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- Commissioners Present:** Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Vice Chairman Neil Brennan (Gaston County)
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)
Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary Treasurer Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Assistant Secretary Treasurer Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County)
- Commissioners Absent:** Commissioner Blanche Bryant (York County)
Commissioner George Medler (York County)
- LWMC Staff Present:** Joe Stowe, Executive Director; Chris Clark, Legal Counsel;
Emily Parker, Administrator
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Meeting Minutes

Mission Statement

To promote public policies and support regulations for the preservation of Lake Wylie and its wildlife and for the education and safety of the citizens who use this beautiful natural resource.

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Smith asked if any changes need to be made to the June 26, 2017 minutes. Vice Chairman Brennan moved to approve the June 26, 2017 minutes. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of Agenda

Chairman Smith asked if any changes need to be made to the July 24, 2017 agenda. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff moved to approve the July 24 agenda. Commissioner Mead seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Public Comment

Mr. Sid Smith, Lake Wylie resident. Mr. Smith told the Lake Wylie Marine Commission about an upcoming educational opportunity. The Charlotte Green Team will hold a meeting on August 24 from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Executive Park. Mr. Barry Gullet, Director of Charlotte Water, will be the speaker at that meeting and will talk about the future of water in the Catawba-Wateree basin. There is no charge to attend this event but if people plan to attend, to please RSVP (to chargreenteam@aol.com). Mr. Smith noted that this would be a good opportunity for different audiences (e.g., HOAs, law enforcement, etc.) to hear this presentation. Vice Chairman Brennan asked how the Charlotte Green Team is publicizing this event. He followed up by saying that perhaps the Marine Commission could use its connections with local TV stations to further publicize the event.

Mr. Smith said that any assistance would be appreciated. Vice Chairman Brennan affirmed that Mr. Gullet's presentation is in line with the LWMC's mission statement.

Mr. Chris Garvey, lake resident. Mr. Garvey lives on the main channel and has five-mile visibility from his home. He brought up the issue of major water hazards in the main channel and what to do with them once they are removed from the main channel. He would like to collaborate to come up with a solution to this serious safety issue. Mr. Garvey asked if anyone or company has been hired to pick up big items that are pulled out of the water. Mr. Garvey asked if there is a place where water hazards could be towed to. Chairman Smith asked Ronnie Lawson (Duke Energy) if he had any suggestions. Mr. Lawson suggested that Mr. Garvey contact Duke Energy Lake Services (704-382-8086 or lakeservices@duke-energy.com). He added that Dock Masters (803-831-1633) is who contracts with Duke Energy to remove water hazards from the lake.

Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Joye reported that what he mentioned at the last LWMC meeting about CMPD's departmental reorganization will not happen. He commented that they had two boats on Lake Wylie over the July 4th weekend and now one of them needs repair. They will have one boat for the rest of the season. Officer Joye said that July 4th was fine – there were no drownings or major issues. Chairman Smith mentioned that she received an email from a boater that praised and thanked CMPD Officer Bruce Mullis for great service. Officer Joye added that the Coast Guard will be back on Lake Wylie before the next holiday and then back again on the next holiday. They were on Lake Wylie over the July 4th weekend.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that it has been an eventful month. GCPD attended a Rutherford County event. They took some of their equipment and won Best of Show. He said it was good to get kids exposed to law enforcement in a positive manner. He commented on the July 4th incident at the US National Whitewater Center (USNWC). Law enforcement had to shut down part of the USNWC. Executive Director Stowe asked Officer Hamrick if Officer Hord has ordered signs. Officer Hamrick will ask Officer Hord and get back to Mr. Stowe.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Mabry reported that YCSO made it through July 4th without any major incidents. He informed the LWMC that the YCSO has instructed nearly 90 students on boater safety. Those students passed the test and answered a total of 5,160 questions. Of the total, their students have missed just over 100 questions – which is a good sign of success. The YCSO calls for assistance are increasingly for help below the dam between 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Calls for assistance are also coming from the Dalton Landing (Broad River) area. Sgt. Mabry noted that many people are floating down the Broad River and Lake Wylie. Executive Director Stowe asked if there has been any update on the sewage spill. Sgt. Mabry said he had not heard. Chairman Smith added that the Coast Guard is coming back to Lake Wylie on August 12.

