



Commissioners Present: Chairman Neil Brennan (Gaston 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)
Commissioner Dan Mullane (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chairman Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg 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 April 15, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Hanks moved to approve the April 15, 2019 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 May 20, 2019 agenda. Commissioner Hartley noted an amendment for the agenda – after agenda Item 6, include a Riversweep Update from Commissioner Goff. Commissioner Hartley moved to adopt the May 20, 2019 agenda as amended. Commissioner Goff 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 about recent drownings and CMPD not being called as part of the rescue team. He commented that local law enforcement agencies may have experienced turnover and therefore have new personnel that may not be aware of the policy to let all area law enforcement know to respond when a lake-related call comes in. He spoke with Charlotte Fire Department (CFD) and CFD will host luncheon and invite all local law enforcement agencies to talk about how to work together. He added that this is not about infringing on territory, and it is about helping each other and saving lives. Officer Joye said that he would like to request funds from the LWMC for dive equipment. The new CMPD officers coming in will need dive gear and they would like to have the same dive equipment on each boat. Officer Joye spoke to the dive equipment company and the company will honor the same price as previously charged. Commissioner Hanks moved to support CMPD’s request for a second set of dive equipment. Commissioner Chacharon seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously. There was discussion about the Fox News TV spots to raise awareness about National Safe Boating Week. Officer Joye will appear in one of these spots. They will take a camera crew and reporter out on a pontoon boat to showcase the beauty of lake and being safe while boating and swimming in the lake. Commissioner Goff drafted a press release about boaters wearing lifejackets and watching their speed.

Gaston County Police Department (GCPD) – Officer Hamrick introduced GCPD Sgt. Eric Knupp. Sgt. Knupp started with the GCPD in 2003 and was originally assigned to lake enforcement. He is interested in Lake Wylie and uses the lake recreationally. The GCPD held a training this month using underwater SONAR equipment. Both of GCPD boats are ready to be out on the water. Memorial Day weekend marks the start of GCPD lake patrol season. Officer Hamrick requested funds from the LWMC to purchase image stabilizing binoculars. Officer Hamrick distributed a handout that provided information about GCPD’s request for binoculars. Commissioner Goff moved that the LWMC provide funds for two sets of binoculars, per GCPD’s request. Commissioner Mullane seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

York County Sheriff’s Office (YCSO) – Sgt. Mabry reported that he recently attended the National Law Enforcement Week in Washington, DC. He noted that over 30,000 people attended the candlelight vigil. He taught a boater safety class this past Saturday. The YCSO will have school resource officers (SROs) joining the lake patrol this weekend. Sgt. Mabry introduced the YCSO funds request to the LWMC. He requested supplies that would help to better facilitate explanations and conversations during boater training courses. Secretary Treasurer Bryant moved to accept the YCSO’s request for funding. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

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

Mecklenburg County ABC Board Law Enforcement – No report was given.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) – Sgt. Laton reported that last week NCWRC officers conducted an alcohol impairment training. He commented on a media event with law enforcement that will be held on Wednesday at Blythe Landing on Lake Norman. The NCWRC is working on a boating safety class for Spanish speakers. The Spanish language guide should be printed in a month. The NCWRC does not want to see lives lost because of a language barrier.

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

US Coast Guard (USCG) – Officer Joye noted that the US Coast Guard will ride along with CMPD on Memorial Day weekend.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA) – Mr. Ray Webber was not present. Ms. Parker forwarded his report to the LWMC.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – Mr. Dave Ferguson reported that LUESA staff will be on Lake Wylie on Thursday and will add extra bacteria sampling sites through September at Camp Thunderbird, at the sandbar across from Mill Creek, and at the US National Whitewater Center.

