

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
August 26, 2013
Belmont City Hall
Meeting Minutes (revised)



Commissioners Present: Chairman Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)
Vice Chairman Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Commissioner Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Commissioner Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)
Commissioner Ed Hull (York County)
Commissioner George Medler (York County)
Commissioner Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Howard Virkler (Mecklenburg County)

Commissioner Absent: Secretary Treasurer Ron Wanless (York County)

LWMC Staff Absent: Emily Parker, Clerk

LWMC Staff Present: Joe Stowe, Executive Director; Chris Clark, Legal Counsel;
Barbie Blackwell, Centralina COG (filling in for Emily Parker)

Meeting Minutes

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Medler to approve the July 22, 2013 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hanks and it was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Everhart asked if any additions or changes needed to be made to the August 26 agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Virkler to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Biggerstaff and it was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

No items were submitted on the Consent Agenda.

Legal Counsel Chris Clark commented on the function of the Consent Agenda. Items on a Consent Agenda require an up or down vote with no discussion. It would not be appropriate to add items to the Consent Agenda once the meeting has started.

Item 5 – Public Comment

Mr. Neil Brennan commented on Riversweep and mentioned a note he received from Doug Brogdon, with Duke Energy's mosquito control division. Mr. Brogdon scoped out areas around the lake where

large amounts of trash accumulate: boat landings in general, 2 coves up from the Catawba Nuclear Station discharge, the area above the Allison Creek access, the South Point access area, the Highway 27 landing, Dale's landing at Highway 74, and Allen Plant discharge. Mr. Brogdon asked that Riversweep boat captains and site captains be aware that trash and debris also collects around bridges. Mr. Brennan asked that if law enforcement personnel see areas where trash has accumulated, to please let Commissioner Hanks or Executive Director Stowe know.

Item 6 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and SPLASH Report – Chairman Everhart reported that the CMPD has been busy and they are still short one officer. The US Coast Guard stopped 30+ boats on Lake Wylie this past weekend and charged one boater with boating while impaired in South Carolina. SPLASH has not made any appearances in the past month. Chairman Everhart apologized for being late to the meeting.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that the GCPD identified a stolen boat at the Harbortowne Marina. The boat was recovered at T-Bones Restaurant. Officer Hamrick will provide more information as it comes available. GCPD has nearly finished their full time season. They will work this coming weekend and then be done for the season. The new GCPD boat will be finished at the end of January 2014.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Mabry reported that they have had a few calls related to debris floating in the water. This week, Sgt. Mabry and Sgt. Ware have to be in court and will have limited availability. Related to Officer Hamrick's report about the stolen boat, Sgt. Mabry has an email notification system in place to inform other law enforcement personnel on other lakes of suspicious behavior and/or criminal activity.

Officer Hamrick referenced a recent article in the *Charlotte Observer* that Lake Wylie did not make the list of lakes in North Carolina that have the most accidents, while Lake Norman was listed as #3 in the State. Commissioner Hanks asked about a recent death on Lake Wylie. The deceased fell off a dock and hit something in the water.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Sgt. Barry Rowell was not present and no report was given.

SC Department of Natural Resources – No one was present to report. Chairman Everhart said he would provide the LWMC with a copy of the letter from SCDNR via Ms. Parker. The letter acknowledged the request for a no wake zone and the request was denied.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency – David Buetow was unable to attend the meeting.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported.

- Lake level: 96.8
- Drought Management Group – this group is not meeting right now.
- All ground water levels are in the normal range.
- No dredging has occurred.

Executive Director Stowe asked Mr. Lawson if there are any plans to lower the lake level for Riversweep. The lake level was lowered last year. It also did not rain much after it was lowered, thus creating a more

hazardous shallow water situation. Mr. Stowe recommended that the lake level not be lowered this year. Mr. Lawson offered to pass word along about not lowering the lake level. Vice Chairman Thomas asked about navigational hazards and whether removing hazards are in Duke Energy's purview. Mr. Lawson responded that if a tree or other debris remains lodged and creates a hazard, Duke Energy will have someone remove it. Mr. Lawson is the person to contact in this situation. Executive Director Stowe asked if the LWMC is square with Duke Energy regarding the boat ramp at the law enforcement center. Mr. Lawson said that nothing further is needed. If a boater comes across debris that is causing a navigation hazard, they can call Duke Energy Lake Management at 1-800-443-5193 or visit <http://www.duke-energy.com/lakes/management.asp>. This is good information for area marinas to post as well.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Mr. C.D. Collins reported that during the last high water event, he took 53 pictures around the Allen Plant and sent them to Duke Energy Lake Management. A few weeks ago, Mr. Collins received notice of a fire in a cove near Seven Oaks Bridge. Someone set a tree stump on fire and left the scene. Mr. Collins called law enforcement and they searched the woods with canines. The perpetrator left the scene, but returned a few days later. Mr. Collins spoke with the man and he disappeared again. Mr. Collins and law enforcement would like to find this man. An article ran in the *Lake Wylie Pilot* about trespassing. Sam Perkins was present and mentioned that a covekeeper training (4 week course) will be held in October. Date and location are TBD. Chairman Everhart asked that Mr. Perkins get any relevant information to Ms. Parker. He also mentioned Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) as a source of possible sedimentation issues related to animal waste storage. This is an issue to keep an eye on moving forward.

