



Commissioners Present: Chairman Neil Brennan (Gaston County)
Vice Chairman Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary Treasurer Blanche Bryant (York County)
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)
Commissioner George Medler (York County)
Commissioner Dan Mullane (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Hunter Wilson (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)

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

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 Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present. Chairman Brennan informed the group of Commissioner Biggerstaff’s passing on Sunday, November 26 and asked for a moment of silence. After the moment of silence, Commissioner Medler provided details including about funeral arrangements. The funeral service will be held on Thursday, November 30 at Bethlehem Church at 3:00 pm.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Brennan asked if any changes need to be made to the October 23, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Goff moved to approve the October 23, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Medler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of Agenda

Chairman Brennan asked if any changes need to be made to the November 27, 2017 agenda. Vice Chairman Hegarty moved to approve the November 27 agenda. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Public Comment

None.

Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) – Officer Joye reported that CMPD lake enforcement has a training coming up and they are working towards getting approval from Charlotte City Council for their new boat house. Officer Joye noted that they have purchased nearly all the SCUBA equipment for their boats.

Gaston County Police Department (GCPD) – Officer Hamrick commented that this is his first day back at work after knee surgery. He forecasted that he will bring a list of items that GCPD lake enforcement would like to purchase to the February 2018 meeting. The GCPD boat will be in 10 or 11 holiday parades this year in Gaston County.

York County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) – Executive Director Stowe reported for Sgt. Mabry. Work has been completed on the Law Enforcement Center boat house. The YCSO has certified 92 people as safe boaters this year.

Tega Cay Police Department (TCPD) – No report was given.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) – Sgt. Laton reported that officers are currently splitting time between water and land due to the start of hunting season.

SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) – Officer Aukeem Ruff introduced himself to the Lake Wylie Marine Commission. He has been with the organization since January 2017 and plans to attend LWMC meetings moving forward.

US Coast Guard – No report was given.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – No report was given.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – Mr. Matthew Phillips introduced himself to the Lake Wylie Marine Commission. He shared the Lake Use Support Index (LUSI) map that reports on samples taken around Lake Wylie in September 2017. Mr. Phillips commented that the September number look good. He noted that they collected November samples today and will have that data to share at the January LWMC meeting. [Click here to access LUSI maps](#). His team is coordinating with City of Charlotte staff and the developer to monitor changes and possible environmental impacts related to the River District development. Mr. Phillips said that if his team finds anything out of the ordinary related to that project, that they will let the LWMC know.

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 provided an update on Duke Energy's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license. Duke Energy applied for a 50-year license, but was granted a 40-year license from FERC. Duke Energy plans to argue its case in a Court of Appeals in Washington DC in the coming months.

Mr. Lawson also mentioned the [Duke Energy Water Resources Fund](#). Funding has been set aside for projects that benefit waterways in North Carolina, South Carolina and the surrounding states. Applications are open to 501c3 nonprofit organizations or local governments. Proposed projects should do at least one of the following:

- Improve water quality, quantity and conservation
- Enhance fish and wildlife management habitats
- Expand public use and access to waterways
- Increase citizens' awareness about their roles in protecting water resources

Mr. Lawson said that applications are due before April 1 and before October 1 each year. He will send Ms. Parker a notice about the Water Resources Fund to forward to the LWMC and others for consideration. Commissioner Wilson asked a question about the River District and access that new residents may have to the river. Mr. Lawson replied that that the developer has not inquired about that. Mr. Sam Perkins added that the developer will not add much water access and that Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency staff is paying attention to this issue.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given
Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – No report was given.

Item 6 – Presentation on the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation’s New Water Watcher Phone App

Mr. Sam Perkins, Catawba Riverkeeper with the Catawba River Foundation (CRF), presented the CRF’s new Water Watcher smart phone app. This app is free to download from the Apple app store or Android app store. There are eight tools in the app:

1. Trash Logger – Mr. Perkins reviewed the three steps involved in using this tool.
2. Pollution Reporter – He noted that it works like the Trash Logger tool.
3. Basin Map
4. CRF Website
5. Authority Contacts
6. Social Media
7. Lake Levels – Data is from the Duke Energy website.
8. Recreational Releases

Mr. Perkins said that the best place to go for app information is <https://www.catawbariverkeeper.org/app/>. Chairman Brennan asked if the LWMC could link to or advertise the app on the LWMC website. Mr. Perkins said yes, and the best thing to do would be to direct people to the Apple or Android app stores. A Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency staff member asked if pollution reported via the Pollution Reporter tool is automatically routed to local stormwater regulation groups. Mr. Perkins replied that those reports are not automatically routed, but that information is still passed on.

