

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
August 22, 2016
Belmont City Hall



Commissioners Present: Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary Treasurer Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner George Medler (York County)
Commissioner Tim Mead (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Neil Brennan (Gaston County)

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chairman Ed Hull (York County)
Commissioner Blanche Bryant (York County)

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

Meeting Minutes

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present, including Mayor Martin of Belmont and Mr. Rusty Rozzelle with Mecklenburg County.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Smith asked if any changes need to be made to the July 25 minutes. Commissioner Brennan asked a clarifying question about the dechlorination process and how a related section of the minutes was written. Based on what Commissioner Brennan said, Mr. Rozzelle concurred that that part of the minutes should be amended. Ms. Parker will amend the minutes. Commissioner Mead made a motion to approve the July 25 minutes as amended. Commissioner Thomas 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 August 22 agenda. Legal Counsel Clark requested time to give a brief legal report after the Clerk’s Report. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve the August 22 agenda as amended. Commissioner Mead seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Presentation by Rusty Rozzelle, Mecklenburg County Water Manager

Rusty Rozzelle made a presentation to the Lake Wylie Marine Commission on the water treatment and discharge at the USNWC. The following bullet points capture most of Mr. Rozzelle’s comments during the meeting:

- The operational plan for water treatment and discharge was submitted by the USNWC to Mecklenburg County on July 7, it was approved by: Mecklenburg County on July 12, by NC Department of Health and Human Services on July 13, by the CDC on July 20, and by the NC Department of Environmental Quality on July 26.
- The chlorination process at the USNWC started a little after 1:00 pm on Wednesday, July 27. The process started with the injection of sodium hypochlorite solution into the lower pond at three

locations. Pumps located at 4 locations were used to circulate water. At 6:40 pm on July 27, the process was discontinued due to effects of sunlight on chlorine levels.

- At 10:00 pm on Thursday, July 28, treatment process resumed.
- By 1:59 am on Friday, July 29, the USNWC successfully achieved ≥ 5 parts per million (ppm) free chlorine levels for a minimum of 2 hours.
- USNWC tested free chlorine levels every 15 minutes at 4 locations in the lower pond to confirm chlorine residual at ≥ 5 ppm for 2 hours. Field test kits were used and testing was monitored by staff from the Mecklenburg County Health Department.
- The dechlorination process was started at 2:00 am on Friday, July 29, following the 2-hour chlorination period. Granular sodium thiosulfate was broadcast into the lower pond from a raft at the end of the process. At 6:25 am on Saturday, July 30, chlorine levels were measured at 0 ppm at all 4 sampling points.
- The discharge process started at 6:25 am on Saturday, July 30 from the two outfalls at the USNWC.
- Mecklenburg County staff monitored at the two outfalls and in the stream using multiple methods: Continuous Automated Monitoring at Outfall 2 (every 15 minutes); Grab Sampling (laboratory analysis); and Field Testing. They monitored in the lake by Grab Sampling (laboratory analysis) and field testing.
- Mr. Rozzelle said it took two days for the discharged water to make it to Lake Wylie.
- The USNWC pond was drained and discharged stopped at 6:30 pm on Sunday, July 31 (36 hours).
- The organic material left in the bottom of the channel at the USNWC was collected and land applied onsite.
- Mr. Rozzelle briefly reviewed Mecklenburg County's monitoring results. He said that the County performed 567 analyses of the discharged water involving over 300 Mecklenburg County staff hours. All test results indicate no negative water quality impacts associated with the discharge. No stressed aquatic life was ever noted.
- He reviewed the current conditions at the USNWC:
 - The USNWC reopened its whitewater channel on August 10, 2016.
 - Automated chlorinator is being used.
 - Chlorine residual is being maintained.
 - USNWC samples 4 times a day at 6 different locations.
 - Target is to maintain chlorine levels at 0.5 ppm.
 - Ozonation is being used to enhance the disinfection process.
 - Still using UV Irradiation and filtration systems.
 - Minimal solids visible and no algae.
 - Backwash is collected in tank, solids removed and water added back into system or used for irrigation.
 - Health Department is sampling same 6 locations weekly through August, biweekly through September, and monthly in October and November.
 - Once a plan is developed that proves effective, local regulations may be adopted at the discretion of the Board of Mecklenburg County Commissioners

Commissioner Thomas asked about the volume of water being backwashed. Mr. Rozzelle estimated that they backwash 500-1,000 gallons per day. Executive Director Stowe mentioned an article that said one of the area hospitals has an antidote for the disease caused by the amoeba. Commissioner Brennan asked what went wrong to cause the whole situation. Mr. Rozzelle commented that it was the biomass in the bottom of the channel. The UV disinfection system did not really work on treating the biomass. He said it was a good process for killing bacteria, but not the amoeba. Executive Director Stowe asked Mr. Rozzelle to explain where Charlotte's drinking water comes from. He talked about Charlotte's five wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and where water is taken in, treated, and discharged. Mr. Rozzelle concluded his presentation by apologizing

to the LWMC for not bringing the USNWC's situation to the group's attention earlier. He said that would not happen again, not on his watch.