Tega Cay Police Department – Sgt. Lauren Galloway was present and introduced herself to the LWMC.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Sgt. Laton reported that the July 4th holiday was relatively calm. He said that the NCWRC is looking at the [9.4 miles of Lake Wylie that has North Carolina and South Carolina on both sides](#). In the past and at the present time, the NCWRC does not pursue boaters into South Carolina waters. The NCWRC does not have authority in South Carolina. NCWRC wants to coordinate with South Carolina law enforcement in a way that makes sense for all parties for the safety of all lake users. NCWRC's legal staff in Raleigh is looking into it. Vice Chairman Brennan ran into a SCDNR law enforcement staff member that feels the same way as Sgt. Laton and others at NCWRC. Sgt. Laton said that a problem is in that 9.4 mile stretch, the state line is not clearly defined. Therefore, when an officer thinks he or she is in one state, they could actually be in the other state, and the legal ramifications that could come along with that situation. Sgt. Laton and others would like for protocol to be clear in that 9.4 mile stretch of the lake. Vice Chairman Brennan applauded Sgt. Laton's work on this issue. Commissioner Mead commented that it seems that there are two issues at hand: 1) a law enforcement officer's jurisdiction (which may lead to reciprocal agreement between North Carolina and South Carolina) 2) the ability of

an officer to testify in another state's court, which would require a separate legislative enactment. Commissioner Mead suggested that the LWMC Chairman put a task force together to monitor progress on these two items. Vice Chairman Brennan volunteered to serve on that task force. Commissioner Goff pointed out that there is another issue – reciprocal fishing licenses – between North and South Carolina. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff agreed with Commissioner Goff, there should be a reciprocal fishing license between North and South Carolina. Commissioner Mead said that the two issues that Sgt. Laton raised are independent of the reciprocal fishing license agreement situation. Vice Chairman Brennan agreed that it is a separate issue. Commissioner Mead continued that adding on the reciprocal fishing license issue would possibly be counterproductive to the progress of the two issues Sgt. Laton brought up. He also mentioned that any bi-state laws that change on Lake Wylie would need to change between North Carolina and Virginia, and North Carolina and Tennessee.

Commissioner Thomas asked if NCWRC received their glow sticks. Sgt. Laton said that they did not. Officer Joye commented that the last order of glow sticks was not as good as what has been ordered previously. Chairman Smith said that the LWMC will order more glow sticks.

SC Department of Natural Resources – No report was given.

US Coast Guard – No report was given.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – No report was given.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – No report was given.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

- Lake level: 97.3' (target level: 97.0')
- Low inflow protocol: Stage 0.
- No dredge permits have been submitted or approved in the past month.

Mr. Lawson said that on May 5, Duke Energy filed changes in the Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement with FERC. FERC has said that they will issue a public notice and did so on July 13. Next steps include public review and then an approval process. Part of the changes filed were about raising lake levels (on Lake Wylie, from 97.0' to 97.6'). Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff commented that August is usually dryer and hotter than the rest of the summer. Mr. Lawson commented on the amount of water that evaporates during the summer. Commissioner Thomas asked if Duke Energy could anticipate summertime evaporation levels and proceed with raising lake levels.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Commissioner Goff reported for Dan Mullane. She said that an update on the Bonterra construction site is forthcoming. The Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation's Annual meeting is scheduled for August 5 – [details are on their website](#). A clean up event will happen at Lansford Canal on August 19. A sewage spill occurred in Sugar Creek and found its way into the Catawba River. In this situation, dilution was the solution.