Mr. Perkins also reported that over the past several clean up events, over 1,000 CRF volunteers have removed approximately 73,000 pounds of trash out of the Catawba-Wateree basin.

Item 7 – Yachtsman Marina Request for Safety Buoys

Jim Trautwein presented to the group representing Yachtsman Marina. The Marina has three docks and 54 boat slips. He noted that off the northern-most dock there is a small island that creates a narrow waterway and blind spot for boaters. Mr. Trautwein and others at Yachtsman Marina are concerned about safety and requested that no wake zone buoys be installed. Chairman Brennan added comments about channel width. Commissioner Goff asked how many boat slips are in the area. Mr. Trautwein said that between Yachtsman Marina and another nearby facility, there are approximately 100 boat slips in that area.

Commissioner Hanks moved that members of the LWMC inspect the Yachtsman Marina site. Secretary Treasurer Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Wilson said he has delivered boats to this area and verified that a blind spot does exist. Chairman Brennan said that the procedure is for Marine Commissioners to go view the site with local lake enforcement officers. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. Chairman Brennan and Vice Chairman Hegarty will visit the site with CMPD lake enforcement officers.

Item 8 – Reciprocal Fishing License between NC & SC

Commissioner Hanks reported that the Bi-state Commission asked the LWMC to gather information about a North Carolina/South Carolina reciprocal fishing license. He plans to get more specific information on the financial impact for South Carolina. Commissioner Hanks noted that an extended study could be in order. Any information that is gathered will go to the Bi-state Commission for consideration. He noted that the LWMC has a limited role in this study. The Bi-state Commission meets next on December 11.

Item 9 – 2018 Mid-Atlantic Boat Show Preparation (Feb 8-11)

Chairman Brennan reported that the next LWMC meeting in January is too close to the Boat Show, so arrangements should be discussed now. Brad Thomas will help with set up and tear down again this year. Chairman Brennan brought up the electrical safety issue. He provided two brochures on electrical safety for the Marine Commissioners to review and to consider obtaining for distribution. It was noted that electrical safety is not on the Clean Marina check list. Commissioner Goff noted that she is working on a new pamphlet for the LWMC. Chairman Brennan addressed staffing the booth at the Boat Show and noted that Executive Director Stowe has been there daily over the past years. This year more help will be needed to staff the booth. Ms. Parker will send a booth staffing schedule out to the group. Chairman Brennan noted that he plans to be there daily.

Commissioner Medler commented on the topic of electrical hazard. He said that electrical safety is not just about marinas, but all over the water. He noted that it would be expensive for a marina to thoroughly up fit its electrical infrastructure and have all components work properly all the time. There is no inspection from police departments. You must have a certain kind of certified electrician to work over water. There are very few electrical companies in the area that can do this work. Commissioner Medler noted that perhaps getting word out about electrical safety is the goal, not getting into the electrical certification of marinas. Secretary Treasurer Bryant noted that May is electrical safety awareness month.

Item 10 – Scheduling Goal Setting 2018

Chairman Brennan addressed this topic. The 2018 Goal Setting will be held at the to be held at Commodore Yacht Club. Ms. Parker will send out a scheduling poll to determine date and time.

Item 11 – Consideration of Montcross Chamber Membership Renewal

Chairman Brennan presented this item to the group. He has been to many Montcross Chamber events and made many contacts. The membership fee is \$185.00 for a non-profit organization. Chairman Brennan’s recommendation is that the LWMC consider renewing with Montcross and think about what other area chambers the LWMC could join. Secretary Treasurer Bryant suggested joining the Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Goff added that based on Chairman Brennan’s experience with Montcross, it is an active and motivated group, and that chamber memberships are only as good as you make use of them. Commissioner Goff moved to renew the Montcross Chamber membership. Vice Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Medler moved that the LWMC join the Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce. Secretary Treasurer Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion: Vice Chairman Hegarty would like to know more about the Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce before joining. Secretary Treasurer Bryant is of the opinion that the LWMC should join multiple chambers of commerce. Commissioner Hanks suggested that Marine Commissioners from York County look into area South Carolina chambers. The vote was taken and no one voted to join the Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce. The motion failed. York County Marine commissioners will report on findings at the January meeting.

