



Commissioners Present: Chairman Neil Brennan (Gaston County)
Secretary Treasurer Blanche Bryant (York County)
Commissioner Dan Mullane (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Dan Hartley (Gaston County)
Commissioner Hunter Wilson (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chairman Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Debi Chacharon (York County)
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)

Staff Present: Chris Clark, Legal Counsel; Emily Parker, Administrator

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

Item 1 – Welcome

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present. He welcomed several guests including two members of the US Coast Guard, the Chairman of the Lake Norman Marine Commission, and a Riversweep boat captain.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Brennan asked if any changes need to be made to the September 24, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Hartley moved to approve the September 24, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Mullane seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of Agenda

Chairman Brennan asked if any changes need to be made to the Oct 22, 2018 agenda. Secretary Treasurer Bryant moved to adopt the October 22, 2018 agenda. Commissioner Hartley seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Public Comment

None.

Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) – GCPD Officer Hamrick reported on behalf of CMPD Officer Joye. He said that the CMPD's new boat is on schedule. CMPD's new boat house is out for bid and should be completed next year.

Gaston County Police Department (GCPD) – Officer Hamrick reported that the GCPD is getting ready for a Veteran’s Day parade and several Christmas parades.

York County Sheriff’s Office (YCSO) – Sgt. Mabry reported that the YCSO personnel are getting ready for winter.

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

NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) – No report was given

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

US Coast Guard – Ensign Mike Long, Sector North Carolina -- Enforcement Division, along with Petty Officer Walker reported to the LWMC. Ensign Long said that they have been working with CMPD and were on the lake for nine days. During that time, they made 86 boat boardings, wrote 25 violations, made eight vessel terminations, and issued four BWIs. Ensign Long said that hopefully the Coast Guard will have two boats on the water next summer. Chairman Brennan asked if GCPD and YCSO have a breathalyzer on their boats. GCPD does and YCSO does not. Commissioner Hanks asked about the difference between the Coast Guard and local law enforcement. The Coast Guard can patrol freely in both North Carolina and South Carolina and the Coast Guard’s fines are civil (vs. criminal) and therefore come with a steeper cost.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – Mr. Ray Webber was not present, but he sent a report via email to Ms. Parker and Ms. Parker forwarded it to the LWMC.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – Mr. Dave Ferguson reported that LUESA staff sampled on September 24. Mr. Ferguson noted that the fecal coliform numbers were high in Brown’s Cove likely because of the presence of a large flock of ducks. They will sample next in mid-November, then every other month until May when they will switch back to sampling every month as the weather gets warmer. He noted that the Coast Guard Auxiliary conducted a boater safety training for LUESA staff and it was well-received. Sgt. Mabry added that Duke Energy installed a water sampling station in the YCSO boat house.

Duke Energy – No report was given.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation (CRF) – Mr. Brandon Jones reported 16,230 pounds of trash was removed from the lake during Riversweep 2018, down from last year’s approximately 29,000 pounds of trash removed.

Item 6 – 2019 Boat Show Preparation

Chairman Brennan noted that there is one more LWMC meeting before the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show (January 25-27, 2019). The LWMC has their booth location secured. He asked the Marine Commissioners to mark their calendars and think about when they can staff the booth. Ms. Parker will send out a staffing sign up form.

Item 7 – Riversweep 2018 Update

Chairman Brennan reviewed Commissioner Goff’s report on Riversweep 2018: The 16th annual Lake Wylie Riversweep was held on Saturday, October 6 under fair skies and warm temperatures. More than 600 volunteers and 50 boat captains, working from 12 sites around the lake, collected trash, litter, junk and debris that filled the equivalent of 6 dumpsters.

Here is an approximate tally:

526 bags of trash	21 plastic chairs	TV
74 tires (a low this year)	A car grill and bumper	Fish tank
2 dead animals	25-foot dock section	Boat seat
41 dock floats	Garage door and frame	2 rubber rafts
60 pieces of lumber	Satellite disk	Motorcycle helmet
17 50-gallon drums	Dumbbells	A ceramic Hare Krishna figure

Event highlights included a strong boat captain turn out (one of the highest participation rates); large groups participating for the first-time lifted volunteer numbers at more than half the sites; a 25% drop in the number of vehicle tires collected. The 2019 Riversweep will be held on Saturday, October 5. Mark your calendars.

Item 8 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Bryant reported that the LWMC has received payment for 1st and 2nd quarters from all three contributing counties.