Item 6 – Safety Video for Boat Rental Companies

Mr. Hunter Wilson, with Lake Wylie Boat Rental, presented to the LWMC. Lake Wylie Boat Rental has been in operation for around 5 years. He spoke to the LWMC about the safety video customers watch before they take pontoon boats out on the water. The video is thorough in some ways but not in others. He would like to take the initiative to reproduce a video for Lake Wylie. His request to the LWMC was to point him in the direction of the most knowledgeable boater safety resources on Lake Wylie. Vice Chairman Brennan suggested that Mr. Wilson speak with law enforcement staff that were present at the meeting. Commissioner Goff said that the focus of the video should be on what people need to know before they go out, starting with life jacket safety. Mr. Wilson said that the current video is around 22 minutes long and Commissioner Goff commented that it is over twice as long as it should be. She also mentioned the Coast Guard as being the authorities on boater safety. At the end of Mr.

Wilson's presentation, Vice Chairman Brennan introduced Jeff Weir of the Freedom Boat Club that operates at the Tailrace Marina.

Item 7 – Riversweep 2017 Update

Vice Chairman Brennan reported that the Riversweep Planning Committee met on July 19.

- There will be 15 sites this year including the Belmont Riverside Marina, Loftin Park Boat Landing, and Paw Creek.
- Catawba Nuclear Plant is donating eight tickets to Checkers games and 8 tickets to 2018 Knights games as prizes.
- Muddy River Distillery will make a donation as well.
- River Hills Golf has donated a round of golf for four.
- There are also give away logo items from York County.

A Public Service Announcement video has been sent to WBTV (CBS), WSOC (ABC), and Time Warner Cable – now Spectrum. Commissioner Goff was interviewed on the Spectrum Channel regarding Boating Safety prior to the July 4th weekend and plugged Riversweep as well.

Item 8 – Treasurer's Report

Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff provided the Treasurer's report.

Item 9 – Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Stowe reported on the following items:

- NC/SC Jurisdiction Procedures – This topic was addressed earlier in the meeting (see Sgt. Laton's report on pages 2-3).
- He received a call from a lake resident whose neighbor's boat is leaking gas. The man wanted to know what to do about it and who to call. Sgt. Mabry said that it would depend on the amount of gas that has leaked.

Item 10 – Chairman's Report

Chairman Smith reported that she attended the monthly officers meeting and the Riversweep planning meeting.

Item 11 – Clerk's Report

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

Item 12 – Old/New Business and Commission Projects Reports

Old Business

- Water Quality –
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff reported that all marinas have new Clean Marina flags and they have all been inspected or re-inspected.
 - Invasive Species – Commissioner Medler was not present to give a report.
 - Sedimentation – Commissioner Goff reported that there was an Op-Ed article in *The Herald* about the destructive elements of development happening near Lake Wylie. She commented that the environment needs to be protected along with York County's economic development opportunities. Commissioner Goff added that the County's department that oversees environmental issues appears to be understaffed. She plans to follow up with the York County Manager.
 - Buoys – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff said he got a call from Vice Chairman Brennan about buoys near a train trestle, and he called Terry Everhart to inspect the situation. Mr. Everhart and Officer Joye moved the buoys back into place. Chairman Smith said there is a buoy in Boyd's Cove that has no markings on it. She would appreciate it if Mr. Everhart could put a "slow no wake" sticker on it. Vice Chairman Brennan had a point to clarify about buoys – if someone put a buoy out to mark a no wake zone, it could be taken out of the water because it does not follow procedure, even though it

may be placed appropriately. Sgt. Laton confirmed that that is correct. There is a matrix that NCWRC uses to determine if something should be a no wake zone.

- Safety – Commissioner Bryant was not present to give a report.
- Recreation – No report was given.
- Public Information – Commissioner Goff reported that a press release was issued before July 4th. The website is live but still has a number of areas that are ‘under construction.’ She would like to have the old site taken down by the end of July.

Item 13 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.