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- Commissioners Present:** Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)  
Vice Chairman Neil Brennan (Gaston County)  
Assistant Secretary Treasurer Brad Thomas (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner George Medler (York County)  
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)  
Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)  
Secretary Treasurer Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
- Commissioners Absent:** Commissioner Blanche Bryant (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 April 24, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Mead requested that the word “congressional” be removed as a descriptor of “delegations” under Item 13. Vice Chairman Brennan moved to approve the April 24, 2017 minutes as amended. Commissioner Mead 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 May 22, 2017 agenda. Vice Chairman Brennan moved to approve the May 22 agenda. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

#### **Item 4 – Public Comment**

None.

#### **Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Carey reported that they recently participated in Family Fun Day at Red Fez Club by taking kids out on the CMPD boat and talking about water safety. The Coast Guard will be on Lake Wylie this weekend. He mentioned that there have not been any drownings as of yet on Lake Wylie, but there have been two deaths on Lake Norman. He noted that a drowning could have happened on Lake Wylie a few days prior. Fortunately, the near-victim was wearing a life jacket and it saved his life.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that he was sorry to miss the Stakeholder Appreciation Gathering, but had to take two people to jail that evening. He noted that GCPD boats are fully operational. Officer Hamrick’s partner Officer Jason May has a knee injury. It will be tough to have patrol coverage over the whole holiday weekend without accruing overtime.

York County Sheriff’s Office – Sgt. Richardson reported that they are continuing with dive training and swift water rescue with Carolina Dive and Rescue. He noted that every YCSO patrol car now equipped with a personal floatation device (PFD) and a throw rope. YCSO will be on the lake this weekend. Sgt. Richardson brought up the blue lights on non-law enforcement boats issue and commented that law enforcement agencies are on the same page. He reiterated that a boat needs three lights when it is under way. Only red, green, and white lights that are properly placed are allowed. He asked if this information could be added to the LWMC website. Commissioner Thomas asked if we could also add information about docking lights while under way. Chairman Smith mentioned that this could be a good story for the *Fort Mill Herald* to cover.

Tega Cay Police Department – Sgt. Shane Bell reported that Tega Cay Police Department (TCPD) will be on the lake this weekend on Saturday and Sunday. The TCPD has one patrol boat. Commissioner Goff asked about their patrol area. He replied that they normally stay in the Tega Cay peninsula area and around Ebenezer Park.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – No report was given.

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: 98.4’ (target level: 97.0’)
- Low inflow protocol: Stage 1.
- No dredge permits have been submitted or approved in the past month.

Vice Chairman Brennan called Duke Energy Lake Management Services to report a tree sticking out in the middle of the cove near his neighborhood. He commented that the tree was still there two weeks later. His concern is that someone would not see the tree, particularly at night, and possibly be injured or incur property damage. Vice Chairman Brennan asked how Duke Energy Lake Management Services handles this kind of situation. Mr. Lawson answered that if a tree is close to the shoreline, they leave it as fish habitat. Vice Chairman Brennan commented that it is a safety issue and if Lake Management cannot get to it, to let the Marine Commission know. Commissioner Medler asked if you are boating down the river and come across a tree in the water, where you are supposed to take it. Mr. Lawson advised to tow it to a nearby island or to a shoreline that does not abut development and tie it off or anchor it as woody debris. Commissioner Mead commented that it is illegal in North Carolina to remove woody debris from a lake.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – CD Collins reported that they are patrolling development sites as they are able. The McLean property staff continue to do an adequate job with controlling erosion. The buffer zone legislation is in committee in the NC General Assembly in Raleigh and nothing has happened yet. Chairman Smith read the email reply from NC Representative Chaz Beasley that he sent after receiving a letter from the Marine Commission in opposition to SB 434.

**Item 6 – No Wake Zone Request: Little Allison Access (York County)**

Mrs. Becky Gilreath reported to the group. Becky and her husband Scott have been living on the southern end of Lake Wylie for three months. They are shocked at the amount of high speed boat traffic that comes near or through their cove. Their cove is approximately 50 yards wide. She commented that it is nearly impossible to dock their boat or be on their dock when the bass boats come through, due to rocky wakes. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff noted that another lake resident submitted a no wake zone application for approximately the same location a couple of years before and that SCDNR did not honor the request. Commissioner Medler asked if one marker would be sufficient and Mrs. Gilreath said yes. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff explained the decision-making structure related to placing no wake buoys in South Carolina. Executive Director Stowe said he would check in with South Carolina law enforcement to see if a recommendation can be made. Vice Chairman Brennan clarified that no wake buoys are for the safety of people, not for the protection of property.

**Item 7 – Riversweep 2017 Update**

Vice Chairman Brennan reported that the Riversweep planning committee met on May 17. Here are the high points from that meeting:

- The Riversweep web site is being updated to remove last year’s information.
- Save-the-Date reminders are going out to HOAs via Property Matters Realty, businesses via the Montcross Chamber of Commerce, past volunteers from our records, and new contacts who signed up at the Boat Show.
- Contributions are beginning to come in, and “Image 360” has offered to handle Riversweep printing needs this year.

