



Commissioners Present: Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Vice Chairman Neil Brennan (Gaston County)
Commissioner George Medler (York County)
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)
Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary Treasurer Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Commissioner Blanche Bryant (York County)

Commissioners Absent: Assistant Secretary Treasurer Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County)

LWMC Staff Present: Joe Stowe, Executive Director; Chris Clark, Legal Counsel;
Emily Parker, Administrator

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 May 22, 2017 minutes. Vice Chairman Brennan moved to approve the May 22, 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 June 26, 2017 agenda. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff moved to approve the June 26 agenda. Commissioner Medler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Public Comment

None.

Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Joye reported that CMPD law enforcement made it through Memorial Weekend without incident. The Coast Guard was on Lake Wylie that weekend. They made 59 stops, including one BWI and found a boat passenger in possession of a small amount of heroin. Officer Joye commented that the glow sticks the LWMC ordered to give to law enforcement are not as bright as the glow sticks ordered in the past. Officer Joye noted that CMPD Lake Enforcement has always operated at a district level in Mecklenburg County. He said this structure would change next month. CMPD Lake Enforcement will go under the Special

Services Division with SWAT team, K-9 units, and the bomb squad. This means that they are going to merge lake enforcement teams, share equipment, and have a new chain of command. Vice Chairman Brennan asked about the drug detection device that the Coast Guard talked about two meetings ago. Officer Joye said the Coast Guard will bring it with them this weekend. A possible issue with the using the device is that law enforcement must have permission to swab someone's mouth. Chairman Smith mentioned seeing a Citizens Patrol boat on the lake on Saturday. Officer Joye said that they have 3-5 citizen volunteers. Commissioner Hegarty noticed that the Pier 49 Marina is going to rent jet skis. He asked if training is going to be offered to people renting jet skis. Officer Joye could not comment on whether training would be offered.

Gaston County Police Department – No report was given.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Mabry reported that they have not been very busy due to seasonal afternoon storms. He said that they are going to start Active Shooter training tomorrow. He was pleased to report that York County's FY 17-18 budget has been approved, therefore they will be able to replace the motor in one of their boats. They have two ocean rescue kayaks and will start patrolling below the dam where kayakers tend to congregate.

Tega Cay Police Department – No report was given.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Sgt. Laton introduced Sampson Parker to the Marine Commission. He was stationed in Lincoln County and will be taking Tracy Dula's place. The NCWRC will be on the water this weekend and they will be looking for impaired boaters. Sgt. Laton also introduced Mr. Mike Campbell – he is with NCWRC's Land & Water Access service. Mr. Campbell manages danger buoys on the North Carolina side of the lake. Mr. Campbell addressed the Marine Commission and said that each danger buoy has a sticker on it with an identification number and phone number to NCWRC offices in Raleigh. He asked that if a danger buoy is found, to call the Raleigh number and leave your name, date, phone number, and buoy number. He noted that he is retiring on August 31, 2017. Vice Chairman Brennan asked what the average time is to replace a danger buoy. Mr. Campbell said that he has three (3) days to replace danger buoys and that he tries to do it as quickly as possible. Vice Chairman Brennan asked if there is anything the LWMC can do to help him with that process, such as put out a temporary danger buoy until Mr. Campbell can get to it. Mr. Campbell said putting out a temporary buoy would create more work because when he gets to the site, he will have to take it out of the water, then install the new danger buoy. Commissioner Goff asked if NCWRC has a directory or a map that locates all NCWRC-placed buoys on Lake Wylie and if that information available on their website. He replied that that information is on their website. Commissioner Hegarty asked if the NCWRC's buoy location information is the same information that Terry Everhart has. Executive Director Stowe asked Mr. Campbell what Marine Commissioners should do if they see a missing or out of place danger buoy. Mr. Campbell answered that they should call him. His phone number was given to the Marine Commissioners during the meeting.

