

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
April 23, 2012 7:00 p.m.
CMC Healthcare Pavilion
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 Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Commissioner Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Howard Virkler (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 p.m.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Wanless to approve the March 26, 2012 minutes as submitted. Commissioner Smith seconded and it passed unanimously.

Item 3 - Approval of the Agenda

The April 23, 2012 agenda was approved as submitted.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted for the consent agenda.

Item 5 – Public Comment

Patricia Guin of Save Lake Wylie Coves spoke to the commission about City of Charlotte rezoning petition 2011-65 and the water policies of Mecklenburg County. She and her organization have been working with city and county planners regarding their concerns about the increased density of undeveloped portions of the original Sanctuary Development and adherence to watershed rules. Their intent is to bring this item to the attention of the commission. They are concerned about how the density is actually calculated. Commissioner Virkler suggested the group contact county and city elected officials. Commissioner Smith asked if the density had changed from the original proposal. Public citizen Miriam Black stated the density was reduced when the proposed townhomes were removed. Commissioner Everhart recommended that the group also contact state agencies that govern water quality requirements.

Item 6 – Stakeholders Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Everhart reported

- Officer Everhart reviewed the calls for service for the past few months.
- The upgrade and improvements to the dock have been completed.
- Recently completed fire arm and dive training.
- The “Ready, Set, Wear it” event will be held May 19th at T-Bones. This event is to encourage people to wear lifejackets. He is trying to gather people for a group picture and to beat the current record of 84 or 85 people.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported

- They assisted with the filming of a Warner Brothers TV show at the old Stowe boat house.
- They completed sonar training.
- Their boat has been in the garage – they fixed the overhead cabinets and other minor items. They hope to get a new cover next fiscal year.

York County Sheriff – Sargent Mabry reported

- Participated in the SC Law Enforcement Divers Conference
- Participated in the lake clearing event
- Participated in the annual Citizens Academy
- Two water related incidents neither on Lake Wylie – a pond drowning and rescue on rocks. Life jackets were not used in either incident.

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

- He reviewed the March 2012 sampling data. The LUESI scores at two sites improved have improved.
- The county will do a bathometric survey of Brown’s Cove. This is a part of a state led review which is a result of complaints received from local residents about increased sediment in the cove. The county has 12 years of data for the cove that can be used to track any changes. It is an attempt to establish how much the cove has changed as a result of sediment from development and perhaps identify responsible parties to share in the cost to repair the cove. Mr. Stowe asked who will enforce getting the parties to pay. Mr. Buetow stated it will be a difficult process as it is hard to prove who is involved.

Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Ronnie Lawson reported

- Lake level – 97.2’.
- Drought Management Group – Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) is at Stage 0.
- No dredging permits are issued until July 1 because the fish are spawning.

Lake Wylie Riverkeeper report – Ellen Goff reported

- In general, conditions remain quiet. Report of a small spill in Tega Cay – no fine involved.
- Planning for Riversweep is moving forward. They have located sites and site captains.
- There was a report of a large amount of boiled clams in Big Allison Creek. This occurred shortly after Duke Energy reactor number 2 went down. The actual cause of the dead clams is unknown at this time.

Item 7 – Treasurer’s Report

- Secretary Treasurer Wanless stated that all was well and no action is required. One more revenue item to be added this quarter.

Item 8 – Executive Director’s Report – Executive Director Joe Stowe reported

- **Law Enforcement Center** – He delivered the package for the proposed boat ramp to the Core of Engineers and they have established a timetable for review and public notice.
- **Osprey Nests**– Dr. Jarmen has been informed that he will need a permit from DHEC and the Core of Engineers before placing osprey nests.
- **Catawba River District** – He has officially resigned from the Catawba River District. If someone else would like to participate just let him know.
- **Riversweep** – He met with members of Reflection Point HOA. They are teaming up with Gaston County Wildlife Center for a trash pickup area and food serving location.
- **David Merryman** – The plaque for David Merryman is ready to be mailed. He recommended getting a similar plaque to give to commissioners completing their terms. Commissioner Everhart made a motion to purchase 6 small plaques as retirement gifts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Virkler and passed unanimously.

Item 9 – Chairman’s Report - Chairman Smitty Hanks reported

- **No report.**

Item 10 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- **Water Quality** –
 - Commissioner Wanless proposed that the commission write a letter to the Bi-State Commission and Charlotte City Council stating their concerns that it is difficult for the commission to address water quality issues if development is pursued without following published rules. He agreed to write the letter.
 - Lynn Smith stated that Chip Krell is still looking for a lighter Clean Marina flag.
 - Grass Carp Program – carp will be released into the lake in May.
- **Safety**
 - **Buoys** – Chairman Hanks and Commissioner Everhart corrected the buoys at McDowell Park. Commissioner Thomas asked again when the buoys at Paradise Point will be replaced. Chairman Hanks stated it is on the list to be completed.
- **Recreation** – Commissioner Thomas reported that he has met with a few people to discuss sponsoring an AquaPolooza in conjunction with SeaRay. He will continue to research the possibility of this idea.
 - **Fireworks** – Commissioner Virkler stated that there have been two meetings to organize the firework sponsorships. The focus is to make this a community sponsored event.
- **Public Information**
 - Commissioner Hull stated the website is currently being redeveloped. He hopes to have something to show commissioners at the next meeting.

Item 11 - Public Comment

No one was present for public comments.

Item 12 – Adjournment

With no more business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

The next LWMC business meeting will be held on May 21, 2012 at Gaston College East Campus 7220 Wilkinson Blvd, Belmont, NC and will begin at 7:00 pm.