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**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Neil Brennan (Gaston County)  
Vice Chairman Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)  
Secretary Treasurer Blanche Bryant (York County)  
Commissioner Debi Chacharon (York County)  
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)  
Commissioner Dan Hartley (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Hunter Wilson (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)

**Commissioners Absent:** Commissioner Dan Mullane (Mecklenburg County)

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

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***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.*

**Meeting Minutes**

**Item 1 – Welcome**

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present. He also welcomed Sgt. Tommy Shankle from Mecklenburg County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Law Enforcement Division (<https://www.meckabc.com/Law-Enforcement/Law-Enforcement-Division>).

**Item 2 – Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Brennan asked if any changes need to be made to the October 22, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Hartley moved to approve the October 22, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Chacharon 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 November 26, 2018 agenda. He added that Sgt. Shankle’s report will be added at the end of Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports. Vice Chairman Hegarty moved to adopt the November 26, 2018 agenda as amended. Secretary Treasurer Bryant 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) – Officer Carey reported that the CMPD’s new boat should be ready around the last week of February 2019. Their new boat house will go out for bid in early December 2018. He noted that builders will start from scratch versus refurbishing the current boat house.

Gaston County Police Department (GCPD) – No report was given.

York County Sheriff’s Office (YCSO) – Sgt. Mabry reported that he taught a boating safety class two weeks ago. At first he was disappointed because only two people had registered for it. However, during the class he learned that the two teenage participants came up from Greenville, SC for the course because no such class was offered near Greenville. Sgt. Mabry learned that they have no water craft but are trying for their Boy Scout water safety merit badge. He was impressed by their interest in and dedication to boating safety. He noted that boating safety classes have been scheduled for March, April, and May 2019. The Tega Cay Police Department wants him to conduct another class for them in May 2019.

Sgt. Mabry mentioned that at the last LWMC meeting, there was discussion about Riversweep and tires being dumped into the lake. He invited Ms. Alysén Woodruff, Clean Community Coordinator with York County Solid Waste Collection and Recycling, to address the LWMC about waste disposal (including tires) in York County. Ms. Woodruff talked about the number of collection and recycling centers in York County, where household garbage goes, where recycling goes, and a few differences between waste disposal in Mecklenburg and York counties. She noted that York County will accept up to four passenger tires without rims per visit. Tires with rims left on are \$3 each to leave. Chairman Brennan asked Ms. Woodruff why people throw tires into the lake. She said she does not know or understand why because it is not hard to find a place to take tires in York County.

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

NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) – Sgt. Laton reported that NCWRC staff are focusing more on hunting at this time of the year. He mentioned that there will be a hearing at NCWRC headquarters in Raleigh on Thursday of this week about the proposed no wake buoys near the Yachtsman Marina. He noted on Saturday, December 8, Officer Sampson Parker will provide a duck hunting 101 class. Sgt. Laton will send Ms. Parker the flyer to distribute to the LWMC.

SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) – 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 – Mr. Ronnie Lawson reported that:

- Lake level: 99.1’ (target level: 97.0’)
- Low inflow protocol: Normal
- One (1) dredge permit has been approved for the new CMPD boat house.

Commissioner Goff asked if Duke Energy is receiving more calls about logs and debris in the water and if so, what is being done about removing debris. Mr. Lawson said Duke Energy will facilitate debris removal only if it is a navigation hazard. Commissioner Wilson had a call with a staff person at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Stormwater Services about dock maintenance and removal if docks get too old and dilapidated. In 2019 they will ride around the whole shoreline of Lake Wylie (~325 miles) and identify

docks and structures that are dilapidated and then send a letter to the homeowner. Duke Energy will send three letters to homeowners then turn it over to their legal team if there is no response.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation (CRF) – Mr. Brandon Jones is the new Catawba Riverkeeper. The LWMC and audience members gave him a round of applause. He reported that there is a large parcel (~475 acres) being developed on the South Fork. He will reach out to the developer to find out more about the project. Mr. Jones mentioned a development on Mountain Island Lake that is being handled in a responsible way regarding measures taken to keep sediment out of the lake during development. He plans to meet with that developer to find out what strategies and tactics they employ, and if they are transferable to other projects.

*(added agenda item)* Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Law Enforcement – Sgt. Tommy Shankle reported to the group for the first time. He gave an overview of the structure of the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board Law Enforcement. There are thirteen ABC agents for all of Mecklenburg County. Four agents cover Lake Wylie, Mountain Island Lake, and Lake Norman. Last summer was their first time patrolling on the lake. Their main focus is education about liquor laws in North Carolina. Sgt. Shankle will be present and available during the 2019 Boat Show. Chairman Brennan said that the LWMC can help disseminate their information if Sgt. Shankle has any to share. Vice Chairman Hegarty asked if his unit has citation power on the lake. Sgt. Shankle replied yes, but only in Mecklenburg County.