Item 9 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Brennan reported the following:

- Northern Law Center Update: On October 1, the Belmont City Council approved the site plan submitted by the Belmont Rowing Club. The location of the law center boat dock was finalized the week of September 24 and is shown on the approved site plan.
- Riversweep: Chairman Brennan served as a Boat Captain. Forwarded the post-event press release and photos to the Catawba Lands Conservancy for their consideration of a story in their next newspaper.
- Chamber Events: Chairman Brennan attended one Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce event.

Item 10 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

Item 11 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

a. Water Quality

- Clean Marina/Clean Boating: Commissioner Mullane did not have a report. Chairman Brennan mentioned that the LWMC has bowed out of the Clean Marina program in North Carolina because the state has its own program. Marinas need to be re-certified every two years in North Carolina and every five years in South Carolina. The South Carolina program is not free, the North Carolina program is free. There are a few South Carolina marinas on Lake Wylie that need to or will need to be re-inspected. This topic should be discussed at the November meeting.

- Sedimentation – York County Stormwater Workshop: Commissioner Goff was not present to report, but provided a written report:

York County held a workshop (presentation) of the proposed Stormwater and Sediment Control Ordinance revisions. Originally enacted in 1990, the revisions seek to clarify confusing, overly detailed requirements, address stresses from explosive growth and development and citizen concerns, specifically mass grading, lack of enforcement and riparian buffers.

Revisions will focus on the following major areas:

1. Stormwater design manual
2. Enforcement
3. Appeals board
4. Performance guarantees
5. Riparian buffers
6. Lake and river emphasis
7. Mass grading

The first reading of the revised ordinance is targeted for a November York County Council meeting.

- Shoreline Plantings: Commissioner Mullane reported that he met with Leslie Vanden Henrik, District Manager, Mecklenburg County Soil and Water Conservation, to discuss this topic. They will meet again on Monday to continue the conversation. Commissioner Mullane noted that this project could be bigger than expected.
 - PCBs and Heavy Metals in Fish: Commissioner Hanks reported that in the studies he has seen, researchers grind up fish to test for heavy metals. It was noted that in fish, heavy metals are thought to be stored in their muscles. Mr. Dave Ferguson commented on testing fish, or a fish composite comprised of more than one fish, and that eating large fish from a lake is not usually recommended as they bio-accumulate toxins. Commissioner Hanks was curious about confirming where heavy metals are stored in fish and how we can break the food chain so PCBs do not get into the mud and therefore stop getting into fish. Mr. Ferguson mentioned a contact, Jeff Deberardinis, with North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ). Commissioner Hanks asked Mr. Ferguson for Mr. Deberardinis' contact information. Commissioner Hanks will do more research on this topic.
- b. Northern Law Center: Chairman Brennan covered this in the Chairman's report.
- c. Buoys
- Buoy Maintenance: Commissioner Wilson asked if a different strategy for identifying and resetting buoys is needed. It was reiterated that if out of place buoy in North Carolina, contact Mr. Everhart. If a buoy is out of place in South Carolina, it is best to consult with Sgt. Mabry.
- d. Safety Programs
- For Boat Rental Companies: Commissioner Wilson said that the majority of boat renters close for the fall and winter. He asked Ensign Long if the US Coast Guard can dictate that boat renters should follow certain boating rules. Ensign Long recommended using the Coast Guard Auxiliary for boater safety training and information dissemination. Chairman Brennan suggested disseminating basic boating Dos and Don'ts to every boat rental company on lake.

Mr. Ferguson asked about the waiver signing process to rent a boat from Commissioner Wilson's company. Commissioner Wilson said that prospective renters are supposed to download the waiver, watch a safety video online, take a 25-question exam, then upon passing, print off the certification. Once boat renters get to the marina, they hear a 15-minute safety speech about equipment, navigation, and safety hazards.

- For Paddle Boats (kayaks/paddle boards): Commissioner Wilson did not have anything further to report.

e. Public Information

- Media spokespersons, branding, Chambers of Commerce, email directory: Chairman Brennan reported that Commissioner Goff would like a new Lake Wylie pull up banner. There was discussion about ordering 600 whistles with the LWMC brand. It was mentioned that boat rags with clip is a popular giveaway item. Mr. Ferguson will find out cost information. Commissioner Goff will be asked to call Sgt. Mabry about whistle cost. This item will be revisited at the November meeting.

Item 12 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.