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**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 Dan Mullane (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner Hunter Wilson (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Debi Chacharon (York County)  
Commissioner Dan Hartley (Gaston County)

**Staff Present:** Emily Parker, Administrator

**Staff Absent:** Chris Clark, Legal Counsel

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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 of New Commissioners**

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present. He welcomed new Marine Commissioners Debi Chacharon (York County) and Dan Hartley (Gaston County) and invited them to introduce themselves.

#### **Item 2 – Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Brennan asked if any changes need to be made to the January 22, 2018 minutes. Vice Chairman Hegarty said that under *Item 6 – Yachtsman Marina Request for Safety Buoys*, it should say the item is deferred until the area can be inspected. Secretary Treasurer Bryant moved to approve the January 22, 2018 minutes as amended. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and it was approved unanimously.

#### **Item 3 – Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Brennan asked if any changes need to be made to the February 26, 2018 agenda. Commissioner Goff moved to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and it was approved unanimously.

#### **Item 4 – Public Comment**

None.

#### **Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) – No report was given.

Gaston County Police Department (GCPD) – Officer Hamrick reported that he recently met with GCPD staff, Chairman Brennan, and others about the future of a GCPD boat house. This conversation is ongoing. He said that GCPD lake enforcement needs updated SONAR equipment for their small boat and would like to request funds

from the LWMC to make this purchase. Officer Hamrick sent an email to the LWMC that outlined his request. The total cost for what they would like to purchase is \$2,553.00. Chairman Brennan suggested that this request be voted on later in the meeting under Safety Programs.

York County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) – Sgt. Brent Mabry reported that boat traffic on lake is starting to pick up. The YCSP is starting swift water rescue below the dam while not taking away from Lake Wylie patrol. They will add kayak patrol below the dam. He mentioned that there are four boater safety classes coming up.

Tega Cay Police Department (TCPD) – Lt. James Parker addressed the group. At the present time, TCPD does not have a boat presence on Lake Wylie. They are going to try to spend time this year with YCSO to learn more about lake enforcement.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) – NCWRC staff member Tracy Parsons addressed the group about the buoys that NCWRC manages in North Carolina. He said there are 49 danger buoys and seven no wake buoys in North Carolina. NCWRC does not usually maintain channel markers unless it involves a safety issue. They do two buoy inspection runs per year to assess and replace damaged or missing buoys. If a buoy needed replacing, they try to replace within three days. Chairman Brennan said that the LWMC supports NCWRC in this effort. They do not have any buoys in the Mecklenburg County part of the lake. Mr. Parsons handed out a map that shows all NCWRC's buoys. Commissioner Hanks described a buoy situation to NCRWC Brandan Burch, who has local area knowledge of Lake Wylie. Commissioner Hanks said that a buoy is out of place that has been that way for two years. Chairman Brennan asked about the no wake buoys near Sadler Island. They confirmed that NCWRC authorized those buoys. Mr. Parsons went on to explain that there is a difference between authorizing and maintaining buoys. Commissioner Goff asked for a list of the GPS coordinates for the buoys they maintain. If NCWRC authorizes but does not maintain a buoy, they authorize local agencies or municipalities to maintain them. Commissioner Hanks asked if they pick up unauthorized buoys, and they answered affirmatively. Mr. Parsons suggested the LWMC contact Betsy Haywood ([betsy.haywood@ncwildlife.org](mailto:betsy.haywood@ncwildlife.org)) in the Raleigh office – she has information about buoy coordinates. Anna Stefanowicz is the GIS technician ([anna.stefanowicz@ncwildlife.org](mailto:anna.stefanowicz@ncwildlife.org)) for buoys.

SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) – No report was given.

US Coast Guard – No report was given.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – Coast Guard Auxiliary member Ray Webber reported to the group. They will be on the water from August 1 through end of October. He mentioned that they offer vessel safety exams for boaters. He offered to assist the LWMC by checking if buoys are where they should be. Mr. Webber is the point of contact for this activity.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – Ms. Lauren Goyne reported that they were not able to take samples in January but did in first week in February. They also added common location names to the LUSI map for clarity. LUESA staff has been approved to sample two sites in South Carolina, six times a year. There would be a cost associated to cover lab work. It would be \$234.00 per site, per month. If metals sampling is included, it would be \$388.00 per site, per month. LWMC would be able to pick sites and sampling parameters. If they find an issue in South Carolina, that is not something LUESA can do anything about. Ms. Goyne announced that March 24 is their big spring clean up event (formerly called the Big Sweep). Commissioner Goff asked who coordinates that event, and Ms. Goyne said [Ashley Smith](#).