#### **Item 6 – "Shorescaping" Lake Wylie**

Commissioner Chacharon introduced Mr. Tom Dissington with York County. His presentation to the group was to build on intern Ella Wickliff's presentation and report on shorescaping with native plants. He shared a PowerPoint presentation on shorescaping and how to preserve shoreline without using rip rap or retaining walls. Mr. Dissington highlighted a shorescaping case study at Ebenezer Park and said it was a possible site for an ongoing shorescaping pilot program. He said it is not the only site, but it is a viable one as it is York County property and has been approved for this purpose by Duke Energy. There was mention of forming a LWMC shorescaping sub-committee to further investigate shorescaping options and possible partnerships to get this work underway. Chairman Brennan suggested that this sub-committee could engage and build partnerships local gardening clubs to build interest and possibly spread out the work. Commissioner Hanks suggested that they identify one shorescaping site and implement the program, then find shorescaping sites in the other two counties. He said that the northern law enforcement center in Belmont would possibly be a good site, as well as at the River District development. Commissioner Goff said that more information is needed about maintaining a shorescaping site. Another consideration was about the LWMC's involvement over time. It was suggested that the LWMC could stay involved as a convener and educator. Chairman Brennan asked for show of hands in support of the shorescaping sub-committee proceeding with gathering information and working through details. The LWMC was in support of the continuation of this work.

#### **Item 7 – 2019 Boat Show Preparation & Staffing**

Chairman Brennan contacted former LWMC Chairman Brad Thomas about helping the LWMC get set up at the Charlotte Convention Center for the 2019 Boat Show. Mr. Thomas agreed to assist. Commissioner Goff moved that Mr. Thomas be compensated for his time related to LWMC booth set up at the 2019 Boat Show. Vice Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. On the topic of giveaways at the Boat Show, Commissioner Goff commented that safety whistles are a good and useful item to give away. Sgt. Mabry and Commissioner Goff commented

on pricing for safety whistles. Each whistle costs around \$1.00 and includes one color printing on one side. Commissioner Hanks moved that Commissioner Goff proceed with ordering 1,000 safety whistles to use as giveaways at the 2019 Boat Show. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Chairman Brennan brought up the cost of printing carbon monoxide danger posters to distribute at the Boat Show. Printing 200 posters would cost \$125. Vice Chairman Hegarty moved that Chairman Brennan find out if the LWMC can get 200 carbon monoxide danger posters for free. However, if this is not an option, Chairman Brennan should proceed with paying to have them printed. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. Commissioner Wilson raised the idea of people signing up for a drawing to win a prize instead of paying for printed materials. He suggested that spending money on a drawing prize would be an effective way to get contact information from more people. Commissioner Hanks said that a brochure that captures the difference in boating-related laws between North and South Carolina is a great giveaway. CMPD Officer Carey said that they would review the NC/SC handout for accuracy from a law enforcement standpoint. Officer Hord with the GCPD is the keeper of that handout and can have them printed. Chairman Brennan noted that he will be at the Boat Show on Saturday and Sunday. Secretary Treasurer Bryant said she will check with Mr. Terry Everhart about operating SPLASH at the Boat Show

**Item 8 – Impact of Sale of T-Bones on the Lake on Riversweep**

Chairman Brennan brought up the sale of T-Bones on the Lake and asked if this turnover has direct impact on the work of the LWMC or LWMC stakeholders. There was little substantive comment on the matter.

**Item 9 – LWMC Bylaws Review**

Chairman Brennan asked that each Marine Commissioner review the bylaws and come prepared with any questions or comments to the January meeting.

**Item 10 – 2018 Goals Review**

The LWMC reviewed each of the 2018 Goals and determined if they are done, in progress, or not done.

2018 GOALS	ASSIGNED TO	DATES (Nov 26, 2018)
<b>Public Relations</b>		
1. Continue to recruit media spokespeople, in addition to Paul Cameron. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Continue cultivating relationship with WSOC, Spectrum, and others.</li> </ul>	<i>Commissioner Goff to lead PR efforts and involve other Marine Commissioners as needed.</i>	Paul Cameron is retiring. Need to look for media to put out safety bulletins before big weekends.
2. Arrange radio interview on Charlotte Talks (90.7 WFAE, local NPR station).		Not done.
3. Plan and provide tours of the lake involving law enforcement, local elected officials, local government staff, media, and others. Between April-June 2018		Not done.
4. Enhance public relations (PR) presence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Expand media contact and social influencers list(s). Including joining chambers of commerce.</li> </ul>		<u>Commissioner Goff moved to renew the Montcross Chamber membership for 2019. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. There was no</u>

