



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 Hunter Wilson (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)
Commissioner Dan Hartley (Gaston County)

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Dan Mullane (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)

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

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.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Brennan asked if any changes need to be made to the March 25, 2019 minutes. Vice Chairman Hegarty moved to approve the March 25, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Hartley 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 April 15, 2019 agenda. Vice Chairman Hegarty moved to adopt the April 15, 2019 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) – Officer Joye reported on the woman that went missing in Lake Wylie. He said they retrieved her body and it was determined to be a suicide. Officer Joye will be part of the York County Sheriff’s Office dive training next week.

Gaston County Police Department (GCPD) – Officer Hamrick reported that they took their small boat to be serviced and found that the timing belt needed to be replaced. He will be involved in training next week as well.

York County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) – Sgt. Mabry reported that because of flooding and high water this past weekend, the YCSO dive team received calls for assistance. He will be a Lake Murray in Lexington County, South Carolina next week for a 3-day dive training. Approximately fifty divers will participate from South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

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

Mecklenburg County ABC Board Law Enforcement – Sgt. Shankle reported that his team will soon add new staff to their lake patrol unit. He said that during boating season they will plan to spend two weekends a month on Lake Wylie and two weekends a month on Lake Norman.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) – Sgt. Laton reported that the NCWRC will conduct training on May 15 for testing for alcohol intoxication.

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

US Coast Guard (USCG) – No report was given.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA) – Mr. Ray Webber reported that the US Coast Guard Auxiliary have not been on the water yet this season. He reviewed different training sessions that the USCGA have put on and have coming up. Commissioner Wilson suggested letting boat rental companies know about USCGA training opportunities. Mr. Webber will get Commissioner Wilson information to distribute to boat rental companies. Ms. Parker forwarded Mr. Webber's report to the LWMC.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – Mr. Matthew Phillips provided the March water quality report. He noted that the South Fork was murky because of recent rains. They did not sample in Lake Wylie in April but will sample in May. The River District development has been delayed because of weather. He noted that the bathymetric study (meaning submarine topography, or the depths and shapes of underwater terrain) on Brown's Cove will need to be re-done. North Carolina has required the Allen Steam Plant to dig out and remove the coal ash that is stored there. This removal process will likely require expanded water quality testing by LUESA staff. Chairman Brennan commented on Allen Steam Plant staff being concerned about further leeching of toxins into the water when the coal ash is removed.

Duke Energy – No report was given.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation (CRF) – Mr. Brandon Jones commented on the coal ash ruling. He met with Joseph Alm, Gaston Natural Resources Department Administrator earlier today. Mr. Alm has two staff working with him, which means they can provide limited coverage and oversight regarding sedimentation and other water-related issues. The CRF plans to support Gaston County's work efforts. Mr. Jones said that at 6:00 pm this evening, York County had the second reading of its revised storm water ordinance. He noted that the new CRF Executive Director started today. His name is [John Searby](#).

Item 6 – Wake Boarding Presentation

Mr. Robby Maschhaupt with Carolina Water Sports presented to the LWMC. He spoke about the Water Sports Industry Association’s (WSIA) [Pass the Handle](#) events on Lake Norman to get new boaters trained and into water sports. One of WSIA’s goals is to change the culture of how wake boarders and wake surfers conduct themselves on the water. They want wake boarders and wake surfers to be better citizens, which means no loud music and not staying in one cove or area all day (causes wake and noise nuisance). Mr. Maschhaupt noted that Lake Norman is known as one of worst places in the country for nuisance boating. Commissioner Wilson mentioned connecting Mr. Maschhaupt with Lake Norman Marine Commission Executive Director. Chairman Brennan asked law enforcement if wake boarding is a problem on Lake Wylie. Officer Joye said it is in some areas. Commissioner Wilson asked law enforcement if they stop wake boarders who are being a nuisance. Officer Joye said they do. Sgt. Mabry noted that they receive a lot of complaints from the Crowder’s Creek area. Chairman Brennan suggested that Mr. Maschhaupt coordinate with Camp Thunderbird. Mr. Maschhaupt said he is offering his time to the LWMC and other groups to educate people and boaters on best practices. Commissioner Chacharon asked if wake boarding causes a sedimentation issue and Mr. Maschhaupt said it does cause an issue. Wake boarders should be a minimum of 200’ from shoreline. Mr. Maschhaupt will send information to put on the LWMC website. Commissioner Wilson commented on how the dock building industry has moved away from floating docks and has modified how it builds and installs docks. Duke Energy will not approve floating docks. Commissioner Hartley asked why some wake boarding boats have rear-facing lights. There was discussion about different kinds of boat lights (navigation lights, underwater lights) and what kind of lighting is mandatory and related rules.

