

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission
February 27, 2012 7:00 p.m.
Gaston College East Campus
Meeting Minutes**



Commissioners Present: Chair Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)
Vice Chair Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary/Treasurer Ron Wanless (York County)
Commissioner Ed Hull (York County)
Commissioner Vernon Peers (York County)
Commissioner Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)

Commissioners Absent: None

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. Executive Director Joe Stowe reported that Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners has removed Howard Virkler from the commission since for failing to meet the attendance requirement. If they know of anyone interested in the position to please see him. In addition, Bill Campbell submitted his resignation because of personal matters.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Everhart to approve the January 23, 2012 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Thomas seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted for the consent agenda.

Item 5 – Public Comment

Frank Hesse spoke for the Riverpoint Community regarding the need to increase the protection of paddle boaters around Riverpoint and McDowell Park. He would like to see the entire cove entrance made a no-wake zone. Chairman Hanks reviewed the procedures for establishing or increasing a no-wake zone. He directed Mr. Hesse to the commission's website for required

forms and additional information. Commissioner Everhart is familiar with the area and stated he would be able to offer suggestions.

Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports

Mecklenburg County – Officer DeCarlo reported

- CMPD participated in the Boat Show again this year.
- Responded to a drowning call that was ruled accidental.
- Participated in the funeral of a federal agent.
- Completing drive training and preparing for the DNC in September.
- Commissioner Everhart stated that SPLASH was at the Boat Show.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported

- All of the requests for repairs and improvements for their boat were not included in the budget request for FY 2012/2013.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt Mabry reported

- Doing equipment maintenance and training while officially off the lake.
- Participated in the funeral of a federal agent.
- A safe boating class will be held March 17th.
- Sergeant Ware will cut the grass at the Law Enforcement Center this year. Commissioner Everhart made a motion to allow Sergeant Ware to cut the grass this year at the same rate as last year. It was seconded by Commissioner Hull and approved unanimously.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Service Agency (LUESA) – David Buetow was unable to attend the meeting.

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 97.2’.
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 0.

Lake Wylie Riverkeeper report – Ellen Goff reported

- It has been quiet on the lake over the winter. They have nine people who regularly patrol the water. There is a dredging issue in a cove around Tega Cay that is currently being reviewed.
- There is a request from a new user to tie into a sewer treatment facility where its existing user, Autumn Cove, is keeping it at capacity. Any overflow will likely drain to Crowder's Creek.
- York County Solid Waste Department is organizing a trash pick-up using kayaks near Riverwalk in Rock Hill in April.
- Planning efforts for Riversweep have just begun. They are starting a little later than last year. This year the focus is on involving local neighborhoods.
- The Covekeepers March meeting will feature a speaker from Landsford Canal State Park to discuss the Tiger Lilies.

Item 7 - Fish Attractor and Osprey Nests Update – Dr. Bill Jarman

- Dr. Jarman thanked the commission for their support to obtain the \$13,700 grant from the Duke Habitat Enhancement Program.
- Gaston County PAWS will purchase five osprey nests and seven fish attractors which they will install on the SC side of the Lake. He reviewed a map that showed the location of the fish attractors.

Item 8 – Update from Belmont City Council – Councilman Bill Toole

- River Park - Belmont purchased property along the river just south on NC 7 with the intent on building a passive recreation space. The park will include areas for kayaking and fishing, walking trails and a playground. Parking will be available across NC 7. Mr. Stowe had concern about children and families crossing the busy road. Councilman Toole imagines a strong visual crosswalk. Eventually a connection will be made to the Thread Trail. A public forum will be conducted in May.
- Proposed New Sewer System Connection – the Town of Belmont will need to make significant upgrades to its waste water treatment facility when its current permit expires in 2015. They have been looking at various scenarios which include upgrading their existing plant, or connecting to another county or municipality. The most cost efficient manner is to pump under the river to the Long Creek facility in Mecklenburg County. This is also better environmentally as Long Creek has an even better functioning nutrient removal system than is required. Two pipes would be buried 5’ below bedrock. The town has spoken with David Merryman and Rick Gaskins of CRF to address their concerns.

