



Commissioners Present: Chairman Dan Hartley (Gaston County)
Secretary Treasurer Ray Webber (York County)
Commissioner Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)
Commissioner Dan Mullane (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner A.W. Bill Beers (York County)
Commissioner Quay Williford (York County)
Commissioner Sam Perkins (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)

Commissioner(s) Absent: Vice Chairman Hunter Wilson (Mecklenburg County)

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

Staff Absent: Neil Brennan, Executive Director

Meeting Minutes

Item 1 – Welcome

Chairman Hartley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Hartley asked if any changes need to be made to the September 27, 2021 minutes. Secretary Treasurer Webber moved to approve the September 27, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Perkins seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of Agenda

Chairman Hartley asked if any changes need to be made to the October 25, 2021 agenda. Commissioner Williford moved to adopt the October 25, 2021 agenda. Commissioner Mullane seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Public Comment

None.

Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) – Commissioner Thomas reported on Officer Joye’s behalf. He said that the CMPD lake patrol will be suspended week after next and moved to patrolling on land. CMPD will lose several hundred officers due to the county ~~vaccine~~ mask mandate. There will be no CMPD presence on Lake Wylie until summer 2022.

Gaston County Police Department (GCPD) – Sgt. Knupp reported that GCPD provided security for 50-60 swimmers at a swim meet in Lake Wylie near Mount Holly two weekends ago. At the last Gaston County Commissioners meeting they approved a new engine for one of their boats. He noted that Gaston County has no ~~vaccine~~ mask mandate, so should not lose officers.

York County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) – Sgt. Richardson reported that he was called to a rescue before the last LWMC meeting. He said that YCSO is focusing on dive training in the off season.

Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) – No report was given.

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

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

US Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA) – No report was given.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – Mr. Dave Ferguson reported that they took samples on Lake Wylie in September and the numbers looked alright. He noted that the water temperature is starting to drop and is now in the mid-to-low 70s. Routine monitoring will be conducted next month. On the topic of algae – his team continues to sweep Snug Harbor Cove and Boyd's Cove each week. If they see it, they note it. They will do their last sweep this week then pull pyramid buoys out of those coves. According to the Mecklenburg County Health Director, it is alright to end the swim advisory. The State said continue sweeping until you do not see it two weeks in the row, but we never got there. Mecklenburg County follows State protocols. They will check this week and it is likely that a new advisory will be created.

Duke Energy – Mr. Kermitt Taylor reported that the lake level is at 96.6". There are no dredge applications, and we are not in a drought. Commissioner Williford asked how long it should take for a dredge application to be approved. Mr. Taylor said 30 days.

Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation (CRF) – Mr. Brandon Jones thanked the LWMC for their help on Riversweep 2021. 16,000 pounds of trash and debris was removed from Lake Wylie and approximately 53,000 pounds was removed across the Catawba River basin by 1,700 volunteers. Mr. Jones noted that there was a small coal spill at Allen Steam Plant. The coal was unburned and crushed. NCDEQ and Duke Energy conducted an inspection. No one knows how it got there, which is unusual. The good news is that there are not a lot of environmental impacts. They will continue to watch the situation. The South Fork River Health Committee has wrapped up its work and will hopefully have a finalized memorandum of understanding (MOU) in November or December.

Item 6 – Stowe Regional Water Resource Recovery Facility: Utility Line Crossings

Ms. Nicole Bartlett with Charlotte Water addressed the LWMC and reviewed the other Stowe Facility projects that have come before the LWMC. Tonight, the LWMC will hear about two additional smaller projects at the Stowe site – a temporary electrical line crossing and second, utility lines that will go on top of bridge. Mr. Mike Osborne with Black & Veatch presented on the temporary electrical line crossing. He showed slides to aid his explanation of the project. He noted that there will be no construction in the creek itself. Secretary Treasurer Webber asked how high the lines would be above the water and how long will the temporary lines be in place. Mr. Osborne said 41.8" and roughly 8-9 months. Commissioner Beers asked when construction will start. Mr. Osborne said around the first of year. Commissioner Mullane asked about rules related to cutting trees. Mr. Osborne said they have a clearing corridor of 15' wide. Commissioner Hanks moved to approve the project as submitted. Secretary Treasurer Webber seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. Ms. Parker will send an approval letter to Black & Veatch.

Item 7 – Stowe Regional Water Resource Recovery Facility: Line Crossing Permit Application

Mr. Mike Benchich with Hazen & Sawyer spoke about the other project that entails six (6) utility lines being installed on top of the southern access bridge. Mr. Benchich reviewed a slide that summarized the function of each pipe. He said that all lines will be made of ductile iron and that it provides good protection from inclement weather. All lines will be attached to the top of bridge and will be obscured from view. Charlotte

Water will own each of the six lines and will have a continuous presence at the Stowe site. Commissioner Beers asked about monitoring flow and pressure and was assured that the lines will be monitored continuously at the plant. It was clarified that the lines will not be jacketed. In the case of a spill, a question was asked about having a manual shut off close to the bridge. The answer was to have manual shut off valves on either side of the line. Chairman Hartley said there must be a plan for what to do in a catastrophic event. Mr. Benchich said there will be a plant operating system for remote monitoring and Charlotte Water staff will be on site to monitor and keep tabs on how everything is functioning.