Duke Energy – Mr. Ronnie Lawson reported that:

- Lake level: 98.0' (target level: 97.0')
- Low inflow protocol: Normal
- No dredging is allowed until July 1.
- Mr. Lawson noted that as of May 15 Duke Energy will conduct maintenance work at the Lake Wylie hydroelectric dam. He said that over the next few weeks Duke Energy will not run turbines, so expect lake levels to fluctuate.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation (CRF) – Mr. Brandon Jones reported that the [Swim Guide Program](#) will start this week. They have ten sampling sites, seven of which are on Lake Wylie. They will take samples and post results on a national site map. On this map, green will mean safe to swim and red will mean not safe to swim. They will take samples every Thursday this summer. Mr. Jones noted that on Lake Wylie, they have three sites that are not yet sponsored: at the Little Allison Creek Sandbar, at Ebenezer Park, and at the Tega Cay Beach Club. Chairman Breanna said it would be good to support the Swim Guide Program, as long as it is not duplicating other sampling efforts. Mr. Jones said that it is \$500 to sponsor a sampling site and 15 samples would be taken from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Chairman Brennan asked what happens if exceedances occur. His concern is that word gets out if it is not safe to swim in certain areas. Commissioner Goff moved that the LWMC sponsor a Swim Guide Program sampling site for \$500 at the Little Allison Creek Sandbar. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Wilson asked about the wording of no-swim notices. Mr. Jones said they would be more site-specific instead of a general swim advisory for the lake. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Item 6 – Introduction of Papa Doc's Shore Club

Adam Moran (General Manager) and Hadley Webb (Events and Marketing Manager) presented to the LWMC representing [Papa Doc's Shore Club](#). Chairman Brennan spoke about Riversweep and how boats typically off load trash at Papa Doc's docks. Ms. Webb had already been in contact with CD Collins about using their docks during Riversweep. She also said Papa Doc's can provide drinks, put up signage, etc. Commissioner Wilson brought up dock assistance. Mr. Moran is trying to control Papa Doc's docks more so than before. They have hired dock valets to monitor and control what happens at the docks. Boaters can no longer pull up to their docks and run to the convenience store across the street.

Added Item: Riversweep Update

Commissioner Goff reported that Riversweep planning is underway. At the last meeting, they welcomed Landon Albrick to the group to help lead planning efforts. She commented that Riversweep needs to be transferable to the next generation and it is important that younger generations are involved with planning this event. They confirmed that the LWMC will provide funds for 800 t-shirts and 48 caps.

Item 7 – LWMC Mission Statement Review

Chairman Brennan introduced this agenda item and turned it over to Commissioner Goff. She distributed a memo that included five mission statement suggestions and said that if Marine Commissioners agree that the group needs a briefer way to state its mission, perhaps one of the following proposed statements would work:

1. *To promote the health, safety, and enjoyment of Lake Wylie.*
2. *To preserve Lake Wylie and ensure the safety of all who enjoy this beautiful resource.*
3. *To promote and support public policies and regulations encompassing the three counties surrounding Lake Wylie. To protect Lake Wylie and its inhabitants through education and best practices of safety and water quality.*
4. *To protect the water and environment, promote safety, and support those who use the lake.*
5. *To protect, preserve and promote Lake Wylie as a clean and safe recreational waterway.*

Secretary Treasurer Bryant, Commissioners Chacharon, Goff, and Wilson liked statement 5 and Chairman Brennan liked the alliteration in statement 5. Secretary Treasurer Bryant also liked statement 1. Commissioner Hanks suggested that in statement 1, the word “health” be changed to “cleanliness.” Commissioner Wilson commented that leaving “health” in statement 1 would be alright. The group agreed that statements 2, 3, and 4 should not be considered, leaving statement 1 and 5.

Commissioner Goff noted that this effort is not about discarding the current mission statement. The two statements would be used in different ways. She commented that the new, shorter mission statement could be printed on the back of LWMC business cards. Commissioner Wilson called the new, shorter statement a tagline and the current, longer statement an internal mission statement. The LWMC voted by a show of hands: Secretary Treasurer Bryant and Commissioner Hanks favored statement 1. Chairman Brennan and Commissioners Chacharon, Goff, Hartley, Mullane and Wilson favored statement 5. Statement 5 – *To protect, preserve and promote Lake Wylie as a clean and safe recreational waterway* – was voted as a new tag line to augment the LWMC mission statement.