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 – No report was given.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Dan Mullane reported that on July 12 from 6 pm – 8 pm they will hold a social event for Covekeepers at the Muddy River Distillery in Belmont. He invited the LWMC to attend that event. He noted that Sam Perkins is working with a team on York County's land use and development ordinances. The Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation's annual meeting will be held on August 5 at 1 pm at McColl Center in downtown Charlotte -- [details can be found on their website](#). During this meeting, Mr. Perkins will go into detail about their new online mapping system. Mr. Mullane said that a few Marine Commissioners could attend that

meeting. He mentioned that all other lake patrolling activities are progressing as usual. Chairman Smith mentioned the Bonterra Builders site (in The Palisades development) and the cutting of trees that is happening within the protected buffer zone on that site. Commissioner Goff asked if the developers have the right to cut trees close to the water, as is the case at the Bonterra site. Vice Chairman Brennan brought up a NC statute that addresses what a developer would need to do regarding cutting trees in the buffer zone – with no permission, with permission, and with permission and remediation. Vice Chairman Brennan will get Chairman Smith that NC statute information before she talks with representatives from Bonterra Builders. Commissioner Goff asked if Bonterra Builders has a permit from Duke Energy Lake Management. Chairman Smith will ask them. Commissioner Bryant asked Mr. Mullane about Duke Energy and the Concord Cove site. Duke Energy has 300+ acres at that location. She asked Mr. Mullane to monitor that site. Commissioner Goff added that the Allison Creek community will be most impacted by the Concord Cove development.

Item 6 – Presentation on City of Gastonia – Southeast Sewer Project

Mr. Brian Houston with LaBella Associates presented to the Marine Commission. He noted that more information on the Southeast Sewer project can be found on the [City of Gastonia's website](#). Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff expressed concern about possible sewer overflows at the proposed pump station. Mr. Houston assured him that an overflow would very likely not happen. Chairman Smith clarified that Mr. Houston is asking the Marine Commission to approve both project Phases 1 and 2. He confirmed that is what he would prefer. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff moved to approve the request for comments for project Phases 1 and 2. Vice Chairman Brennan seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Bryant asked if the Marine Commission would be informed if the decision was made to put the second pipe in the ground. Mr. Houston said that it would be a quick decision, so there would not be time for deliberation. Commissioner Bryant said that if the Marine Commission is going to approve it, then we should know what is going on – an email notification would suffice. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. Ms. Parker will draft an approval letter and send it to Mr. Houston.

Item 7 – Presentation from Gaston County PAWS

Mr. Larry Capps from [Gaston County PAWS](#) presented to the Marine Commission. Gaston County PAWS has had grants from Duke Energy to install osprey nests and fish attractors around Lake Wylie, half in North Carolina and half in South Carolina. Mr. Capps acknowledged Jerry Wilkins for helping them. There are 22 osprey platforms in use on Lake Wylie. The fish attractors and osprey platforms are all on GPS and on their website. Mr. Capps and Mr. Jim Hoyle, Vice Chairman of PAWS, presented a large framed map of the lake to Executive Director Stowe and the LWMC.

Item 8 – Riversweep 2017 Update

Vice Chairman Brennan reported that the Planning Committee met on June 21.

- Save the Date cards were handed to Planning Committee members for distribution to their places of business, churches, friends, etc.
- There are no new contributions yet, but \$2,000 (\$1,000 from RL Stowe Foundation, \$500 from Belmont, and \$500 from Mount Holly) has been pledged.
- The Planning Committee is looking at using both the Riverside Marina and the Loftin Park Boat Landing at sites this year. They may also get a site at Paw Creek.
- There has been a recurring lack of dumpster support from Mecklenburg County. CD Collins has new points of contact in the County to seek help.
- The Planning Committee requests the LWMC provide 750 Riversweep shirts and 2 dozen boat captain ball caps this year.

Commissioner Hegarty asked how many boat captain caps are needed. The answer is 24. Vice Chairman Brennan added that what is really needed are actual boat captains with boats. Commissioner Hegarty commented on which t-shirt color to order – either the recently selected sapphire blue color or the color from last year. Chairman Smith said that the funds have already been budgeted and approved for t-shirts and caps. Chairman

Smith said that she is not opposed to Commissioner Hegarty making the decision about t-shirt color. Commissioner Goff added that the Riversweep Planning Committee typically has a better sense of how many people will volunteer after Labor Day and that 750 t-shirts should be enough.

Vice Chairman Brennan also brought up the water sampling data from Belmont. He then mentioned the Montcross Chamber river crossing meeting. The Montcross Chamber of Commerce sponsored an update on Charlotte's River District project. The developers are aware of Senate Bill S434 and stated their buffers to the lake are between 100 and 200 feet and will not change even if the bill becomes law. Their plan accommodates a future lake crossing.

Item 9 – Treasurer's Report

Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff provided the Treasurer's report.