Item 9 – Riverpoint No wake Zone Request

- This item was discussed during public comments.

Item 10 – Reports to County Commissioners

- Mr. Stowe spoke with Commissioner Peers prior to the meeting to work on this project.

Item 11 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Wanless stated some budget amendments are necessary to allocate money from the reserve fund to a variety of approved projects. Commissioner Wanless made a motion to make the following budget amendments:

- Water Safety and Boater Education – Gaston County - \$50 increase
- Water Safety and Boater Education – Meck County - \$50 increase
- Training and Conferences - \$1,000 increase
- Law Enforcement Center Maintenance - \$1,250 increase
- To establish a new account under Law Enforcement Center called Boat Ramp Construction and to allocate \$1,200 to this account.
- Reserve Funds - \$3,550 decrease
- To establish a new expense account in the Environmental Section – Duke HEP Grant and to allocate \$13,700 to this account. This money is also included in the revenue section of the budget therefore it does not change the total budget.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peers and approved unanimously.

Item 12 – Executive Director’s Report – Executive Director Joe Stowe reported

- **Catawba River District meeting** – Mr. Stowe attended their recent meeting. He stated their organization is moving away from their original purpose and more towards education. He does not feel that he is the person suitable to represent the Commission with this group and if someone else would like to assume this role, please see him.
- **Law Enforcement Center** – He and Chairman Hanks recently cleaned up an area to expose a rock wall and enhance the property. The property has been surveyed and a drawing of a new ramp is almost complete. It will be submitted to Duke Energy as well as DHEC, Core of Engineers, SCDNR and LWMC prior to construction. He does not anticipate construction to begin until next fiscal year.

Item 13 – Chairman’s Report - Chairman Smitty Hanks reported

- **Goal Setting Workshop** – He stated that everyone should have received the final report from the goal setting workshop. A new leader for the Water Quality Committee is needed. He stated that Bill Campbell is willing to help with the Clean Marina/Clean Boater Program.
- **Service Boat** – The commission is seeking donation for a pontoon boat to service buoys. If anyone knows of one please see him.
- **Boat Show** – This event was well received by the public. The commissioners did a great job promoting the Clean Boater program. The commission needs to consider if we want to participate in this show again next year.
- **Bi-State Commission Meeting** – This is scheduled for March 2 in Rock Hill.
- **York County Green Business Conference** – March 1 if anyone is interested.

Item 14 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- **Water Quality** –
 - **Clean Marina/Clean Boater** - Chairman Hanks spoke to one marina owner at the Boat Show who is considering becoming a Clean Marina
 - **Grass Carp Program** – this project will need a new leader.
 - **Spill Reporting** – SC Governor signed a new law that requires spills to be reported within 24 hours. Commissioner Wanless reviewed the major requirements and issues of the new law.
- **Safety**
 - **Buoys** – Chairman Smith stated we continue to have problems keeping buoys anchored.
 - **Public Safety** – Commissioner Everhart discussed the plans to conduct a Public Safety Meeting, March 21 at the Red Fez Club. This is a chance to introduce and meet with new command staff, discuss critical infrastructure issues regarding the DNC, new interpretations of laws.
- **Recreation** – Commissioner Thomas has nothing new to report but would be available to be the liaison with Belmont’s Future Park.
- **Public Information**
 - Commissioner Hull is getting bids from three website designers.

Item 15 - Public Comment

No one was present for public comments.

Item 16 – Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Everhart to adjourn the February 27, 2012, business meeting; seconded by Commissioner Thomas. The motion was approved.

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on March 26, 2012 at Good Samaritan Methodist Church, Lake Wylie and will begin at 7:00 pm.