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- Commissioners Present:** Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)  
Vice Chairman Neil Brennan (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)  
Commissioner Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County)  
Secretary Treasurer Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)  
Assistant Secretary Treasurer Brad Thomas (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Blanche Bryant (York County)  
Commissioner George Medler (York County)
- Commissioners Absent:** Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg 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 August 28, 2017 minutes. Vice Chairman Brennan moved to approve the August 28, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Medler 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 September 25, 2017 agenda. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff moved to approve the September 25 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 the Coast Guard was on Lake Wylie over Labor Day and there were no incidents. He commented that he sent Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff a list of missing and out of position buoys. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff added that he has spoken with Terry Everhart about buoy needs. Officer Joye provided a request from CMPD lake enforcement for SCUBA gear that they would like to keep on their patrol boat for immediate access when needed. Commissioner Thomas asked if CMPD officers agree with the gear that is on the list. Officer Joye said they are in agreement.

Vice Chairman Brennan asked if this request has this been approved by Officer Joye's superiors. He replied that it has been approved. Commissioner Bryant moved that the Lake Wylie Marine Commission accept CMPD lake enforcement's request. Vice Chairman Brennan seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that both of the GCPD's boats have been fixed and are operational. He let the LWMC know that he will have knee surgery and will be out for 6 weeks.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Mabry reported that they have had calls about floating debris. There was one boating accident on Labor Day, and CMPD and Coast Guard came out to assist. In the near future Sgt. Mabry will take new York County dispatchers out on the boat for a lake tour so they can have a better understanding of where law enforcement is located when reporting an accident.

Tega Cay Police Department – No report was given.

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

Mr. Lawson said he spoke with Jeff Lineberger about raising the lake water level. The earliest that the water levels would go up would be the end of 2025.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – No report was given.

#### **Item 6 – McAdenville Riverfront Park Presentation**

Meredith Beard from Stewart, Inc. addressed the LWMC and summarized Commissioner Thomas and Executive Director Stowe's site visit to McAdenville. There were no further questions from the LWMC. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the Stewart, Inc. McAdenville project without further question. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. Chairman Smith asked Ms. Parker to send an approval letter to Ms. Beard.

#### **Item 7 – Riverpointe Wastewater Treatment Project Update**

No one was present from LandDesign. This item was not discussed.

#### **Item 8 – City of Gastonia – Southeast Sewer Project Update**

Brian Houston from LaBella addressed the LWMC and described new aspects of the Gastonia sewer project. The LWMC originally heard about this project during the summer. Commissioner Goff asked how long a span of pipe will be underground. Mr. Houston said 135' will be the total casing length. Vice Chairman Brennan moved to approve this project as presented by LaBella staff. Commissioner Mead seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. Chairman Smith asked Ms. Parker to send an approval letter to Mr. Houston.

**Item 9 – Long Cove Marina No Wake Zone Application**

Paul Montelongo presented his no wake zone application to the LWMC. He requested five no wake buoys be placed near Long Cove Marina at the front of the cove near the “lighthouse dock.” He noted that without a no wake zone, boats come through at high speed, rocking the docks and causing unsafe conditions for people standing or walking on the docks or boats. Mr. Montelongo asked for three no wake buoys to be replaced and two to be added. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff said that NCWRC would need to go by and look at the site. Mr. Montelongo would be willing to pay for at least some of the buoys. CMPD lake enforcement would need to approve of this request before it goes to NCWRC. Vice Chairman Brennan said that the whole cove, based on relatively short distances involved, could be a no wake zone. Mr. Montelongo was informed that no wake zones are about safety, not erosion or controlling property damage. Vice Chairman Brennan and Officer Joye will visit the site together. Chairman Smith invited Mr. Montelongo to come back to the October meeting.

**Item 10 – 2017 Lake Wylie Marine Commission Goals Review**

Executive Director Stowe reviewed the status of the LWMC’s 2017 Goals (see table below). He concluded that if anyone has any thoughts about how to get untouched goals started, to please let him know.

