everhart to approve the September 26, 2011 minutes. Commissioner Virkler seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Virkler to add two items to the agenda: 1) Bill Jarman to discuss adding fish attractors and osprey nests, 2) citizens to speak about a proposed rezoning and a proposed new small area for Steele Creek. Commissioner Everhart seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted for the consent agenda.

Item 5 – Public Comment

Those signed up for public comment were moved to an actual agenda item.

Item 6 – Proposed Zoning Amendment and Small Area Plan

The City of Charlotte is considering rezoning application 2011-065 located near Withers Cove Road, Shopton Road West and Winget Road in southwest Mecklenburg County. This city is also considering a new small area plan for Steele Creek. The group, Save Lake Wylie Coves, requested to speak to the commission.

Nancy Nyberg of Save Lake Wylie Coves wanted to inform the commission about the rezoning application submitted for property near Lake Wylie and the proposed Steele Creek Area plan. She is concerned about the additional density and increased run-off from additional roof tops and roads.

Steve Nelli does not consider the proposed plan as a true comprehensive plan; rather it is more like a real estate liquidity plan.

Rene Jackson has lived in the area for 20 years. She met with Crescent when they first developed the Sanctuary. That plan was good and wants to make sure enough study is done regarding this plan.

Item 7 – Stakeholders Reports

Mecklenburg County – Commissioner Everhart reported

- They have been doing a lot of training to prepare for next year’s Democratic National Convention.
- SPLASH is in good shape and participated in Riversweep and at a local preschool.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hord reported

- They are officially off the water for the season and rely on Mecklenburg for calls for service.

York County Sheriff’s Office – Sgt Mabry reported

- They are on the water only as needed.
- Completed firearm training
- Still waiting to have tree removed.

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 96.8%
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 1 (voluntary conservation).
- Reported that Duke can provide a safety video created by the National Safe Boating Council that discusses environmental stresses while boating.
- Presented a check for \$4,000 from Duke Energy to help offset the costs of Riversweep.
- Chairman Hanks would like the commission to be a part of the dredging permit process. Kelvin Reagan of Duke Energy advised Chairman Hanks to write a letter to Mr. Lawson containing the reasons why the commission should be added to the process. Chairman Hanks asked about the current dredging policy. Mr. Lawson stated Duke allows dock owners to dredge around a dock if access is needed. However, entire coves can’t be dredged.
- Commissioner Thomas asked how the lake level is determined. Mr. Lawson stated the level is determined to balance the water from one lake to another. A specific level is required to move water through the system to manage the hydro systems.

Lakekeeper – Ellen Goff reported

- Riversweep was a success. The planning committee met the previous week to discuss the outcome and prepare a summary report. The participation level was not significantly higher, but the well organized event planning made the process run much smoother. Next year they might push the event to more local self-contained sites instead of one large site with satellite sites. May also expand the recycling component.
- They have had a few calls about construction runoff and are working with York County to improve response to inspections.

Item 8 – Dr Jarman – Osprey Nests and Fish Attractors

Bill Jarman announced that he was awarded a grant from the Duke Energy Habitat Enhance Program and will purchase osprey nests and fish attractors to be placed in South Carolina. They have nine possible locations and will coordinate with SC DNR for final placements. Six of the seven current nests showed signs of use.

Commissioner Everhart stated that two of the Mecklenburg County fish attractors broke loose at McDowell Park.

Item 9 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Ron Wanless reviewed the financial statements and everything appears to be in order.

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

- **Joint Meeting** – Because of scheduling issues the meeting was postponed until early 2012. David Hoyle, Jr., who was recently elected president of the NC Wildlife Commission, has agreed to meet with the commissions.
- **Law Enforcement Center** – Trees still need to be cut down, but all else appears to be in good shape.
- **Sewage Spill in SC** – Spoke with David Baize at the bi-state meeting and will talk about this issue during the January legislative session.
- **Bi-State Commission Meeting** – Commissioner Wanless discussed the application to increase a water storage facility in Lancaster County, SC to 1.2 million gallons. This will require to dam and fill an existing ravine at the water treatment plant and eliminate a wetland area. This is a worthwhile change for an increase in storage capacity to better manage our water needs during periods of drought. A current study of water needs suggested that the lake will be beyond needed capacity by 2048. There are a variety of options to address future water needs 1) lower intake locations, 2) reduce the target level, 3) change the water in take – out take process. This is a long term problem and needs additional studies of how to manage water demand as growth continues.

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

- **Riversweep** – It was a wonderful success.

- **Long Creek Sewage Plant Proposal** – reminded the commission of the upcoming meeting scheduled for October 27th.

Item 12 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- **Buoy Update** – Chairman Hanks reported that Dockmasters has relocated the buoys.
- **Clean Marina** – Commission Campbell reported that tailrace has the checklist and is working through it. Hopefully they will have completed it by the beginning of the next boating season. Still working on the recertification process.
- **Clean Boater** – Eight or nine people completed the Clean Boater application which has been sent to the state. The commission needs to discuss goals for the next year at the next goal setting meeting. The SC boater program is still being formulated.
- **Garden Parkway** – Commissioner Wanless will meet with folks from the turnpike authority to discuss the calculations and analysis in his letter.
- **Map/GIS** – Commissioner Everhart reported that the map project is now complete.
- **Public Relations** – Commissioner Hull reported that we need the site needs updated.
- **Invasive Species** – Commissioner Virkler reported that the flea beetles are still there and so is the alligator weed. Not sure yet of the effectiveness of the program

Item 13 – Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Everhart to adjourn the October 24, 2011 business meeting; seconded by Commissioner Campbell. The motion was approved.

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on November 28, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Methodist Church in Lake Wylie, SC