Item 7 – RiverPointe Pipe Project Update

Vice Chairman Hegarty reported that he is working with Row Boat and the President of the RiverPointe homeowners association (HOA) to look at the site. A question they have is if rip rap will be put at the culvert. Vice Chairman Hegarty is trying to set up a meeting with the HOA and the water/sewer utility company. The replacement pipe is already underwater with stone on top of it. The stone will be covered with dirt. He reported that the banks will be sloped and seeded with grass seed. This project is supposed to finish in two weeks. Vice Chairman Hegarty will continue to monitor the situation.

Item 8 – LWMC Mission Statement Review

Chairman Brennan relayed that Commissioner Goff requested that this item be tabled until the May meeting.

Item 9 – 2019 Goals Review

Chairman Brennan presented this agenda item and walked through each of the 2019 goals. The LWMC commented on the status of each goal.

2019 GOALS	ASSIGNED TO	Status (as of April 15)
Public Relations (PR)		
1. NEW: Establish a PR standing committee. Come to agreement on group communication and meeting frequency, etc. <i>Committee members: Commissioner Goff, Commissioner Wilson, and Commissioner Hartley</i>	Commissioner Goff to lead PR standing committee	In progress.

2019 GOALS	ASSIGNED TO	Status (as of April 15)	
2. NEW: PR standing committee to develop a PR plan for the LWMC. PR plan to include, but is not limited to:	PR standing committee	Status not provided in Commissioner Goff's absence.	
a. Cultivate relationships with local TV stations.	PR standing committee and others as needed	In progress. Chairman Brennan met with local Fox station to help promote safety, etc.	
b. Arrange radio interview on Charlotte Talks (90.7 WFAE, local NPR station).			
c. Organize and provide a tour of Lake Wylie for local elected officials and local government staff, with law enforcement and possibly media between April-June 2019.			
d. Enhance public relations (PR) presence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand media contact and social influencers list(s). Including joining chambers of commerce. ○ Develop PR schedule and content for different times of the year (e.g., county reports, boating safety, Riversweep) 		Status not provided in Commissioner Goff's absence	
e. 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.			
f. Partner with, promote, and/or approve other events related to Lake Wylie.			
Water Quality (WQ)			
3. NEW: Establish a WQ standing committee. Come to agreement on group communication and meeting frequency, etc. <i>Committee members: Commissioner Mullane, Commissioner Hanks, and Commissioner Chacharon</i>	Commissioner _____ to lead WQ standing committee	In progress.	
4. NEW: Develop a plan/strategy in conjunction with three contributing counties to combat sedimentation. Sedimentation plan to include, but is not limited to:	WQ Standing Committee and others as needed	Not done.	
a. NEW: Meet with NC/SC state legislators to educate them on sedimentation issues.		Not done.	
b. Arrange presentations by water quality experts (i.e., Rusty Rozzelle) to planning and zoning boards and the three county		Not done.	

