



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 Debi Chacharon (York County)
Commissioner Dan Hartley (Gaston County)

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Hunter Wilson (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)

Staff Present: 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

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

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Brennan asked if any changes need to be made to the March 26, 2018 minutes. Secretary Treasurer Bryant moved to approve the March 26, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Mullane 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 April 23, 2018 agenda. Vice Chairman Hegarty moved to adopt the April 23 agenda. Commissioner Hartley 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 was not present. Officer Doug Hord reported that the new SONAR equipment has been installed on the GCPD boat.

York County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) – No report was given.

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

NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) – Officer Walker reported that the NCWRC will start their water patrol in the next couple of weeks.

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

US Coast Guard – No report was given.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – Ray Webber reported to the group. He reported that the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be on the water this weekend. David Washer, who was present at the meeting, is another member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Mr. Webber spoke about the Coast Guard Auxiliary assisting with checking buoys. Mr. Washer has experience with locating and assessing buoys. Commissioner Goff reported that she received a matrix, map, and location description of all NC buoys from NCWRC.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – Dave Ferguson reported that they were able to use one of Commissioner Wilson’s rental boats while sampling. This helped his team a great deal and he expressed thanks to Commissioner Wilson. Mr. Ferguson talked about their sampling process and reminded the group that PALC1 (Palisades) and PALC10 (Snug Harbor Cove – Palisades) will be taken off the sampling list. Chairman Brennan said he may call Mr. Rusty Rozzelle to talk about the sedimentation issue on Lake Wylie. Commissioner Goff addressed Mr. Ferguson and said that having extra eyes and ears on the lake, with regard to sedimentation, is appreciated.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

- Lake level: 97.0’ (target level: 97.0’)
- Low inflow protocol: Normal (as of February 16, 2018).
- No dredge permits have been submitted or approved in the past month.
- Mr. Lawson introduced John Bradley, a new Duke Energy Lake Services staff member.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – No report was given.

Item 6 – No Wake Zone Application Presentation – York County

This item was withdrawn by the applicants.

Item 7 – Follow up: Yachtsman Marina Request for Safety Buoys

Mike Roland presented to the group on behalf of Jim Trautwein and Yachtsman Marina. Vice Chairman Hegarty made a site visit to the Yachtsman location and made his recommendation to the rest of the Marine Commission. Vice Chairman Hegarty reported that the CMPD does not support placing the buoy. Vice Chairman Hegarty moved that a no wake buoy be placed on right side of island, between the island and boat dock. Secretary Treasurer Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion: Chairman Brennan commented that the LWMC is being consistent with recommendations made in the past for safety buoys placed near Sadler Island. He added when the LWMC submits the request to NCWRC, the Marine Commission can suggest where the buoy should be placed. LWMC will make a recommendation to NCWRC. Chairman Brennan stated that NCWRC may or may not approve this recommendation. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Item 8 – Follow up Presentation from Duke Energy: Allen Steam Station – Lined Retention Basin New Outfall Project

Elizabeth Glenn addressed the Marine Commission. She said that for this project, Duke Energy will install a turbidity curtain. That will be the first best management practice (BMP), then a silt fence will be added. The silt fence will track construction to the edge of Lake Wylie. It will be installed or set up in phases to control sedimentation and Duke Energy will assess its effectiveness throughout process.

Chairman Brennan asked about the grade of the land and why Duke Energy would not just put out more silt fence than needed at the start. Ms. Glenn said that the grade in question is not steep. Vice Chairman Hegarty asked what happens if silt passes through the silt fence. Ms. Glenn said that Duke Energy would remove and remediate any silt build up and noted that this project will be very closely monitored. Chairman Brennan visited Allen Steam Station a month or so ago and spoke with the plant manager. The manager said there should be no more coal ash build up in the basins. Any additional coal ash will go in the permitted and lined land fill, but not into the basins. Commissioner Mullane asked how long it would take to fill up the permitted and lined land fill. Ms. Glenn said she did not know. Ms. Glenn closed by saying that Duke Energy is waiting for one more approval on this project. She asked if the LWMC had any further questions. The Marine Commissioners did not ask any other questions. The LWMC supports the proposed Allen Steam Station construction.

Item 9 – Additional Water Sampling Sites

Commissioner Goff reported on this topic. The LWMC would like to establish two locations where sampling can occur so water quality data can accumulate and be tracked over time. The Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation recommended that one site could be at the Torrance Creek Cove outlet and the other at the Little Alison sandbar. Adding a sampling site at Ebenezer Park was also discussed. There was discussion about public beaches and swimming areas. Commissioner Goff said that the LWMC would want, for both sites, testing for bacteria (fecal coliform and E. Coli), nutrients (nitrate/nitrite, nitrogen, phosphorus, ammonia-nitrogen), and other (chlorophyll and turbidity), and not for metals. Commissioner Goff moved that the LWMC contract with Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) to add two sites to their Lake Wylie sampling schedule. One new site should be in Torrance Creek and the other should be between Goat Island and Ebenezer Park. Sampling these sites should begin in July 2018 and should include testing for bacteria, nutrients, chlorophyll, and turbidity for both sites. Commissioner Mullane seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote taken and approved unanimously.

Item 10 – Riversweep Planning Update

Commissioner Goff reported that planning for Riversweep 2018 is going smoothly. The planning committee will forgo their May meeting and reconvene in June. They would like to revise the Riversweep public service announcement (PSA) video. The video would be a 30 second spot for radio and TV. The committee found a video designer, Rooster Fish Productions, to help create a new look for the PSA. They Riversweep planning committee will request that some of the Riversweep carry-over budget go towards this video. Commissioner Goff forecasted that they may request funds from the LWMC. Chairman Brennan suggested that the committee see how much it costs at the end of production. Commissioner Goff added that the quote from Rooster Fish Productions is at \$2,000 for the PSA video.

