

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission**  
**May 22, 2023 Meeting**  
**Clover Community YMCA – Community Room**



**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Hunter Wilson (Mecklenburg County)  
Vice Chairman Ray Webber (York County)  
Secretary Treasurer A.W. Bill Beers (York County)  
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Dan Hartley (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Quay Williford (York County)  
Commissioner Dan Mullane (Mecklenburg County)

**Commissioners Absent:** Smitty Hanks, Commissioner; Sam Perkins, Commissioner

**Staff Present:** Neil Brennan, Executive Director; Chris Clark, Legal Counsel  
Alice Flowers, Administrative Assistant

**Meeting Minutes**

**Item 1 – Welcome**

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

**Item 2 – Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Wilson asked if any changes need to be made to the April 24, 2023 minutes. Secretary Treasurer Beers moved to approve the April 24, 2023 minutes. Vice Chairman Webber seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Item 3 – Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Wilson asked if any changes need to be made to the May 22, 2023 agenda. Commissioner Thomas requested that his follow-up report on pricing for VHF equipment be added to the agenda. Secretary Treasurer Beers moved to adopt the May 22, 2023 agenda as amended. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Item 4 – Public Comment**

No public comments

**Item 5 - Stakeholder Reports**

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) – No report was given.  
Tega Cay Police Department – Chief Parker- No report was given.  
Mecklenburg County ABC Board Law Enforcement (MCABC) – No report was given.  
US Coast Guard-Sector NC – No report was given.  
Mecklenburg County Land Use Environmental Service – No report was given.

**Gaston County Police Department (GCPD)** – Commissioner Williford gave a report on behalf of Sergeant Knupp who was on his way back from Charleston with the boat that was discussed at the April meeting. The generator has been repaired and ready to go back out on the water. The GCPD was present for several events/incidents on the lake in May. One of the incidents involved a male who apparently wanted to jump off the US 74 bridge. Luckily the jumper was rescued and was safe.

**York County Sheriff's Office (YCSO)** – Lieutenant Nathan Clark reported that the YCSO has scheduled weekly coverage to be out on the lake this summer. They are also in the process of purchasing a personal watercraft and, tentatively, a second one by the end of June.

Officer Clark inquired about adding the Newport Fire Department (NFD) as a Lake Wylie Marine Commission (LWMC) Stakeholder. They have two boats on the water: a fire boat, and a medical rescue boat (16 ft skiff) and respond to medical calls/emergencies. Vice Chairman Weber will contact/invite Chief Carl Faulk or a designee to attend a future meeting to discuss the possibility of NFD becoming a Stakeholder.

**Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)** – Secretary-Treasurer Beers gave a report on behalf of the MCSO that they were present at the May 20 Children's Outing. No further report was given.

**NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC)** – Officer Rodney Prince mentioned the upcoming media blitz. Officer Prince mentioned all evidence from the boating accident that happened in April has been submitted to the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI). The NCWRC will be able to release a report to the public once the NCSBI report is complete, which could take up to five to six months to finalize.

**SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)** – Lieutenant Nathan Clark reported that the SCDNR are currently present out on the water to monitor weekend summer activities.

**US Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA)** – Ms. Lisa Spencer reported that there were 89 Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) to date. They are currently going through boat crew training.

**Duke Energy** – Mr. Kermitt Taylor reported that the lake level was at 97. There have been no dredges approved since the April meeting. South Point Beach opening has been delayed until July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Catawba Riverkeeper** – Mr. John Searby reminded everyone that the Swim Guide starts this weekend. The Catawba Riverkeeper will be sampling 12 sites on Lake Wylie, including South Point Beach. He also mentioned that the Riversweep is scheduled for October 7, 2023. They still have available life jackets to donate to anyone who needs them.

Executive Director Brennan asked Mr. Searby about best practices to getting the word out about the harmful nature of the algal bloom to humans and animals. Mr. Searby said that they have information and a communications plan he can provide to Executive Director Brennan.