2019 GOALS	ASSIGNED TO	Status (as of April 15)
commissions to raise awareness about sedimentation/runoff issues.		
c. Achieve parity among Gaston, Mecklenburg, and York counties related to stormwater runoff regulations, fines, etc.		Not done.
d. Create and distribute sedimentation/runoff educational materials and presentations for HOAs, local elected officials, water users, developers, and others.		Not done.
e. Clarify and articulate LWMC boundaries and position about sedimentation.		Not done.
5. Communicate the impacts of native plants on shoreline and water.	WQ Standing Committee and others as needed	Not done.
6. NEW: Proposed Northern Law Center site as potential for shorescaping.		In progress.
7. NEW: Set up tour of Allen Steam Plant and Catawba Nuclear Plant.	Chairman Brennan	Done: Allen Steam Plant tour. In progress: Catawba Nuclear Station tour to be set for June. Details are forthcoming.
8. Collaborate with local universities and other agencies to study the aquatic food chain and understand how PCBs are getting into fish.	Commissioner Hanks	Not done.
Safety		
9. NEW: Establish a Safety standing committee. Come to agreement on group communication and meeting frequency, etc. <i>Committee members: Secretary Treasurer Bryant, Commissioner Wilson, Chairman Brenna, and Commissioner Mullane</i>	Secretary Treasurer Bryant to lead Safety standing committee	In progress.
10. Develop safety programs, including but not limited to:	Secretary Treasurer Bryant	---
a. Poll law enforcement to see if the life jacket campaign was effective and if they need more life jackets	Secretary Treasurer Bryant	Done: No more life jackets are needed.
b. NEW: Meet with Lake Norman Marine Commission leadership on safety issues and strategies	Secretary Treasurer Bryant and others as needed	Chairman Brennan to connect Secretary Treasurer Bryant with LNMC leadership.
c. Developing safety communication piece for boat rental companies and for paddle boat rental (kayaks/paddle boards)	Commissioner Wilson	In progress.
d. Work to get safety video posted to the LWMC website and elsewhere	Commissioner Wilson	Not done.

2019 GOALS	ASSIGNED TO	Status (as of April 15)
11. Determine best way for the LWMC to be involved in the Clean Marina program in SC.	Commissioner Mullane & Chairman Brennan	Done. Secretary Treasurer Bryant said SCDNR says they have no charge for SC marinas. Chairman Brennan will look into it.*
Law Enforcement Center		
12. Continue support of a Northern Law Enforcement Center.	Chairman Brennan	In progress.
Administration		
13. Define an Executive Director job description.	Chairman Brennan & Vice Chairman Hegarty	Chairman Brennan noted that members of the LWMC handle many of the duties that an Executive Director would handle and all is going well. Commissioner Chacharon commented that Chairman Brennan has done a great job as Chairman.

**Note: Further investigation revealed that the South Carolina Clean Marina Program fees are:*

*New Certification \$250
Re-Certification \$100
Workshop \$50 (will apply to New Certification)
Flag \$90*

Item 10 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Bryant reported the following:

- Mecklenburg and York counties are paid through Q3 (March 31) and Gaston County is paid fully for the year.
- Ms. Parker sent invoices to Mecklenburg and York counties for Q4 last week.
- FY 20 funding requests have been submitted to each of the three contributing counties.
- Commissioners Goff, Hartley, and Mullane are serving again as the budget subcommittee.
- Budget subcommittee met once and will meet again in early May to refine the FY 20 draft budget.
- The FY 20 draft budget will be presented to the LWMC at the May 20 meeting and approved at the June 24 meeting.

Item 11 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Brennan reported the following:

- Northern Law Center: The final land survey at the site for the Gaston County Police Department and the Belmont Fire Department boat house is complete. Commissioner Hartley and Chairman Brennan visited the site to establish the elevations at the point where the gangway to the boat house is to be located. Chairman Brennan provided to the Belmont Rowing Club (BRC) the final drawings for the boat house and the required descriptive wording to be included in the FERC application. The BRC

will provide a completed FERC application to the City of Belmont for the City to submit to the government.

- Water Quality: Chairman Brennan followed up with North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) regarding the disconnect between the standards the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation (CRF) cited at the February LWMC meeting and those NCDEQ uses. Catawba Riverkeeper Brandon Jones was referring not to a standard but to Health and Human Services (HHS) reference values that predicts a risk of one in a million of causing cancer if the value is exceeded. Riverkeeper Jones agreed that those HHS reference values are used for information and education and are not enforceable.
- Meetings: Chairman Brennan attended a Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce function attended also by City of Belmont, Gaston County, and North Carolina state officials. He met with local FOX 46 TV station officials to arrange for public safety announcements prior to major holidays and Riversweep coverage.