Item 8 – Review Draft Proposed FY 20 Budget and Draft Proposed FY 19 Budget Amendment

Commissioner Mullane reviewed the draft proposed FY 19 budget amendment and the draft proposed FY 20 budget. Regarding the FY 19 budget amendment, the budget committee is waiting to hear from Commissioner Hanks about the cost of ordering 20 buoys before June 30. In looking at the draft proposed FY 20 budget, Chairman Brennan spoke about the LWMC Executive Director (ED) position and talked about the role of the Lake Norman Marine Commission’s (LNMC) ED, who is paid \$1,700 per month. The LNMC ED ensures ordinances are written correctly, among other tasks. The LWMC ED does not do that. Chairman Brennan asked why the LWMC ED role could not be a volunteer position. In Vice Chairman’s Hegarty’s absence, Chairman Brennan noted that Vice Chairman Hegarty thinks that a line item for an ED’s salary should be left in the budget. Secretary Treasurer Bryant agreed with Vice Chairman Hegarty’s sentiment. Commissioner Hanks commented that the LWMC should not have a line item in a budget if the group does not plan to use it. Chairman Brennan noted that the LWMC kept the ED Salary line item in last year because the group did not know what was going to happen in the year to come.

Commissioner Goff moved that the LWMC embrace the draft proposed budget as presented and wait until the June 24 meeting to approve it. The motion failed for lack of a second vote but subsequent dialogue was in favor of the sentiment to support what was presented.

Item 9 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Bryant did not have anything further to report.

Item 10 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Brennan reported the following:

- Northern Law Center: The Belmont Rowing Club (BRC) anticipates submitting the FERC application within the next two weeks. The application will include the BRC docks and the boat house for the Gaston County Police Department boat and the Belmont Fire Department boat.
- Water Quality: According to Belmont Water Plant Superintendent Joe Roy, the high coliform reading on the latest Belmont water samples resulted from the high turbidity experienced in April.
- Meetings: Chairman Brennan briefed the new Riversweep planning committee member / future chairman Landon Albrick. He chaired the second Riversweep 2019 planning meeting, attended two Montcross Are Chamber of Commerce functions, and attended the “Rotary Duck Race to End Polio” at the Tailrace Marina.
- Note: FOX 46 WJZY will be doing live safety spots 5:00 am – 9:00 am on May 22 at the Riverside Marina.

Item 11 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker informed the LWMC that the FY 19 audit contract with Belinda Johnson, CPA needs to be approved for her to start working. Commissioner Wilson moved that the LWMC approve the FY 19 audit contract with Belinda Johnson, CPA. Commissioner Chacharon seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Item 12 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- a. Water Quality
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating: Commissioner Mullane reported that the Clean Marina flags have been delivered.
 - Sedimentation: Commissioner Goff said that York County continues to work through the revised stormwater ordinance. It is a laborious project, but they are getting close. They will have the third reading in a month or so.
 - Shoreline Plantings: Commissioner Mullane 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 worked on buoys with Terry Everhart earlier today. Commissioner Hanks will follow up about getting buoys ordered through the NCWRC.
- c. Safety Programs
 - For Boat Rental Companies: Commissioner Wilson reported that he has been back and forth with the company that creates rental boat safety courses. The highest-ranking staff person over safety at NCWRC is in favor of these courses being created. Commissioner Wilson said that this process has stalled a bit. He will continue to follow up. He noted that the US Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA) inspected his rental fleet and it was an eye-opening experience. Commissioner Wilson thought it would be beneficial for other boat rental companies and Vacation Rental By Owner (VRBO) properties that include water craft with the rental to have their boats inspected by the USCGA. Chairman Brennan suggested that Commissioner Wilson draft letters to each of these groups and send it to Legal Counsel Clark for review.

Commissioner Wilson said he could get these letters drafted and sent to Mr. Clark in two or three weeks.

- For Paddle Boats (kayaks/paddle boards): Commissioner Wilson had nothing further to report.
- Chairman Brennan brought up SPLASH and asked if anyone else besides Terry Everhart can operate SPLASH. Commissioner Goff commented that maybe Mr. Everhart could suggest other people to learn how to run SPLASH.

d. Public Relations

- Website Updates: Commissioner Goff referred to the media event that is scheduled for Wednesday. Commissioner Wilson commented that he knows how to navigate and update a website created using WordPress. Commissioners Goff and Wilson will coordinate about website matters. Commissioner Goff and Ms. Parker will coordinate on a new LWMC business card design using the new mission statement.

Item 13 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.