

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
May 23, 2011 7:00 p.m.
Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Present: Chair Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)
Vice Chair Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary Treasurer Howard Virkler (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Ron Wanless (York County)
Commissioner Bill Campbell (Gaston County)
Commissioner Vernon Peers (York County)
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner Ed Hull (York County)

LWMC Staff Present: Joe Stowe, Executive Director, Chris Clark, Legal Counsel,
Diane Dil, Commission Clerk

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Hanks called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Everhart to approve the April 25, 2011 minutes, Commissioner Wanless seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Hanks called for any changes to the agenda. Commissioner Campbell requested to add Skip Karby to discuss the work he is doing to eradicate non-native plants from the lake. Mr. Stowe requested to add Dr. Jarman, if he arrives, to discuss a potential Boy Scout project. A motion was made by Commissioner Virkler to approve the agenda with the two additions, Commissioner Thomas seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted for the consent agenda.

Item 5 – Public Comment

There was nobody signed up for public comment.

Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports

Mecklenburg County – Commissioner Everhart reported

- SPLASH visited with approximately 80 kids at a school in Lancaster County. York County Officer Mabry attended as well.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported

- There were 37 boat stops, 6 citations and 4 assists.
- The new police chief is making some changes to the policy manual and they are working through them.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt Mabry reported

- They are just starting up for the season
- He has been working on tree cleanup at the law enforcement center
- He would like a better networking system between the officers
- Commissioner Wanless asked if they patrol at night. Officer Mabry answered yes.

SC DNR – Officer Ferrell reported

- Just started back this past week
- 11 cases, 20 warnings – mostly fishing licenses, some life jackets, registration, fire extinguishers
- Wants to remind people that a cash bond of up to \$150 is required of all non-South Carolina residents issued tickets. Otherwise they will go to jail.

Commissioner Campbell took this moment to recognize that May 15-21 is National Police Week and wanted to thank our officers for the work that they do.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Service Agency (LUESA) – David Buetow reported

- Reviewed monthly sampling reports.

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 97.1% - Storage capacity is 104% of target
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 1 (voluntary conservation).

Lakekeeper – Ellen Goff reported

- David Merryman continues to work with the NC and SC legislatures about spillage concerns
- The SC sewage notification bill died this session
- The City of Belmont and the Town of Mount Holly have submitted draft permits for waste water treatment plants
- The nationwide secchi disc dip in program is about to begin

Item 7 – Discussion of Non-native Plants in Lake Wylie

Skip Karby
Mountain Lake and
Pond Management

Mr. Karby discussed his company's operation to eradicate non-native plants from Lake Wylie. Currently their main focus is alligator weed. He is working with a few private homeowners to spray on a weekly basis. He is in contact with Duke Energy about any regulations.

Item 8 – Treasurer's Report

Secretary Treasurer Howard Virkler requested that commissioners notify him of any special budget needs for next year by June 13th. A budget proposal will be discussed at the June meeting. The audit has been received and sent to the NC State Treasurer. He recommends retaining the current auditor and correcting the internal issues that caused the audit to be late.

Item 9 – Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Joe Stowe reported

- **Catawba-Wateree Habitat Enhancement Funding Program** – Dr Jarman will probably submit a grant request for additional osprey nests and fish attractors. Possible recycle programs for fish lines also.
- **Surface Water Withdrawal Bill** – Senator Clodfelter's office needs to be contacted about an update of this bill.
- **Buoys** – Many lights are missing from the no wake buoys. He recommends not putting any more lights on the buoys until they can be properly secured.
- **Law Enforcement Center** – many trees are down from the recent storm. He and Officer Mabry are working with a tree service to remove the fallen trees and will need as much as \$1800 to remove them and possibly grind the stumps. Commissioner Wanless made a motion to spend up to \$1,500 for tree removal not stump grinding. It was seconded by Commissioner Everhart and passed unanimously.

Item 10 – Chairman's Report - Chairman Smitty Hanks reported

- **Buoy Update** – another has broken loose. May need to consider going to stainless steel.
- **Buoy Lights** – agrees not to replace lost lights but to move to new light mounting system when available.
- **Lake Management Society Meeting** – dredging was a theme of the meeting. May see more as sedimentation increases. Discussion of introducing native plants to increase shoreline stabilization. Requested Ronnie Lawson to get more information. Possible project for wildlife enhancement grant.

Item 11 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- **Buoy Update** - Chairman Hanks discussed this during his report.
- **Clean Marina** – Commission Campbell reviewed the workshop. Felt good information was gathered. Stated that we should be proud to have this program in NC as no other program exists. He continues to work with 2-3 other marinas to become certified.

Encourages current SC marinas to get state certification. Pursue grants and loans for financial assistance of becoming a clean marina.

- **Garden Parkway** – Commissioner Wanless stated that the follow-up study of the economic impact and visualizations as requested have not been delivered from the Turnpike Authority. Mr. Stowe, Chairman Hanks and Commissioner Wanless to discuss concerns with Bob Clay.
- **Fireworks** – Commissioner Virkler reported that many buckets have been distributed to collect donations for fireworks. A letter from Camp Thunderbird to previous donors has gone out.
- **Grass Carp** – Commissioner Virkler believes the carp will be delivered to the lake this May.
- **Food for Riversweep** – Commissioner Everhart stated that Food Lion will donate \$2,000 for the food. It may be more with vendor donations. The group are currently finalizing logistics.
- **Buoy GIS** – Commissioner Everhart now has GPS coordinates for all official buoys in both North and South Carolina. The GIS maps are being finished up for SC.
- **Chemsticks** – The chemsticks need replacing. Commissioner Everhart made a motion to purchase 800 chemsticks to be distributed equally to all boats. Commissioner Peers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- **Map** – Commissioner Everhart volunteered to organize the information for producing a new map.
- **Public Relations** – Commissioner Hull provided an update on the website. He is working with Wayne of Webwright Carolina to create a mobile version of the website. The proposal would be \$100 initial set-up charge, \$75 for changes, \$15/month hosting fee. Commissioner Hull made a motion to approve this service. Commissioner Virkler seconded. During discussion many commissioners wanted additional information. Commissioner Hull withdrew his motion. Commissioner Hull will arrange a meeting to discuss this project further.
- **Wild Turkey Federation – Jake Day** – Commissioner Peers discussed the fishing derby and requested for SPLASH to attend on June 11th. Commissioner Everhart will check calendar and let him know.
- **Dale's Landing** – Chairman Hanks was asked if there was anything the commission can do about the trash and camping at Dale's Landing. After much discussion Chairman Hanks will discuss with Belmont City Manager.

Item 12 – Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Everhart to adjourn the May 23, 2011 business meeting; seconded by Commissioner Peers. The motion was approved.

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on June 27, 2011 at a Mecklenburg County location to be determined.