Item 5 – Public Comment

None.

Item 6 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Joye reported that they were part of the investigation to look into two recent boat accidents. There has been an uptick in BWI citations -- there have been 12 already this year.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported on the boating accident that happened in front of Harbortowne Marina. One of the drivers was pinned between boats and sustained many internal injuries. GCPD officers have written more citations this year than last year. Violations seem to go back to inexperienced boaters. GCPD School Resource Officers (SROs) go back to school this week. They will wrap up being on the lake after Labor Day. He spoke with the developer of the McLean property about the marina they plan to build on site. It will take a couple of years to build it. Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff asked about parking police boats. Officer Hamrick said that if marinas are full, sometimes they do not have a place to park their boats.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Mabry reported that they have had six drownings and all but one has been a multi-day recovery operation. York County is surrounded by water. The YCSO is going to have to increase their staff to deal with covering bodies of water in York County.

Tega Cay Police Department – No report was given.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Sgt. Laton reported that NCWRC also investigated the two accidents on Lake Wylie in the last month. They have seen higher numbers of BWIs and inexperienced boaters. He asked for ideas to get the word out more effectively for people to wear their life jackets and be better prepared as boaters. Commissioner Brennan asked if their fines are published. Sgt. Laton said they are not. Publishing fines could be a deterrent. NCWRC personnel are going into hunting season starting on Labor Day weekend.

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: 97.0' (target level: 97.0')
- Low inflow protocol: Stage 0 (drought watch)
- No dredge permits have been approved.

Secretary Biggerstaff said he has noticed that Duke Energy has done well with keeping Lake Wylie at a stable level this year. Commissioner Mead added that Duke Energy filed a petition for review with the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit to start the appeals process to get the 50-year license.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Ellen Goff reported on an organized clean up held by the Lakekeeper on August 13. 30 people participated, but she has not yet heard the final numbers for how much trash and recyclables were picked up.

Item 7 – Presentation from S&ME: South Point Road HDD (Project # 7435-16-006 Ph 6)

Mr. Joey Lawler with S&ME presented to the group. PSNC is going to extend their gas services another 7,000 feet. Mr. Lawler described the process. A gas line will be laid approximately 30' beneath the canal. This project should not have any environmental impacts. The group has heard from S&ME on similar gas line projects and several of the Marine Commissioners are familiar with the area. Therefore, there was no need to send a small group of Marine Commissioners out to view the site, as is the usual procedure. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve the project application. Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. Ms. Parker will send the approval letter to Mr. Lawler.

Item 8 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff provided the monthly finance update. Executive Director Stowe added that we over-budgeted for the auditor (\$4,250), not knowing what the new auditor would charge. The group’s new auditor will charge (\$2,500), so the group needs to figure out where to move the overage. This will be discussed at the September meeting.

Item 9 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Stowe reported:

- a. Nominating Committee Update: The Nominating Committee has met and they are ready to consider nominations for Officers for next year. Mr. Stowe asked that Commissioners tell him or the current Officers if they want to nominate someone. The LWMC annual meeting will be held at the next meeting on 9/26.
- b. Auditor: Mr. Stowe took the audit contract to Ms. Belinda Johnson, the LWMC’s new auditor. He reported a great first impression and is looking forward to working with her firm.

Item 10 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith reported that she attended the August Officers meeting and Nominating Committee matters were discussed.

Item 11 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

Added item: Legal Counsel Clark updated the group on his decision to start his own law firm, The Law Office of Chris Clark, PLLC. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to continue with Chris Clark as the LWMC’s legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Medler. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Item 12 – Old/New Business and Commission Projects Reports

Old Business

- Water Quality –
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff reported that all is well with the Clean Marinas.
 - Invasive Species – Commissioner Medler that Ken Manuel with Duke Energy said they are going to put 350 grass carp in the lake in September. The location will be the same. Mr. Manuel will keep Commissioner Medler posted.

- Buoys – Secretary Treasurer Biggerstaff reported that the buoy at Seven Oaks Marina has been moved back into place.
- Safety – No report was given.
- Recreation – No report was given.
- Public Information – No report was given.

Item 13 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.