2017 GOALS	GOAL STATUS	COMMENTS made on 9/25/17
<b>Public Relations – Commissioner Goff, lead</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit at least two (2) additional media spokes-people, in addition to Paul Cameron.</li> </ul>	To do.	<i>Working with WSOC and Spectrum.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange radio interview on Charlotte Talks (90.7 WFAE, local NPR station).</li> </ul>	In progress.	<i>Reached out to WRHI. Tried to reach WFAE, but no luck.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide and facilitate tours of Lake Wylie for elected officials, staff, stakeholders, developers, water users.</li> </ul>	To do.	<i>No progress.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LWMC website overhaul process – <i>Commissioner Goff</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Get quotes (at least 3) for website re-design.</li> <li>○ Sketch website re-design process (timeframe, contents, task assignments, budget, etc).</li> <li>○ Enhance mobile presence.</li> <li>○ Determine if a Video for is viable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Done. In Progress  Done In Progress Done	<i>It’s well done -- on budget and ahead of schedule.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and update the LWMC website for accuracy and out of date content on a regular basis.</li> </ul>	In Progress.	<i>Ongoing.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required reading – <i>All Marine Commissioners</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LWMC website (end of January 2017)</li> <li>○ By-laws (by March 2017)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Done.	<i>Done.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance public relations presence:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop and ensure publication of press releases for different events/times of year (e.g., Riversweep; Boater Safety Week)</li> <li>○ When a press release is approved by the Chair, send to all Marine Commissioners -- FYI only.</li> <li>○ Examine media list and develop contacts that will support PR efforts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	In Progress	<i>Sent event descriptions to the Herald, John Marks. Commissioner Goff said that we need to look at other topics such as life jacket awareness and have articles ready for publication.</i>
<b>Water Quality</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation (complete by April 1, 2017)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ York County Commissioner Goff arrange for obtaining results of South Carolina’s periodic water testing (York County – contact Rock Hill Assistant Manager)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	To do.	<i>Commissioner Goff has been working with Sam Perkins to bring York County into alignment with</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vice Chairman Brennan arrange for obtaining results of Belmont’s periodic water testing</li> </ul>	Done.	<i>neighboring counties. Mr. Stowe said that Commissioner Goff should contact Jimmy Bagley. Vice Chairman Brennan has been providing Belmont’s water quality report each month.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sedimentation/Runoff – <i>Chairman to appoint Sub-Committee comprised of Marine Commissioners from each county to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Address the various Planning and Zoning Boards in the three counties to raise concern re the insidious sedimentation issue.</li> <li>○ Bring/facilitate parity among the three local county governments regarding the Storm water run-off regulations to prevent lake sedimentation and increase the fines for failing to do so (Long term goal -- may exceed Dec 31, 2017).</li> <li>○ Create and distribute sedimentation and storm water education materials (audience: residents, elected officials, staff, stakeholders, developers, water users)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	In progress.	<i>Vice Chairman Brennan is trying to coordinate with Barry Gullet. Commissioner Mead said that Rusty Rozzelle is a good source for sedimentation information. Vice Chairman Brennan is trying to schedule a time for Gaston County elected officials to hear a presentation on sedimentation.</i>
<b>Riversweep</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue to lead (co-chair), support, and sponsor – <i>Vice Commissioner Brennan, Commissioner Goff, other Marine Commissioners</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ March 2017 – first planning meeting</li> <li>○ Riversweep Event – October 7, 2017</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	In progress.	<i>Two weeks from the event, ~200 people had pre-registered. They are in good shape with the budget. Good media coverage.</i>
<b>Safety – Commissioner Bryant, lead</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue life jacket awareness program – Ready, Set, Wear It! – with local high schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Add: High Schools participating in Riversweep, etc.</li> <li>○ Follow-up on invitations sent to high schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set up in-person meetings with high school principals</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Goal: Get all high schools in Lake Wylie area to compete.</li> <li>○ YMCA holds kids swim lessons – advertise life jacket awareness at YMCA.</li> <li>○ Ready, Set, Wear It! is May 20-27, 2017</li> <li>○ Ready, Set, Wear It! 2017 Winner: Nations Ford HS</li> <li>○ Commissioner Bryant presented trophy at August 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Done	<i>Need to talk about a way to be more effective in rolling out this program. It is time intensive. Process could be improved.</i>
<b>Law Enforcement Center (South Carolina) – Chairman Smith</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Goal: Set up in person meeting at LEC – assess situation/next steps.</li> <li>● Northern Law Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Goal: Clearly define Northern Law Center (i.e., location, mission, users, space needs, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	In progress.	<i>Put on hold for now.</i>