**Item 9 – Treasurer’s Report**

Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff provided the Treasurer’s report. The Marine Commission has received full payment for this fiscal year from Gaston County and York County. Mecklenburg County is late in making their payments to the Marine Commission. Ms. Parker will continue to follow up with Mecklenburg County staff.

- Review Draft Proposed FY17-18 Budget – Commissioner Thomas reviewed the draft proposed FY17-18 budget. Chairman Smith explained that this is the proposed budget for FY17-18, for the Marine Commission’s review. It will be voted on at the June 26 meeting. Ms. Parker will put a public notice in the *Charlotte Observer* in advance of the June meeting.

**Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Stowe reported on the following items:

- Audit Engagement Letter & Contract – Commissioner Thomas moved that the LWMC hire Belinda Johnson, CPA to conduct the audit for the LWMC for \$3,000. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. Ms. Parker will let Ms. Johnson know.
- Grass Carp Date – Executive Director Stowe reported that the grass carp will be delivered on June 1. Details are forthcoming on delivery time and location.
- Ready, Set, Wear It! life jacket awareness campaign – Commissioner Bryant recently broke her foot, so she could not be at the meeting to report on the successful Ready, Set, Wear It! campaign. Nations Ford High School won the competition.

**Item 11 – Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Smith reported that she helped plan the Stakeholder Appreciation Gathering, she participated in the monthly officers meeting, a Riversweep planning meeting, and the Cabela’s event that happened on May 20.

**Item 12 – Clerk’s Report**

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

## Item 13 – Old/New Business and Commission Projects Reports

### Old Business

- Water Quality –
  - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Medler and Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff have re-inspected all Clean Marinas except for Harbortowne and Tail Race. The new Riverside Marina in Belmont needs to be certified as a Clean Marina.
  - Invasive Species – Commissioner Medler did not have a report.
  - Sedimentation – Commissioner Goff said that after 5.5” of rainfall in a relatively short time period, we are experiencing erosion issues one might expect.
  - Buoys – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff said that Terry Everhart is aware of the current buoy situation. Commissioner Goff asked who has the master list of where all the buoys on the lake are supposed to be located. Vice Chairman Brennan brought up a damaged danger buoy on the sandbar on the North Carolina side. He reminded the group that the LWMC adopted the following safety procedure, after consultation with North Carolina and South Carolina officials, in November 2015:

#### ***Emergent Safety Issue Procedures***

- *Promulgate the information about the dangerous condition as necessary on the Lake Wylie Marine Commission (LWMC) web site and to the affected residents if feasible via local marinas, HOA newsletters, city and town notice methods, etc.*
- *Determine if there is an accountable party. If so, deal with them directly and offer whatever support the LWMC can provide to correct the condition.*
- *If there is no directly accountable party, contact the entities who have the most interest in resolving the issue to see what help they can provide and then work with them to correct the condition.*
- *In the North Carolina waters of Lake Wylie, place danger buoys in accordance with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) procedure which is:*
  - *Request of the NCWRC Engineering Services Department or Enforcement Department that a danger buoy be placed at specific location. Provide GPS coordinates if possible.*
  - *Cooperate and assist the NCWRC department in assessing the need for a buoy at the location.*
  - *Place the buoy after NCWRC concurrence is obtained.*
  - *Notify NCWRC that the buoy is in place.*

Executive Director Stowe commented that Sgt. Mabry (YCSO) is now the person that handles danger buoys on the South Carolina side of Lake Wylie. Vice Chairman Brennan said that we are all concerned about safety. There is a procedure in place – let’s either follow it or change the procedure. Commissioner Hegarty thanked and recognized Officer Joye for recently getting a buoy back in its correct location. Perry Johnston commented that he has 2-3 surplus danger buoys that Mr. Everhart could have access to, if need be. Vice Chairman Brennan said that an important part of this procedure is to cooperate and coordinate with NCWRC. Executive Director Stowe asked Legal Counsel Clark about the legal end of this danger buoy situation. Mr. Clark said that the LWMC has the legal authority to place danger buoys. Based on years of experience, a best practice is to reach out to offer support or help to law enforcement agencies. Chairman Smith said the LWMC needs to continue in the way we have been, with regard to buoy management. Vice Chairman Brennan suggested that we call NCWRC personnel to see if we can help with the North Carolina danger buoys or, change the procedure. It was noted that danger buoy #20 is the buoy in question. It was found on April 15. Multiple requests to replace the danger buoy have been submitted to NCDNR.

- Safety – No additional report was given.
- Recreation – No report was given.

- Public Information – Commissioner Goff reported that the development of website revisions is coming along nicely. She added that the plan is to put a Google map on the website that will show public access points, buoy locations, etc.

**Item 14 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.