Shirts and Caps – Vice Chairman Hegarty relayed that he is waiting on a final quote for Riversweep t-shirts and caps. Commissioner Goff mentioned assessing the quantity of shirts. A recommendation will be made at the May meeting about how many shirts and caps to order this year. Chairman Brennan suggested that \$5,000 be allocated to Riversweep for FY 19. Vice Chairman Hegarty added that TowBoatUS has agreed to help with Riversweep again this year.

Item 11 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Bryant provided the Treasurer’s report. She gave an overview of the LWMC financials as of March 31, 2018. For the current fiscal year, as of April 6, Mecklenburg County is paid for Quarters 1-3 (through March 31, 2018) in the amount of \$18,750. Invoices for Quarter 4 (April 1 – June 30) have been sent to Mecklenburg and York counties, and Gaston County is fully paid for the current fiscal year. For next fiscal year (FY 19), funds are in the process of being requested from each county.

Budget Committee – Chairman Brennan reported that he asked Commissioners Goff, Hartley, and Mullane to serve on this year’s budget committee. They all agreed to do so. Ms. Parker will coordinate with the budget committee to set up a conference call.

Item 12 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman’s Brennan report was as follows:

- With Commissioner Mullane, hosted a luncheon for marina owners Ralph Dickson (Belmont Riverside Marina) and Tony Quinn (Pier 49 Marina) to meet Ben Solomon of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission; he oversees of the North Carolina Clean Marina program. He briefed them on and suggested they join the state Clean Marina program. Tailrace Marina and Harbortowne Marina owners/managers were invited but did not attend. Mr. Solomon is following up with them individually. It was noted that the LWMC Clean Marina program is almost completely aligned with NC’s Clean Marina program.
- Provided LWMC brochures to the offices of the Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce.
- Northern Law Center Update – The Belmont Rowing Club is adjusting the positioning of their proposed docks to allow for the topography along the shoreline at the site. The Belmont Fire Department officials are supportive of co-locating their fire boat with the Gaston County Police Department boat at the site if sufficient funds can be brought to bear.
- Scheduled a briefing on the LWMC for the “Schmoozers,” a local organization that meets monthly at the River Hills Marina, the Gaston County Commissioners on May 8, and the Lake Wylie Rotary Club also in May.
- Appointed Commissioners Mullane, Hartley, and Goff to the Budget Committee.

Commissioner Mullane requested that the group return to the Clean Marina conversation. He recommended that the LWMC work with NC to coordinate our Clean Marina programs. The LWMC’s program would need to include language about National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to match NC’s Clean Marina program. Commissioner Mullane moved that the LWMC add storm water management language to our Clean Marina program guidelines to be in line with the NC Clean Marina program. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote taken and approved unanimously.

Item 13 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

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 covered this in his report.
 - Electrical Current Monitors for Marina Waters – No report was given.
- Sedimentation (Policy, Presentations, Parity, and Education) – Commissioner Goff reported that York County will move ahead with hiring a consultant to review and help amend the County’s stormwater and erosion control ordinances. Catawba Riverkeeper Sam Perkins provided detailed revisions to the County’s Planning Director last fall, and we are finally seeing some movement on that initiative. These new ordinances will make York County Stormwater management requirements comparable to neighboring counties in NC, where sediment pollution is more effectively controlled.
- Invasive Species and Impacts of Native Plants on Shoreline and Water – Commissioner Mullane distributed an example of an agreement for working with a UNC Charlotte graduate student to research invasive species and impacts of native plants on the shoreline and water. The selected student would do research on this topic over the next few months. The student would work for the LWMC. Commissioner Mullane estimated it would take \$3,000 to have a student for 20 hours per week for 3 months, and that the LWMC would need to decide by next meeting. Chairman Brennan asked about the possible end point with the research. Commissioner Mullane said that would be discussed at the May meeting. He added that if the Marine Commission likes this idea, he can get into more of the details. Commissioner Goff asked if a site had been selected. Commissioner Mullane clarified that this would be more of a literature review, written in a way that is easy to understand.

The student would do the research but not execute or implement anything. Legal Counsel Clark said the sample agreement looks fine. Commissioner Mullane said he would get a job description written and distributed before the May meeting. This item will be revisited at the May meeting.

- o PCBs and Heavy Metals in Fish – No report was given.

b. Northern Law Center – Chairman Brennan covered this in his report.

c. Buoys

- o Buoy Maintenance – Legal Counsel Clark will prepare a contract with Terry Everhart for buoy maintenance.

d. Safety Programs

- o Life Jacket Awareness – Secretary Treasurer Bryant is working on pricing life jackets. Life jackets for older kids (up to 12) are \$10 per jacket. Life jackets for infants are more expensive. She estimated needing to order 20-25 life jackets in total. Commissioner Goff moved to allocate up to \$500 for Secretary Treasurer Bryant to purchase life jackets for children and infants to disperse to law enforcement personnel on Lake Wylie. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.
- o For Boat Rental Companies – No report was given.
- o For Paddle Boats (kayaks/paddle boards) – No report was given.

e. Public Information

- o Schedule, tours, media spokespersons, branding, Chambers of Commerce, email directory – Commissioner Goff is working on reformatting LWMC materials in advance of presentations to county commissions. She will have a draft ready for the group to review on Wednesday.

Secretary Treasurer Bryant is looking into getting another quote for insurance. This item will be revisited at the May meeting.

Item 15 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.