Item 12 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker reminded those present that the next LWMC meeting will be on Monday, May 20 in Belmont. The May meeting is scheduled a week earlier than usual to avoid the Memorial Day holiday.

Item 13 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- a. Water Quality
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating: Chairman Brennan had nothing further to report.
 - Sedimentation: No report was given.
 - Shoreline Plantings: Commissioner Hanks had nothing further to report.
 - PCBs and Heavy Metals in Fish: Commissioner Hanks had nothing further to report.
- b. Buoy Maintenance: Commissioner Hanks reported that he received a quote from Walsh Marine for approximately \$3,000 for buoys. Ms. Parker will send Commissioner Hanks the invoice from the last time the LWMC ordered buoys, likely in 2017. Sgt. Mabry said that SCDNR is experimenting with a concrete pyramid-shaped buoy. At next meeting, he will report how they are holding up. Sgt. Laton said he would check with his NCWRC buoy sources on cost and manufacturer. Secretary Treasurer Bryant moved to authorize Commissioner Hanks to spend up to \$3,500 on purchasing buoys. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Hartley asked about the cost to relocate buoys. Ms. Parker will check on the LWMC’s agreement with Terry Everhart. Vice Chairman Hegarty commented on the timeline for ordering buoys, since boating season has almost arrived. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.
- c. Safety Programs
 - For Boat Rental Companies: Commissioner Wilson reported that after the last LWMC meeting he left a voicemail with NCWRC staff about a boating safety video. They spoke and Commissioner Wilson explained that they discussed making short online training courses. The NCWRC staff person was thrilled to hear from Commissioner Wilson about this effort. Commissioner Wilson placed a call with the vice president of a production company that produces these courses. At that point, the vice president had not gotten approval from his supervisor to proceed. The NCWRC staff person would like to proceed.
 - For Paddle Boats (kayaks/paddle boards): Commissioner Wilson had nothing further to report.
- d. Public Relations
 - Website Updates: Commissioner Goff was not present to report.

Chairman Brennan mentioned that the first Riversweep planning meeting was held in April. The planning committee is working on verifying sites and site captains. Vice Chairman Hegarty said that the Riversweep t-shirt supply has been depleted. Vice Chairman Hegarty moved that the LWMC approve spending up to \$5,000 to replenish Riversweep t-shirts. Commissioner Hanks seconded the motion. Discussion: this expenditure would come out of the FY20 budget. Vice Chairman Hegarty anticipates that this cost could be closer to \$4,000 than \$5,000. The vote taken and approved unanimously.

Mecklenburg County Vice Chairwoman Elaine Powell was present, and she addressed the LWMC. She commented that the LWMC's service to the lake and community is so valuable. She thanked Chairman Brennan for his outstanding work with the LWMC, and for his efforts to re-establish the Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission (MILMC). Vice Chairwoman Powell talked about the installation of 6,000 grass carp at Blythe Landing. The fish were released to combat hydrilla in Lake Norman. She said if you see hydrilla in Lake Wylie, contact Dr. Brett Hartis with Duke Energy. She would like to join the LWMC when they tour the Catawba Nuclear Station. Vice Chairwoman Powell commented that she is very engaged in all things water and environmental issues. She mentioned hot spots in southeast for water quantity issues. Lake Norman, Mountain Island Lake, and Lake Wylie are listed as water quantity hotspots or areas of concern. She mentioned the well water testing Brandon Jones talked about at the last LWMC meeting. Mr. Jones noted that there will be a presentation on Thursday night at Mooresville High School at 6 pm to talk about well water testing results. On the topic of Riversweep t-shirts, she suggested partnering with [REI](#) to possibly reduce the cost of t-shirts. She thanked the LWMC and said that elected officials cannot do their jobs without advisory committees such as the LWMC.

Item 14 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.