Commissioner Hanks said that to get from Mount Holly to the Stowe facility would take more structures across the water. He asked if it is cost prohibitive to go under Long Creek. Mr. Benchich said that the good news about being above ground is that the lines can be seen, they will be easier to maintain, and less expensive. Chairman Hartley mentioned that the lines will be exposed before they go back underground. He asked if the curb that protects the lines is substantial enough to take an impact. Ms. Bartlett described the curb design. Chairman Hartley asked about bridge access. It was clarified that he (because he does not work at the facility) would not be able to drive to the bridge but would be able to bike or walk there. Chairman Hartley pointed out that allowing this type of access could be a security issue. Commissioner Perkins said Charlotte Water needs to have good water quality monitoring up and down Long Creek. Secretary Treasurer Webber asked if they run estimates on how long it would take to address and correct a catastrophic event. Chairman Hartley said he is not seeing enough forethought in case something catastrophic happens. An emergency action plan needs to be in place. He said that a lot of money is being spent on this project, so it should be done right on all fronts. It was noted that the proposed startup of the facility could be in 2025 or 2026 and the six lines would be built with the bridge. Commissioner Beers requested that they get someone who knows about systematic operational planning involved during the design stage (now vs. later) and added that contingency planning is very important. Secretary Treasurer Webber moved to approve the six (6) lines as presented. Commissioner Beers seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. Ms. Parker will send an approval letter to Hazen & Sawyer.

Item 8 – Equipment Acquisitions

Chairman Hartley would like to buy two (2) large buoys (like what LUESA has) to supplement county buoys for no more than \$1,000.00. Someone asked where the buoys would be stored. It was noted that the buoys are light weight, can be deflated, and do not take up too much room. Mr. Ferguson said they weight their buoys down with 15-20 pound mushroom anchors. Commissioner Thomas moved to proceed with the buoy purchase. Commissioner Hanks seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Hanks would like the LWMC name or logo on the buoys. Chairman Hartley agreed. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Item 9 – Riversweep: Current Funds Disposition

Chairman Hartley introduced this item. Commissioner Mullane moved to write a check to the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation for the remainder of Riversweep funds budgeted for the current fiscal year. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. The vote taken and approved unanimously.

Item 10 – Update: FERC Application for Gaston County Boathouse

Chairman Hartley said to see Executive Director Brennan's report.

Item 11 – Buoys and Buoy Maintenance Update

Commissioner Hanks said the ten (10) buoys are in. Commissioner Williford made a stencil and gave it to Capt. Adam last month to apply to the buoys. Commissioner Hanks is still looking for stainless steel rope. Chairman Hartley called out two buoys that need to be replaced. It was suggested that perhaps the LWMC should investigate alternatives to buoy placement.

Item 12 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Webber reported that:

- York County: Q1 and Q2 funds are in and Q3 funds will be requested in January 2022.
- Gaston County: Q1 and Q2 funds are in. Q3 and Q4 funds will be requested in January 2022.
- Mecklenburg County: Q1 and Q2 funds have been requested but have not come in yet. Centralina finance staff sent a follow up email to Mecklenburg County staff (10/25) requesting a status update.

Secretary Treasurer Webber asked about timing related to the Gaston County boathouse for law enforcement. He will ask for an internal meeting to discuss timing and other details.

Item 13 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Hartley said his report has been covered.

Item 14 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Brennan was not present but provided his report ahead of time:

Brown’s Cove Buoys: Awaiting recommendation yea or nay from NCWRC on the application to place no-wake buoys at the back of Brown’s Cove.

FERC Application: Reviewed the placement of the dry hydrant suction line with Belmont City Planning Director Shelley DeHart and Captain Craig Austin of the Belmont Fire Department. They and Duke Energy all agree that the pipe should run under the government dock with the suction at the seaward end of the dock between the two slips. The plans have been revised accordingly, and the survey is being updated to reflect the revised plan. Once the updated survey is received from the Belmont Rowing Club (expected with the next week or two), the City will submit the FERC application for comment / approval by the numerous stakeholders who are required to sign off on the application. That process will take several months.

Stormwater Control Measures: Hosted the Belmont City Planning Department and City Manager Adrian Miller on a boat tour of the waters of Lake Wylie surrounding Belmont. Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Hartley, and I emphasized the need for the strongest stormwater control measures to stem the sedimentation that is overtaking the South Fork River area. The trip was an eye-opener for those officials and staff members.

Algal Blooms: The cyanobacteria reappeared in late September and throughout October in Boyd’s Cove, Snug Harbor Cove, and the cove where the Catawba Yacht Club (CYC) is located. Gave Jack Young a courtesy call to advise of the blooms. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Stormwater Services deployed danger buoys to warn of the Hazard. The blooms also appeared in a cove across the river from Snug Harbor in South Carolina and in cove in the Tega Cay area. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control issued warnings for those blooms and advised they will post warning signs at access ramps and parks once the posts are available. In the interim and at the suggestion of SC DHEC, LWMC commissioners posted paper signs at those locations. SC DHEC has no warning buoys. Recommend the LWMC acquire warning buoys to use as necessary in the Gaston County and York County waters of Lake Wylie.

South Fork River Health Committee: The October meeting was canceled pending the finalizing of the action plan. I volunteered to serve on a sub-committee to help complete some of the recommended actions.

Item 15 – Administrator’s Report

Ms. Parker noted that the last meeting of the calendar year is on November 22. She will bring a draft of the 2022 schedule to that meeting. The plan is to resume the three-venue meeting schedule in 2022.

Item 16 – Public Relations Report Vice
Chairman Wilson was not present.

Item 17 – Announcements
None.

Item 18 – Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.