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation – No one was present to report.

Item 7 – Presentation on Proposed Project: Water's Edge Community

Mr. Mike Degner with Skipjack Marine Development was on hand representing the Water's Edge Development. This residential community development is north of I-85 and Mt. Holly. Back in 2009, there were plans to build a community dock for the subdivision. They received all approvals, but due to the failing economy, decided to not go ahead with building the dock. Now that the economy is improving, they would like to pursue the option to install 26 residential boat slips for that community. The LWMC would need to review the project and approve it or not. According to Mr. Degner, nothing has changed about the project since it was first proposed in 2009. Executive Director Stowe asked Legal Counsel Clark how long a project approval given by the LWMC stays valid. Mr. Clark said that there is not a fixed time, but recommended that the project be reviewed again by the LWMC. Commissioner Hanks asked how this project relates to Saddler Island. Mr. Degner said it is south of Saddler Island. Given the congestion with Saddler Island, the group agreed that the project should be reviewed again. Chairman Everhart asked that Mr. Degner send a smaller version of the plans to Ms. Parker for distribution to the group. Chairman Everhart asked about how much shoreline there is. Mr. Degner did not have the exact number, but that is something that can be found out. Mr. Degner's phone number is 704-663-3478. Marine commissioners will coordinate visits to the site.

Item 8 – Riversweep Update

Commissioner Hanks commented that the Riversweep planning committee is making good progress. ~1,000 people are expected to participate. Commissioner Hanks and Executive Director Stowe have been working on a t-shirt design for this year. They have chosen a navy blue t-shirt with left chest screen print and a design will also be on the back. Shirts are \$4.55 each. Shirts larger than XL are \$6.55 each. They also came up with a cap design for boat captains and staff. Caps are \$7.60 each with a \$73

digitizing fee. Commissioner Hanks proposed that the LWMC order 1,000 adult size t-shirt (like last year) and 70 caps – 50 for boat captains and 20 for staff. There have been requests for youth-sized t-shirts. A youth medium size would likely be the smallest youth size that would be ordered. A youth large and an adult small are almost the same. The t-shirt contact said to not order youth large t-shirts. Commissioner Virkler liked the larger logo on the back. Commissioner Virkler made a motion that the LWMC order 1,000 t-shirts and 70 caps, per Commissioner Hanks' description. Commissioner Biggerstaff seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Virkler made a motion that the LWMC select the logo for the front of the shirt with the date below it, and also select the larger logo for the back of the shirt. Commissioner Biggerstaff seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Medler suggested that the LWMC select the smaller logo for the back. Chairman Everhart suggested that youth shirts could use the smaller logo. Commissioner Hanks said that having a different logo for youth shirts would mean having another set of screens made, which would be an additional expense. Commissioner Virkler withdrew his motion. Commissioner Hanks then made a motion that the LWMC use the larger Riversweep with the "12th Annual" below it on the front and the smaller Riversweep logo on the back of a navy blue t-shirt and tan caps. Vice Chairman Thomas seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Item 9 – PA System Report

Vice Chairman Thomas reported on a couple of different PA options: \$2,200 range for 8 speakers/microphones, for 4 speakers/microphones it would be around \$1,000. Executive Director Stowe suggested that this issue be tabled until the LWMC has set meeting locations. Everyone agreed that the Belmont City Hall is great, acoustically and otherwise. The Good Samaritan Church in Lake Wylie is good as well. The group needs a more permanent meeting spot in Mecklenburg County. Commissioner Medler confirmed that the group needs to find a place like the Belmont City Hall – not in the back of a restaurant. A member of the audience commented that he was in a similar bad acoustics situation with another group, and that group purchased a PA system. He said they used it twice and now it is taking up space in his storage unit.

Item 10 – Mid-Atlantic Boat Show

Vice Chairman Thomas reported on pricing for a 2-3 minute video loop of pictures with audio/voice over. The LWMC would provide images to an editor and also write text for the audio. It would be around \$700.00 for the video and \$200.00–\$250.00 to hire someone to do the voice over. The LWMC would need to provide a screen or large screen TV or monitor. The LWMC could have text included (in PowerPoint) instead of having a voice over. Commissioner Hanks and Virkler agreed that having audio repeating all day for days may be intrusive. Chairman Everhart asked about the turnaround time. He proposed that the group revisit this situation at the September meeting. Commissioner Medler suggested that the marine commissioners serve as the voice over.

