



Commissioners Present: Chairman Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)
Vice Chairman Dan Hartley (Gaston County)
Secretary Treasurer Dan Mullane (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Debi Chacharon (York County)
Commissioner Ray Webber (York County)
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner Hunter Wilson (Mecklenburg County)

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Blanche Bryant (York County)
Commissioner Smitty Hanks (Gaston 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 Hegarty called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hegarty asked if any changes need to be made to the October 28, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Chacharon moved to approve the October 28, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of Agenda

Chairman Hegarty asked if any changes need to be made to the November 25, 2019 agenda. Commissioner Wilson moved to adopt the November 25, 2019 agenda. Commissioner Chacharon seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Public Comment

Mr. James Hendry is a lake resident in unincorporated Belmont on the South Fork River across from Paradise Point. Mr. Hendry commented that they have been in their home for approximately four years and in that time, they have seen a tremendous increase in sedimentation near their property. He said that part of the water way is almost unnavigable. He would like the LWMC to come up with plan to help make this part of the river navigable again. Mr. Hendry noted that alligator grass is also an issue. It gets caught on the accumulated sedimentation in the South Fork. They try to get rid of it, but it is too much

for a homeowner to take on without being able to make a lasting impact. Commissioner Thomas mentioned that he is a long time Paradise Point resident and is very aware of the sedimentation issues in this area of the lake. Commissioner Thomas asked Ms. Parker to send Mr. Hendry Joseph Alm's (Gaston County) contact information. Mr. Alm is someone Mr. Hendry can contact about sedimentation issues in that part of the lake.

Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) – Officer Joye reported that CMPD received a call to assist YCSO, but the call was cancelled upon arrival. He noted that his unit is waiting on two additional officers to join their team. CMPD lake patrol will be present at the 2020 Mid-Atlantic Boat Show in February.

Gaston County Police Department (GCPD) – Sgt. Knupp reported that GCPD Officer May retired. He will be replaced by Officer Jonathan Marr.

York County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) – Sgt. Mabry reported that they have been conducting equipment maintenance. Since the last meeting, they got a call about a 3-year old that fell off a dock and was lost in the lake. They searched for child for 30 minutes. The child drowned and was found not wearing a life jacket. Sgt. Mabry noted that both boats are now operational. He also noted that he will be out for 4-6 weeks for knee surgery.

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 the NCWRC is into hunting season. He said that duck season closes on December 2. He said that he has not forgotten about sending the link to Commissioner Webber containing information about Spanish language boater safety training. An audience member had a question about how early in the morning hunters can start shooting. Sgt. Laton said legal shooting starts 30 minutes before dawn.

SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) – No report was given.
US Coast Guard (USCG) – No report was given.

Minutes Amendment: US Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA) – Commissioner Webber reported that the USCGA will participate in the December 14 Parade of Lights. He also noted that anyone serving on Coast Guard Auxiliary boats *will* have first aid qualifications. *This training is a suggestion, not a requirement.*

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – Chairman Hegarty reported for Mr. Dave Ferguson. Chairman Hegarty noted, per Mr. Ferguson, that the water samples this time around look great, with no issues to report.

Duke Energy – Mr. Ronnie Lawson reported that:

- Lake level: 98.9' (target level: 97.0')
- Low inflow protocol: Normal
- No dredge permits have been issued.

Commissioner Wilson asked Mr. Lawson about clearance under the Buster Boyd Bridge. Commissioner Wilson said there may be confusion about lake level in relation to bridge clearance. Mr. Lawson explained about lake level saying that 100% full pond is 569.4', which is the height of the dam. 97.0' equals 3 feet below full pond.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Minutes Amendment: Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation (CRF) – Mr. John Searby reported that they will launch new CRF internship in January 2020 for anyone who is a high school graduate and is interested in environmental science, engineering, etc. The internship opportunity will be posted on the CRF website. Mr. Brandon Jones will present 2019 Swim Guide results at an upcoming conference. CRF plans to grow the Swim Guide program across the whole Catawba-Wateree basin. He noted that they were pleased to participate in the Sedimentation Symposium. They recently received donated orange life jackets *and the LWMC committed to taking some of them for distribution.*