Item 12 – Joint Jurisdiction Task Force Update

Legal Counsel Clark said that Sgt. Laton put him in contact with the right person at the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Mr. Clark needs to reach out to this person. He will report at the January meeting.

Item 13 – Insurance Update

Legal Counsel Clark reported on this item. If the LWMC intends to do something on the water, talk with him first. Otherwise, the LWMC is good to ask Watson Insurance to add Mecklenburg County as an ‘additional insured’ – per the County’s request – on both of the LWMC’s existing insurance policies.

Item 14 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Bryant provided the Treasurer’s report. She gave an overview of the LWMC financials – revenues and expenditures as of October 31, 2017.

Item 15 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Stowe reported that he recently sat with Chairman Brennan and went through 3 years of minutes. Mr. Stowe reflected on his time – starting in 1999 – spent on the LWMC and as its Executive Director. Chairman Brennan acknowledged and thanked Mr. Stowe for his service to the lake and to the LWMC. Mr. Stowe received a heartfelt standing ovation from everyone present.

Item 16 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Brennan reported that he:

- Met with outgoing Executive Director Stowe to gain a better understanding of issues that have arisen during his tenure on the Marine Commission.
- Represented the LWMC at a Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce event.
- Communicated with the Electrical Safety Foundation International to obtain safety materials for marinas and a checklist to include in our Clean Marinas program. These materials can be displayed and distributed at the Boat Show.
- Consulted with the other officers and Commissioner Goff (Public Information Chair) and conveyed to the Mecklenburg County Commissioners that the LWMC will provide its annual report in March each year (new Mecklenburg County requirement).
- Consulted with Riverkeeper Sam Perkins regarding the way forward to address the sedimentation issues on Lake Wylie. Riverkeeper Perkins will address at the next LWMC meeting.

Item 17 – Clerk’s Report

Draft Proposed 2018 Meeting Schedule – Ms. Parker commented that the draft proposed 2018 LWMC meeting schedule is in each of their agenda packets and will need to be voted on by the LWMC. Commissioner Hanks moved to approve the 2018 LWMC meeting schedule as presented. Secretary Treasurer Bryant seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 18 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

Old Business

- Water Quality –
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Hanks commented that since the LWMC established the Clean Marina program, both South Carolina and North Carolina have started statewide inland Clean Marina programs. He would like the LWMC Clean Marina program standards to be up to the standards set by these state-level organizations. Chairman Brennan mentioned possibly using the North Carolina program as guideline. He then asked Commissioner Mullane to work with Commissioner Hanks on this project. Chairman Brennan would like an electrical safety checklist to be part of the Clean Marina program checklist.
 - Invasive Species – Commissioner Mullane did not have a report.
 - Sedimentation – Commissioner Goff had nothing further to report.
- Buoys – After the last meeting, Commissioner Wilson called Terry Everhart and they reviewed the current buoy situation. Commissioner Wilson got the buoy inventory, but not buoy locations with coordinates. Commissioner Goff said that there will be a layer on the website that shows buoy locations on Lake Wylie. Commissioner Wilson noted that none of the LWMC buoys have lights on them for nighttime visibility. He has reached out to different companies, but has not yet found a solution.
- Safety – Secretary Treasurer Bryant said that after the first of the year, she will focus on the life jacket awareness program.
- Recreation – No report was given.
- Public Information – Commissioner Goff reported on the following:

- Updating the LWMC Annual Report & Presentation to Mecklenburg Co Board of Commissioners – This report will undergo revision and will be submitted to Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners in March.
- Consideration of Establishing a Social Media Subcommittee – Commissioners Goff and Wilson talked about setting up a social media presence for the LWMC. After preliminary discussion, the LWMC should be viewed as information source versus being an interactive body. The LWMC would be better served focusing on more vigorous public relations that uses social media. Commissioner Mullane mentioned a public relations campaign he saw at an area hospital where “don’t dump, drains to lake” was stenciled on or near storm drains. Commissioner Mullane added that he is in the process of finding out more about this effort.

Item 19 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.