Item 11 – Treasurer's Report

Secretary Treasurer Wanless was unable to attend the meeting. Executive Director Stowe added on behalf of Secretary Treasurer Wanless that the LWMC is in great financial shape, all counties are paid up for the year, and there are no issues in sight. Commissioner Hanks commented on the re-formatted CCOG monthly report and that he thought Ms. Parker did a good job on it. He said that he might like to see a running total and the budget (\$17,000) for administration so the LWMC can see how much is left in that line item. Chairman Everhart agreed that it would be good to have this information.

Item 12 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Joe Stowe reported.

- Catawba-Wateree Bi-State Commission Report – Executive Director Joe Stowe attended the Catawba-Wateree Bi-State Commission meeting a couple of weeks ago. It was in combination with a CMUD meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to look at water demand in the Catawba-Wateree Basin alongside projected development. One main point was that by 2050 – with development planned as it is and the available as is – we may run out of water. A second point is that the Bi-State Commission along with a CMUD work group is using a [CHEOPS model](#). The model helps figure out how much water is available, etc. Sam Perkins added that the Union County may start getting some of its water from Norwood (Stanly County).
- Nominating Committee Update – The nominating committee met and will deliver its report at the September meeting.
- Northern Law Center Update – Two sites have been recommended:
 1. The first site is one that Gaston County is currently using. It is at the end of a cove beside Misty Waters. It has been mentioned that if the site would be used for law enforcement, a boat house would need to be added.
 2. Joe Carriker of Duke Energy’s Lake Management department called Mr. Stowe about a site. Mr. Carriker mentioned Canal Road. At the end of the road, there is a parcel that could be made available to the LWMC. The LWMC could have full use of the site at no cost. However, water would need to be extended to the site, which would cost several hundred thousand dollars. Therefore, this site will probably not be chosen, but it is good that Duke Energy seems willing to help identify possible Northern Law Center locations.

Item 13 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Everhart reported.

- Saddler Island/Tailrace Marina/US National Whitewater Center Update – Chairman Everhart reported on a meeting that was held with property owners, business owners, and law enforcement. CMPD has increased police presence near Saddler Island to educate and write tickets if need be. Chairman Everhart is working with NCWRC to post markers (that are part of the uniformed marking system) to define the “middle.” He thinks there is a good working program in place. There was also discussion about signage on docks at Tailrace Marina and USNWC. The signs would need to have just a few bullet points and perhaps a simple “You Are Here” map. Sam Perkins brought up the kayak class for inner city children that the Riverkeeper puts on during the summer. There were two incidents where boats went by too close to kids in kayaks. Mr. Perkins asked if it would do any good to take down the boater’s number. Chairman Everhart said it might, but you would need to be very sure and have proof, like a cell phone photo.

Item 14 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker was unable to attend the meeting. Her co-worker Barbie Blackwell filled in for her at the meeting. No Clerk’s Report was given.

Item 15 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- Water Quality
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Biggerstaff mentioned the certificates for the Clean Marinas that were re-certified. After discussion with Commissioner Medler, they

decided that there is no reason to put the original Clean Marina certification date on the certificate. Ms. Parker should proceed with printing the certificates stating re-certification in 2013. Commissioner Biggerstaff added information about moving buoys after a high water event. He has one buoy at his house.

- Invasive Species – Commissioner Virkler had nothing to report on invasive species as far as Lake Wylie is concerned. He did, however, talk with Ken Manuel this week about a Boy Scout lake that is infested. If anyone sees invasive species, notify Mr. Manuel and the State will investigate.
- Buoys – Commissioner Hanks commented that Dock Masters will have someone on the lake this week making sure all of the buoys are in place this week.
- Safety – Chairman Everhart had nothing to report at the present time.
- Recreation – Vice Chairman Thomas had nothing to report at the present time.
- Public Information – Commissioner Smith brought up the LWMC booklet. Centralina COG can print a 12-page booklet for \$0.60 per booklet. She asked how many copies need to be made. It would be good to have some for Riversweep and definitely the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show. Commissioner Hanks made a motion for Centralina COG to print 200 12-page booklets in color. Vice Chairman Thomas seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously. Commissioner Virkler mentioned including the Duke Energy Lake Management phone number and web site to the back page, if it is not already there. Someone from the audience asked if there are phone numbers included for someone to report a sewage spill or fish kill. If these numbers are not included on the back, they should be. Ms. Parker will make sure these phone numbers are added to the back page of the booklet.

Item 16 – Public Comments (limited to 3 minutes)

No one was present for public comment.

Item 17 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next LWMC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, September 23, 2013 at Good Samaritan United Methodist Church (5220 Crowder’s Cove Lane, Lake Wylie, SC).