**Item 11 – Joint Jurisdiction Task Force Update**

Vice Chairman Brennan gave the floor to Legal Counsel Clark. Representatives from NCWRC, SCDNR, CMPD, YCSO all attended a meeting about joint jurisdictional considerations in mid-September. Legal Counsel Clark, Vice Chairman Brennan, and Executive Director Stowe arranged this meeting. Valuable information and perspectives were shared during the meeting. The group continues to move forward in listening and research mode. The LWMC's goal with this issue is to figure out how to best support law enforcement related to joint jurisdictional issues. Sgt. Laton will put Legal Counsel Clark in touch with an additional contact at NCWRC who can provide more information on their process.

**Item 12 – Riversweep 2017 Update**

The Riversweep update was given during the Item 10 discussion.

**Item 13 – Treasurer's Report**

Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff provided the Treasurer's report. The LWMC continues to be in good financial shape heading into FY 2018.

**Item 14 – Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Stowe reported that the Catawba Wateree Water Management Group (CWWMG) is having its first annual Water For All event at the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden on October 10 from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 each and all are invited.

**Item 15 – Chairman's Report**

Chairman Smith reported that she attended the September LWMC Officers meeting and Riversweep planning meeting. Chairman Smith commented that she is finishing up her second three term on the LWMC and that "...it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with everyone. It's very special to be part of this community." She acknowledged Commissioner Thomas and Mead's service as well. The audience applauded their service to the LWMC and the lake itself.

**Item 16 – Clerk's Report**

Ms. Parker reported that audit is going smoothly.

**Item 17 – Old/New Business and Commission Projects Reports****Old Business**

- Water Quality –
  - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Medler reported that Clean Marina re-certification is wrapped for the year.
  - Invasive Species – Commissioner Medler did not have a report.
  - Sedimentation – Commission Goff brought up the Mattamy Homes sedimentation blowout, which is a NC/SC issue. There will be more to report on that later.
  - Buoys – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff said that he has spoken with Terry Everhart about taking care of buoys. Vice Chairman Brennan asked about a narrow area near Paw Creek. He thinks it may qualify for a no wake zone because it is so narrow. He asked if someone outside of the LWMC has to do the no wake zone application. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff said buoy is required at that location.
  - Vice Chairman Brennan quickly reviewed the Belmont water quality report.
- Safety – Commissioner Bryant said that Piedmont Medical would supply an ambulance for Riversweep.
- Recreation – No report was given.
- Public Information – Commissioner Goff did not have a report.

**Item 18 – Election of Officers**

Legal Counsel Clark explained the election process and led the Election of Officers. He stated:

- For the position of Chairman: Executive Director Stowe said the Nominating Committee recommends Neil Brennan. Hearing no further nominations, Neil Brennan will serve as Chairman.
- For the position of Vice Chairman: Executive Director Stowe said the Nominating Committee recommends Peter Hegarty. Hearing no further nominations, Peter Hegarty will serve as Vice Chairman.
- For the position of Secretary Treasurer: Executive Director Stowe said the Nominating Committee recommends Blanche Bryant to the position of Secretary Treasurer. Hearing no further nominations, Blanche Bryant will serve as Secretary Treasurer.

That concluded the Election of Officers. Legal Counsel Clark congratulated the Officers.

Executive Director Stowe stood and acknowledged the outstanding job that Lynn Smith did as Chairman and the work of Brad Thomas and Tim Mead. He thanked them and everyone present gave them a standing ovation.

**Item 19 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.