- FY 16-17 Budget Amendment – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff moved to approve the FY 16-17 budget amendment as shown in the June agenda packet. Discussion: Vice Chairman Brennan asked why the Marine Commission needs to vote on a budget amendment. Legal Counsel Clark replied that doing so is a requirement of the Local Government Commission. Vice Chairman Brennan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 10 – FY 17-18 Budget

Public Hearing for Consideration of the FY 17-18 Budget Ordinance – Vice Chairman Brennan moved to enter into Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing and approving the FY 17-18 budget. Commissioner Medler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Jim Hoyle asked if the proposed budget is posted before the June meeting. Ms. Parker answered that the proposed budget is available and a public meeting notice is posted in the *Charlotte Observer* each year about the LWMC's June budget adoption meeting. The public notice contains information about how to obtain a copy of the proposed budget before the meeting.

Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff moved to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Medler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Discussion and Approval of FY 17-18 Budget Ordinance – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff moved to approve the FY 17-18 budget. Commissioner Medler seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and the FY 17-18 Budget approved unanimously.

Item 11 – Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Stowe reported on the following items:

- 90 grass carp were recently added to the lake.
- Mr. Stowe attended a recent Water Management Group meeting. At that meeting they talked about water depths on Lake Rhodhiss. The Water Management Group will have a symposium in October at the Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens and they are looking for 100 people to attend. More details are forthcoming.
- The *Gaston Gazette* had an article on a boat club on Lake Norman that plans to expand to Tailrace Marina. The boat club is called Freedom. Mr. Jerry Wilkins asked if they intend to train boaters before letting them out on the lake. Mr. Stowe commented that the LWMC need to learn more about them. Vice Chairman Brennan will touch base with that group.
- Consideration of Contracting with CCOG for Administrative Services for FY 17-18 – Mr. Stowe presented the proposed CCOG contract for administrative services for FY 17-18. Vice Chairman Brennan moved that the LWMC approve the FY17-18 CCOG contract. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 12 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith reported that she attended the Riversweep Planning Committee meeting and the June officers meeting.

Item 13 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker commented that she appreciates the opportunity to serve the LWMC for another year.

Item 14 – Old/New Business and Commission Projects Reports

Old Business

- Water Quality –
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Medler and Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff reported that they met with Ralph Dickson at the Riverside Marina in Belmont. It is a new marina and has been certified as a Clean Marina.
 - Invasive Species – Commissioner Medler did not have a report.
 - Sedimentation – Commissioner Goff said that she has information about NC Senate Bill 434. The bill is still intact, but it seems as if there is strong opposition to it. There is also new bill, House Bill 56. In a convoluted way, it countermands SB 434. HB 56 goes further and states that buffers should include walking paths, but not much detail is included. Commissioner Goff thinks it is worth reiterating the LWMC’s position and send North Carolina representatives another letter. She added that regardless of the motivation for new legislation, the LWMC needs to stick to its message. A comment was made that the LWMC applauds HB 56, would like detail about walking trails, and to reiterate our stance on SB 434. Vice Chairman Brennan moved that Commissioner Goff work with Legal Counsel Clark to draft a letter to send to Lake Wylie area North Carolina representatives. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff seconded the motion. The vote was taken and was approved unanimously. Commissioner Goff went on to say that York County Manager Bill Shanahan invited the County’s various board appointees to come to an informational meeting. At that meeting, nothing was mentioned about the waterways in York County. Commissioner Goff plans to follow up with Mr. Shanahan.
 - Buoys – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff said that buoys have been ordered. Commissioner Hegarty reported that all of the buoys are in place by McDowell Park.
- Safety – Commissioner Bryant reported that four high schools competed in the Ready, Set, Wear It! life jacket challenge. The trophy has been engraved. The trophy will be presented either next month at the York County location or in August at the winning high school. She mentioned that there are lots of lanyards left over. Chairman Smith and Commissioner Goff volunteered to store them.
- Recreation – No report was given.
- Public Information – Commissioner Goff reported progress on the LWMC’s website redesign process. She distributed a handout to each Marine Commissioner and walked through each page. The purpose of the handout was to give the group a general sense of what they would see on the new website. She requested that people send her good pictures to post on the site and to review the handout and let her know any comments, concerns, or edits. On the topic of building media relations, Commissioner Goff and Vice Chairman Brennan went to WSOC, met with media staff, and introduced them to the LWMC.

Item 15 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.