2018 GOALS	ASSIGNED TO	UPDATES (Nov 26, 2018)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop PR schedule and content for different times of the year (e.g., county reports, boating safety, Riversweep)</li> </ul>		<p><u>discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.</u></p> <p><u>Vice Chairman Hegarty moved to continue membership in 2019 with the Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce. Secretary Treasurer Bryant seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.</u></p>
<p>5. <b>New:</b> Build and cultivate a mail and/or email list of lake front properties, Riversweep volunteers, HOA presidents, etc to more easily and effectively communicate the LWMC’s mission, about lake issues, etc.</p>	<p><i>Commissioner Wilson</i></p>	<p>Not done.</p>
<p>6. <b>New:</b> Investigate branding program for Lake Wylie</p>	<p><i>Commissioner Wilson</i></p>	<p>Not done.</p>
<p>7. <b>New:</b> Sponsor, sanction, promote, and/or approve other events related to Lake Wylie.</p>	<p><i>Commissioner Wilson</i></p>	<p>Not done.</p>
<b>Water Quality</b>		
8. Sedimentation/Runoff		
<p>a. Arrange presentations by water quality experts (i.e., Rusty Rozzelle) to planning and zoning boards and the three county commissions to raise awareness about sedimentation/runoff issues.</p>	<p><i>Chairman Brennan &amp; Vice Chairman Hegarty</i></p>	<p>Chairman Brennan requested an audience with Gaston County Commissioner, but the request was turned down.</p>
<p>b. Achieve parity among Gaston, Mecklenburg, and York counties related to stormwater runoff regulations, fines, etc.</p>	<p><i>Chairman Brennan</i></p>	<p>Not done.</p>
<p>c. Create and distribute sedimentation/runoff educational materials and presentations for HOAs, local elected officials, water users, developers, and others.</p>	<p><i>Commissioner Goff, et al.</i></p>	<p>Not done.</p>
<p>d. <b>New:</b> Clarify and articulate LWMC boundaries and position about sedimentation.</p>	<p><i>Chairman Brennan &amp; Vice Chairman Hegarty</i></p>	<p>Not done.</p>
<p>9. <b>New:</b> Understand the impacts of native plants on shoreline and water.</p>	<p><i>Commissioner Mullane</i></p>	<p>Done.</p>

<b>2018 GOALS</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>UPDATES (Nov 26, 2018)</b>
10. <b>New:</b> Collaborate with local universities and other agencies to investigate how and why PCBs, heavy metals, and drugs get into fish in the lake and how the cycle of contamination can be broken. Possible research project.	<i>Commissioner Hanks</i>	Not done.
11. <b>New:</b> Develop anti-litter initiative, to include having an adequate number of trash cans and trash pick up at public boat ramps, etc.	<i>Commissioner Goff</i>	Not done.
<b>Safety</b>		
12. <b>New:</b> Develop new safety programs. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ life jacket awareness and/or availability</li> <li>○ for boat rental companies</li> <li>○ for paddle boats (kayaks/paddle boards)</li> </ul>	<i>Secretary Treasurer Bryant &amp; Commissioner Wilson</i>	In progress.
13. <b>New:</b> Determine best way for the LWMC to be involved in the Clean Marina programs in NC and SC.	<i>Commissioner Mullane &amp; Chairman Brennan</i>	In progress.
<b>Law Enforcement Center</b>		
14. Pursue establishment of a Northern Law Enforcement Center.	<i>Chairman Brennan</i>	Not done.
<b>Administration</b>		
15. Define role of new Executive Director.	<i>Chairman Brennan &amp; Vice Chairman Hegarty</i>	Not done.

#### **Item 11 – 2019 Goal Setting**

Ms. Parker will send an email to the group with January date options.

#### **Item 12 – Treasurer’s Report**

Secretary Treasurer Bryant reported that second quarter funds were requested and have come in. Third quarter funds will be requested from each of the three contributing counties in January 2019.

#### **Item 13 – Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Brennan reported the following:

- Clean Marinas: The NCWRC advised that to date, only Tailrace Marina and Belmont Riverside Marinas have opted in to the state Clean Marina program. Negotiations continue with Harbortowne and Pier 49 marinas.

- News Stations: Chairman Brennan proposed to local FOX, ABC, and NBC stations that they consider airing Public Safety Announcements (PSAs) in advance of the major boating holidays next year. He is awaiting a response.
- Northern Law Center: Chairman Brennan noted that there is nothing further to report at this time.

**Item 14 – Clerk’s Report**

- Proposed 2019 Meeting Schedule: Ms. Parker presented the draft proposed 2019 LWMC meeting schedule. She noted that the Red Fez Club has agreed to provide the Mecklenburg County space in 2019. She is awaiting response from the City of Belmont (Gaston County) and the Clover Community YMCA (York County). Vice Chairman Hegarty moved to approve the 2019 meeting schedule as proposed. Commissioner Hanks seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Item 15 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports**

- a. Water Quality
  - Clean Marina/Clean Boating: Chairman Brennan had nothing further to report.
  - Sedimentation: Commissioner Goff noted that there is nothing further to report.
  - Shoreline Plantings: Commissioner Hanks noted that there is nothing further to report.
  - PCBs and Heavy Metals in Fish: Commissioner Hanks noted that there is nothing further to report.
- b. Northern Law Center: Chairman Brennan had nothing further to report.
- c. Buoys
  - Buoy Maintenance: Commissioner Wilson reported that he received reports about a few misplaced buoys, but no action is required.
- d. Safety Programs
  - For Boat Rental Companies: Commissioner Wilson noted that there is nothing further to report.
  - For Paddle Boats (kayaks/paddle boards): Commissioner Wilson noted that there is nothing further to report.
- e. Public Information
  - Media spokespersons, branding, Chambers of Commerce, email directory: Commissioner Goff noted that there is nothing further to report.

**Item 16 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.