

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
October 27, 2014
Good Samaritan United Methodist Church



Commissioners Present: Chairman Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Vice Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary Treasurer Ed Hull (York County)
Commissioner Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Commissioner Neil Brennan (Gaston County)
Commissioner Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County) – *first meeting*
Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner George Medler (York County)
Commissioner Blanche Bryant (York County) – *first meeting*

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

Meeting Minutes

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Thomas asked if any changes need to be made to the September 22 minutes. Commissioner Biggerstaff made a motion to approve the September 22 minutes. Commissioner Medler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of Agenda

Chairman Thomas asked if any changes need to be made to the October 27 agenda. Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the October 27 agenda. Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Chairman Thomas asked the two new marine commissioners – Blanche Bryant (York County) and Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County) – to introduce themselves to the group.

Item 4 – Public Comment

Jeff Hunter – Mr. Hunter is a lake resident and is on the RiverPointe Board of Commissioners. He is concerned about ongoing boater and water safety issues related to the RiverPointe peninsula. This issue was discussed at the [July 2014](#) LWMC meeting. Boaters are still speeding through this area and the safety issue remains. Mr. Hunter implored the LWMC to do something about this issue. Chairman Thomas said that the LWMC has spoken to NCWRC about this issue. He added that this issue is now up to the NCWRC, since the LWMC is not allowed to move or re-position buoys.

Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Joye reported that CMPD is still on the lake. By spring, CMPD lake enforcement officers will be fully trained. Officer Joye checked all of the North Carolina no wake zones on the lake earlier in the day and almost all of them are incorrect in some fashion (buoys missing or out of place, etc.). He suggested that we need to work on getting existing buoys on the North Carolina side in the correct position before adding other buoys to the lake.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported on the Gaston County Police Department “wish list” for a future northern law enforcement center. He reviewed the handout that he provided for the group that lists the law enforcement center “wish list” items. He has spoken with two Gaston County Commissioners and staff about the law enforcement center including a boat lift. Executive Director Stowe added comments about the different location options for the law center. He asked Officer Hamrick about which site would be preferred and why. The Stowe property would be preferred because of its location and the water is deeper.

York County Sheriff’s Office – Sgt. Brent Mabry reported that YCSO now has 8 officers that have received a particular kind of advanced dive training. On October 8, he traveled to an elementary school in Spartanburg where his daughter teaches. Terry Everhart and SPLASH joined him and they provided water and boating safety to over 600 kids. He shared a large sign from York County’s ‘Lock It or Lose It’ campaign. The campaign encourages people to lock their vehicles and to not leave keys in the ignition. He added that SC DNR did review all of the buoys on the South Carolina side of the lake and they are mostly in the correct positions. However, some have been placed in the water illegally, likely by lake residents. The illegally-placed buoys will be removed from the water.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Sgt. Barry Rowell reviewed the NCWRC’s mission to conserve wildlife resources and promote safety. He briefly explained the process for getting buoys and no wake zones legally placed in the water. The NCWRC wants to make the most informed decision when placing or moving no wake zones. He reiterated that the NCWRC is about safety, not about protecting private property, including docks. He mentioned that duck season is coming up, which means increased likelihood of hearing gun shots. NCWRC is starting a new school and training 20 new officers. Commissioner Hegarty asked Sgt. Rowell for clarification about the public hearing part of the no wake zone application process. The LWMC held a public hearing at the July 2014 meeting, but another State-organized public hearing is required as part of the NCWRC’s process.

SC Department of Natural Resources – No one was present to report.

US Coast Guard – John Brindle, Flotilla Commander for Lake Wylie US Coast Guard Auxiliary reported that operations have stopped for the year due to water and air temperatures dropping. He thanked the law enforcement agencies present for their help throughout the year. He acknowledged the different partners they work with and the different kinds of training they participated in this season.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency – David Buetow had no data to present because sampling had not been conducted last month. He introduced two of his colleagues from LUESA, Olivia Edwards (Environmental Supervisor) and Dave Ferguson (Environmental Specialist). They are interested in the LWMC and may attend future meetings.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

Current lake level: 97.1 (target level 97.0)

Drought Management Group: Normal

Dredging: 1 dredge application has been filed.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Ms. Ellen Goff reported that the planning committee is still wrapping up Riversweep 2014 activities. She commented that this Riversweep was probably the best Riversweep to date. In the years to come, the committee would like to see if the scope of Riversweep can be broadened to include stewardship activities that happen throughout the year. There was terrific planning for Riversweep this year and that includes bringing in external funds. Using kayaks to reach shallower areas was also effective and well-received. Executive Director Stowe thanked Tow Boat USA for volunteering their time and services during Riversweep. Ms. Goff added that there was one sewage spill in River Hills since the last LWMC meeting.

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation – No one was present to report.

Item 6 – Follow up on No Wake Zone Requests

- Reflection Pointe (Gaston County) – Chairman Thomas said that he and Commissioner Brennan met with Mike Gullledge and looked at the issue at Reflection Pointe. This no wake zone request was discussed at the [September 2014](#) meeting. Commissioner Brennan pointed out a sheet that marine commissioners were given before the meeting shows aerial views of the area in question. Chairman Thomas and Commissioner Brennan looked it over and think the request is reasonable and should be recommended. After LWMC recommendation, it will be up to the NCWRC to make any real changes. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve the Reflection Pointe no wake zone request. Legal Counsel Clark clarified that in this LWMC meeting, the LWMC can move ahead with making an informal recommendation to NCWRC. If the motion passes, a letter to NCWRC to ask them to consider the no wake zone request would be appropriate. Commissioner Biggerstaff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- Nivens Creek (York County) – Chairman Thomas asked Secretary Treasurer Hull about the Nivens Creek request, also made at the September 2014 meeting. Commissioner Medler and Secretary Treasurer Hull had visited the site. Ed made a motion to send a letter that it's been recommended and we support the Nivens Creek proposal. Secretary Treasurer Hull made a motion to recommend to SCDNR that the no wake zone be implemented as requested. Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 7 – “Hook” 100kV Existing Transmission Line Upgrade

Mr. Ronnie Lawson with Duke Energy presented on this request for comment. He summarized the request from Duke Energy and said that project will probably start around June 2015. The marine commissioner had no questions or comments on this request. Ms. Parker will send an approval letter to Will Metcalfe with Duke Energy tomorrow.