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

- Lake level: 97.2' (target level: 97.0')
- Low inflow protocol: Normal.
- No dredge permits have been submitted or approved in the past month.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Mr. Sam Perkins, Catawba Riverkeeper, reported that there will be a Water Watch training in River Hills on March 24 from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm. Part of training will be on how to use their new smart phone app. He noted that his colleague Brandon Jones has deployed a monitoring station where the South Fork comes into Lake Wylie, near Cramerton. Secretary Treasurer Bryant asked Mr. Perkins about monitoring silt that comes down the South Fork. He commented that it comes from a combination of construction and agriculture. Vice Chairman Hegarty asked if Mr. Perkins received complaints from The Palisades lately. He replied no, but complaints have come in from Bonum Road. Chairman Brennan brought up leveraging media relationships and asking for coverage on the sedimentation issue, in coordination with the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation.

**Item 6 – Presentation from Duke Energy: Allen Steam Station – Lined Retention Basin New Outfall project**

Ms. Elizabeth Glenn with Duke Energy presented to the group on the proposed new outfall at the Allen Steam Station in Belmont on Lake Wylie. She is in the permitting and compliance group with Duke Energy. She distributed an aerial map showing the current and proposed outfalls. She reviewed the proposal with the LWMC. Commissioner Goff asked if piping will be buried, and Ms. Glenn said that part of the pipe will be. Vice Chairman Hegarty asked if water will be filtered before it goes into the lake. Ms. Glenn said that water would be treated, not filtered. The LWMC took no action on this item. Ms. Glenn will follow up on this topic at the next LWMC meeting.

**Item 7 – 2018 Mid-Atlantic Boat Show Wrap Up**

Chairman Brennan talked about the 2018 Boat Show. 134 people signed up to volunteer at Riversweep. Paul Cameron was there on Sunday. Overall, the Boat Show was successful for the LWMC.

**Item 8 – Riversweep Planning**

Commissioner Goff talked about Riversweep 2018 scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 2018. March 21 will be the first planning meeting. The planning team will overhaul the Riversweep public service announcement (PSA). They may change some locations. They plan to encourage the use of the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation's new smart phone app to assist in identifying areas where trash has accumulated.

**Item 9 – Briefings to County Commissions**

Chairman Brennan reported that the presentation to the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners will be on August 8. The presentation to the Gaston County Commission during a work planning session will be on May 8. Chairman Brennan is working a PowerPoint presentation that he will share with the rest of the Marine Commission for comments.

**Item 10 – Follow Up: Joint Jurisdiction Task Force Update & LWMC Insurance Request**

Legal Counsel Clark was not present.

**Item 11 – Treasurer's Report**

Secretary Treasurer Bryant provided the Treasurer's report. She gave an overview of the LWMC financials including revenues and expenditures as of January 31, 2018.

**Item 12 – Chairman's Report**

Chairman's Brennan report was as follows:

- Attended one Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce event, the Boat Show, and the officers' agenda preparation meeting.
- With Commissioner Hanks, called Ben Solomon, overseer of the North Carolina Clean Marina program, to suggest a meeting to pursue ways in which the LWMC can support the state program.

- Discussed with the owners/managers of Pier 49 Marina, Tailrace Marina, and Harbortowne Marina the possibility of applying for the North Carolina Clean Marina Program. Pier 49 owner Lew Quinn declined; conversations with Tailrace and Harbortowne continue.
- Contacted Steve Stiglbauer, Managing Director of the Denton Marina Group (Tega Cay Marina, Commodore Yacht Club, Lake Club Marina). He does not intend to participate in the South Carolina state Clean Marina Program at this time.
- Provided the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) electrical safety information to Mr. Stiglbauer for his marinas and to the managers of Pier 49 Marina, Pier 88 Yacht Club, Harbortowne Marina, and Tailrace Marina.
- ESFI does not promote or encourage the purchase of any particular products, however any product certified by UL, Intertek, or CSA is typically safe for use. This means that ESFI does not advocate for the effectiveness of any products that claim to detect the presence of an electrical current in water. ESFI staff is aware of the following products that claim to do so:
  1. Shock Alarm
  2. Dock Lifeguard
  3. Shock Guard
  4. Shock Alert
- Met with Paul Cameron of WBTV regarding airing a story about sedimentation issues in general and the Torrence Creek spill last summer in particular. Mr. Cameron suggested that coverage in the spring would be a good time to pursue such a story.
- Communicated with Steven Hinshaw of the McLean development He indicated that a boat house at the McLean site for the Gaston County police boat is not feasible. The offer for a slip and office space there remains.
- Met with Gaston police officials regarding the direction for the Northern Law Center. They remain interested in the possibility of a boat house for their boat.
- Conferenced with Emily Parker and Chris Clark regarding legal issues for a closed session of the Marine Commission.
- Briefed newly appointed Commissioners Chacharon and Hartley about issues before the Commission and recent topics the Commission has addressed.