**TowBoatUS** – Mr. Logan Thomas reported that since the last meeting they have responded to 64 boaters in distress; 63 on Lake Wylie (two were sunken vessels), and one routine towing. They had SPLASH at RiverFest and the Childrens' Outing on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Item 6 - Buoy Tracking Follow Up**

Commissioner Perkins was not present.

**Item 7 - Buoys and Buoy Maintenance Update** – Mr. Logan Thomas mentioned there are several missing/damaged buoys on the water that will be replaced before the next meeting.

**Item 7a** – Discussion about VHS Radio equipment was added to the agenda for discussion. Commissioner Thomas gave a follow up report on VHF equipment options and pricing. The discussion was on whether to invest in handheld or fixed units. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve purchasing VHF fixed units for: York County (qty 1), Charlotte Fire Department (qty 2). Vice Chairman Weber seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Officer Clark from York County Sheriff’s Office requested if they could revise the order for York County from one (1) to two (2) VHF units; one for each of the boats. Commissioner Thomas revised his motion to approve providing two (2) VHF units for both York County and Charlotte Fire Department. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Webber. The revised motion carried.

**Item 8 - Treasurer’s Reports**

Secretary Treasurer Beers handed out the financial report and gave an update on funds as of April 4, 2023.

The LWMC reviewed a preliminary FY 2024 budget.

**Item 9 - Executive Director’s Report:**

Executive Director Brennan reported that:

**Festivals**

He attended the Garibaldi Festival on April 29<sup>th</sup> in Stowe Park in Belmont and RiverFest on May 13<sup>th</sup> in Loftin Park in Belmont.

**Budget Committee**

He met with Vice Chairman Webber and Secretary Treasurer Beers in developing a proposed FY 2024 budget.

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Application**

HDR, the engineering firm shepherding the FERC application through the process for the City of Belmont, reports that the fieldwork is now completed, and they have submitted to NCDEQ the pre-filing notification for the Clean Water Act (CWA) Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) as requested. When 30 days have passed, HDR can submit that PCN to respond to NCDEQ’s initial comment that came up during agency review. This same information will also be sent to the US Army Corps of Engineers to respond to their questions. When both agencies respond, HDR will complete the draft application package to Lake Services.

**No-Wake Zone Request**

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resource denied the no-wake zone (NWZ) application the LWMC received from Mr. Christopher Teumer as modified by the recommendations of Lieutenant Clark. The SC DNR process is to respond to the originator after investigating a NWZ application, and that response was provided to Mr. Teumer.

### **Enhanced Erosion and Stormwater Control Measures (E&SCMs)**

In addition to working with the South Fork River Health project to require enhanced E&SCMs in Gaston County, I am pursuing codifying in the Belmont ordinances the enhanced erosion and stormwater control measures (E&SCMs) that were implemented by the City of Belmont for the Del Webb development on the South fork River. If successful, it is planned to suggest that other Gaston County municipalities pursue similar city ordinances. Currently, York County and Mecklenburg County stormwater and sedimentation control ordinances are more stringent than Gaston County requirements.

### **Item 10 – Administrator’s Report – No report given.**

Ms. Flowers did not have a report.

### **Item 11 - Public Relations**

Chairman Wilson said that said that LWMC newsletter will be going out soon with information about Memorial Day weekend. Commissioner Perkins is being onboarded to take over website management as Chairman Wilson will be rolling off in September.

### **Item 12 – Announcements**

- Secretary Treasurer Beers announced that South Carolina is in the process of generating a rule that will require boating safety education. It has passed out of committee and is now going through all the legislative process for, hopefully, a final vote and then to the Governor’s desk to sign it into law.
- Secretary Treasurer Beers also reported that there were about 250 participants who attended the May Children’s Outing. There were a lot of fun activities, boating rides, swimming, food, and great fellowship. The next Children’s Outing is scheduled for November.
- Chairman Wilson added to the announcement to the law that is being passed in the South Carolina: the rule does not apply if the person is on a rental boat.

### **Item 13 - Adjournment**

Commissioner Williford moved to adjourn the May 24, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas. Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.