Minutes Amendment: Item 6 – Sedimentation Symposium Review

Commissioner Chacharon reported that on November 14 the LWMC and CRF held the Sedimentation Symposium. She noted that it was a wonderful first conversation about the complex issue of sedimentation in Lake Wylie. This first meeting was primarily for local government officials, and all three counties represented – Gaston, Mecklenburg and York. There is no easy answer to this issue but getting people together to discuss is productive place to start. The group would like to carry on with this sedimentation symposium idea. The next symposium could be geared towards *public education.*

Item 7 – Northern Law Center Boat House Status

Chairman Hegarty noted that the status is no different than last month. The LWMC is waiting on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) from Belmont and Gaston County, and to hear from the Belmont Rowing Club (BRC) about where the boat house will be located. At the start of 2020, Chairman Hegarty noted trying to bring all parties together to see where we are and determine next steps. Commissioner Chacharon mentioned being sure to use the LWMC's shoreline planting information in the planning process for the boat house. Chairman Hegarty said that shoreline planting considerations have been part of the conversation and it would be part of the equation moving forward.

Item 8 – Treasurer's Report

Secretary Treasurer Mullane reported that for the current fiscal year, \$25,000 has been requested from the three contributing counties: Gaston, Mecklenburg, and York. For Q1 (July-September) and Q2 (October-December) funds have been requested and received from all three counties. The total amount received thus far is \$37,500. The next round of invoices will be sent to each county in January 2020.

Item 9 – Chairman's Report

Chairman Hegarty noted that Commissioner Bryant has been ill since June and she has been directed to stay home. He asked that the group check in on her and keep her in your thoughts.

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: Secretary Treasurer Mullane did not have a report.
 - Shoreline Plantings/Invasive Species: Commissioner Chacharon did not have a report.
- b. Buoys & Buoy Maintenance: Chairman Hegarty asked Commissioner Thomas to address this item. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to move forward with the proposal from TowBoatU.S. and hire them on a contractual basis to take care of all the buoys. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approval unanimously.
- c. Safety Programs: Commissioner Webber reported that he reached out to a former LWMC commissioner for digital files to put together an updated safety brochure. Chairman Hegarty asked when the brochure would be ready and available. Commissioner Webber noted that he is waiting on artwork to include in the brochure. He said that the brochure is two-sided with both NC and SC laws included on it. He suggested the brochure be posted to the LWMC website for downloading and hard copies would be laminated. It can be distributed in different venues such as at marinas, with rental companies, and at the 2020 Boat Show.
 - For Boat Rental Companies: No report was given.
 - For Paddle Boats (kayaks/paddle boards): No report was given.
- d. Public Relations: Commissioner Wilson reported
 - Mailing Program/Mailchimp – Commissioner Wilson took over PR at the last LWMC meeting. He received an email distribution list from the CRF. This list contains approximately 3,000 names which represent people that have signed up for Riversweep. He sent a message out to this list last week and got a great open rate. He noted that over 2,700 people saw or reacted to a facebook event about this meeting. He met with York County staff to see if we can coordinate with them to get safety information syndicated to the public. He has also reached out to Gaston County and Mecklenburg County’s tourism departments. Commissioner Wilson noted that he has made LWMC website updates. Chairman Hegarty reminded all Marine Commissioners to review the website periodically and report any information that is out of date or incorrect.

Ms. Parker will send out a 2020 Boat Show (Feb 7-9) booth staffing sign-up sheet.

Mecklenburg County Vice Chairperson Elaine Powell thanked the LWMC for the boat tour for elected officials and the sedimentation symposium. She said, as an elected leader it was very important to have this symposium. She added that, “you guys work really hard.” She thanked the group for their ongoing effort and diligence. Chairman Hegarty commended Vice Chairperson Powell’s support and involvement.

Item 12 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7: 45 pm.