### **Item 13 – Clerk’s Report**

Ms. Parker reminded Marine Commissioners to turn in their receipts from the Boat Show.

### **Item 14 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports**

#### **a. Water Quality –**

- Clean Marina/Clean Boating
  - Meeting with NC State Clean Marina Officials – Chairman Brennan reviewed the status and ask Commissioners Mullane and Hanks if there was anything to add. Commissioner Hanks brought up insurance considerations.
  - Electrical Current Monitors for Marina Waters – This item was discussed during Chairman Brennan’s report.
- Sedimentation (Policy, Presentations, Parity, and Education) – Commission Goff said that Mr. Sam Perkins already talked about the current situation with sedimentation and Lake Wylie. She noted that in York County, the county government is in the process of rewriting ordinances related to sedimentation. Mr. Perkins made recommendations to the York County Planning Department to bring York County’s standards up to other nearby county standards. In the meantime, sedimentation is still happening. Commissioner Wilson commented that he reached out to Mr. Rusty Rozzelle. Mr. Rozzelle sent him plastic stamps to put on storm drains (“don’t dump, drains to lake”). Commissioner Wilson thinks that the stamps may not be bold enough. Mr. Rozzelle has a paint and stencil set and said that the LWMC could use either (stamp or stencil) and LUESA would support the effort.

- Invasive Species and Impacts of Native Plants on Shoreline and Water – Commissioner Mullane did not have a report. He commented that he would like to connect with former Marine Commissioner George Medler about grass carp. It was recommended that he also call Joe Stowe and Ken Manuel with Duke Energy. Commissioner Mullane will look into this matter.
  - PCBs and Heavy Metals in Fish – Commissioners Hanks and Mullane will continue coordination on this item.
- b. Northern Law Center – This item was discussed during Chairman Brennan’s report.
- c. Buoys –
- Buoy Maintenance – Commissioner Wilson reported about buoys that have broken loose. He will call Terry Everhart for assistance. Commissioner Hanks commented that Mr. Everhart is out of buoy supplies. Commissioner Hanks sent a quote for buoy supplies after the last meeting. Vice Chairman Hegarty moved that Commissioner Hanks proceed with ordering buoy supplies. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the vote was approved unanimously.
- d. Safety Programs –
- Commissioner Goff moved to approve the Gaston County Police Department’s request for boat equipment in the full amount of \$2,553.00. Vice Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Hanks asked who would do the installation work. Officer Hamrick said their shop would do it. Commissioner Mullane asked if the electronics to be replaced work at all. Officer Hamrick replied that they do not work. Vice Chairman ask about a warranty. Officer Hamrick said that the equipment would have a one-year warranty. The vote taken and approved unanimously.
  - Life jacket awareness and/or availability – Secretary Treasurer Bryant provided background on the life jacket program. She is in favor of the stencil idea mentioned by Commissioner Wilson. She went on to say that police boats keep life jackets on their boats. Perhaps the LWMC could present law enforcement with life jackets with the LWMC logo to loan to boaters. Secretary Treasurer Bryant will check with law enforcement and see how many life jackets they would need and update the LWMC at the March meeting.
  - Commissioner Hanks talked about an electric current wand checker. The suggestion was made to bring this up to Legal Counsel Clark.
  - Secretary Treasurer Bryant announced a business after hours event this Thursday at the Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce. She plans to attend along with Vice Chairman Hegarty.
  - For boat rental companies – Commissioner Wilson said that boat rental season starts in March. He put forth the idea of giving boat-renters a discount if they have taken a boater safety class.
  - For paddle boats (kayaks/paddle boards) – Commissioner Wilson Hunter did not have a report this month.
- e. Public Information –
- Schedule, tours, media spokespersons, branding, Chambers of Commerce, email directory – Commissioner Goff reported that *The Pilot* publishers worked with the LWMC to produce last Lake Wylie map. She showed an example of a foldable, laminated map that includes numbers to call and advertising space. Commissioner Wilson is putting together a similar such map for his company. Commissioners Goff and Wilson are to coordinate on this matter.

## **Item 15 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.