Item 8 – South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control Water Quality Monitoring and Data Presentation

Mr. David Chestnut from SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) delivered his presentation to the group. The presentation is included at the end of the minutes. At the end of his presentation, Commissioner Brennan asked Mr. Chestnut and Mr. Buetow about what it would take to coordinate how the two states report sampling data. He is interested in seeing trends in the data in the form of a consolidated report with simple graphs that laypeople can understand. Mr. Chestnut said the LWMC would have to make that request to one of his superiors. He said that Mr. David Baize would be the person to ask. Mr. Buetow has contact information for Mr. Baize.

Item 9 – Riversweep 2014 Update

Commissioner Brennan reported that ~1,009 volunteers and 61 boats participated in Riversweep 2014. That is a 16% increase in volunteers and a 22% increase in the number of boat captains. Riversweep netted 5.5 dumpsters of trash and debris including 109 tires, 21 lawn chairs, 82 heavy Styrofoam® blocks from boat docks, 646 bags of trash, and 73 bags of recyclables. There was the usual array of oddities such as a snowboard, a snow sled, 2 boogie boards, a hobbyhorse, and a wrought iron table with 5 matching chairs. The good news is that with more volunteers and boats, we hauled in only 2/3 of the amount of trash and debris taken in last year.

Item 10 – Tega Cay Update

Commissioner Brennan reported that Joel E. Wood, Managing Partner, Joel E. Wood & Associates is the engineering firm providing the 90 day assessments required by Consent Agreement 14-021-W between the City of Tega Cay and the SCDHEC. That agreement specifies the actions that the City of Tega Cay must take to correct the deficiencies in the newly acquired section of the sewer system that serve the city. The first report dated September 9, 2014, has been forwarded to the marine commissioners and the LWMC staff. Summarizing the report and a conversation with Mr. Wood:

- a. A complete system inventory is underway. Location of common laterals is a priority to understand the extent of those lines that are the responsibility of the City to own, operate and maintain.
- b. Item 6 in the report was unclear. The City staff has searched for *an unwanted cross connection between the sewer lines* and the storm drain system near WWTP #2. None has been found.
- c. The re-piping referenced in item 7 eliminated some unnecessary re-circulation of the sewage before it is sent to the treatment plant.
- d. Repairs and replacement are ongoing. Mr. Wood has high praise for Tega Cay's "pro-active" maintenance staff.
- e. Two Sewer System Overflows (SSOs) have occurred under City ownership – one a break and one operator error. Neither resulted in fines.
- f. Since the report on September 9th, Mr. Wood advised that the funds requested from the State Revolving Fund have been allocated and they are waiting for their release to the City, expected in November. Those funds are for major repairs and replacements. Funds are in the 2014/2015 budget to continue the video and cleaning program to detect areas needing repair/replacement.
- g. Repair and replacement work continues.

Item 11 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Hull provided the Finance Report. The LWMC is where we should be financially, with each of the county contributions coming in on time. We are on track with all of our accounts.

Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Joe Stowe reported.

- a. 2015 Goal Setting – Executive Director Stowe said that last year the group held the Goal Setting meeting in November. He suggested that the group do it in November and hire Jennie Stultz to facilitate again. The Goal Setting will be held in the Conference Room at Belmont City Hall. He asked the group to let me know if they have suggestions. He will proceed with talking to Ms. Stultz about facilitating.
- b. Law Enforcement Center Fence – Sgt. Mabry said the fence at the Law Enforcement Center is a wreck. They received an estimate of \$1,400 for a new fence. The purpose of the fence is largely cosmetic; however, it does guide people away from Law Enforcement Center. Secretary Treasurer Hull suggested that the group hold off for 30 days on a decision so they can look at the budget and visit the site.
- c. Safety Issues – A chairman for Safety is needed to replace Terry Everhart. If anyone is interested, please see Executive Director Stowe.
- d. Monofilament Collector – Executive Director Stowe showed the group a plastic monofilament collector. They are free and could be used in a great Eagle Scout project.

Item 11 – Chairman’s Report

- a. Bridge Graffiti – Chairman Thomas said they have been in contact with NCDOT about Lower Armstrong Bridge. The idea is how to stop graffiti before it becomes widespread.

Item 12 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker had nothing new to report.

Item 13 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

Water Quality –

- o Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Biggerstaff said that there is nothing new to report. All Clean Marinas will be re-certified next year. We may need to order new Clean Marina flags.
- o Invasive Species – There was no report.

Buoys – Commissioner Biggerstaff reported that someone repaired a buoy at the Lower Armstrong Bridge. He thinks it could have been repaired by NCWRC.

Safety – There was no report.

Recreation – Chairman Thomas had nothing new to report.

Public Information – Secretary Treasurer Hull had nothing new to report.

Item 14 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

The next LWMC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, November 24, 2014 at Carolina HealthCare System – Steele Creek Healthcare Pavilion (13640 Steelescroft Parkway, Charlotte, NC).