

Lake Wylie Marine Commission
August 25, 2014
Carolinas HealthCare System
Steele Creek Healthcare Pavilion



Commissioners Present: Chairman Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Vice Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary Treasurer Ed Hull (York County)
Commissioner Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Commissioner Neil Brennan (Gaston County)
Commissioner Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner George Medler (York County)

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Ron Wanless (York County)

LWMC Staff Present: Joe Stowe, Executive Director; Chris Clark, Legal Counsel;
Emily Parker, Clerk

Meeting Minutes

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

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

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Chairman Thomas asked if any changes need to be made to the July 28 minutes. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve the July 28 minutes. Secretary Treasurer Hull seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Approval of Agenda

Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the August 25 agenda. Commissioner Everhart seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 4 – Public Comment

Linda McCaw, Lake Resident – Ms. McCaw expressed her thoughts about personal water craft – specifically jet skis – and the very loud, irritating noise that they make. Jet skiers speed around the cove in front of her house creating excessive noise and potentially dangerous situations. The numbers on the jet skis are usually too small to read. Sometimes, jet skiers are out at night making noise too. She implored law enforcement personnel present for help with this situation.

Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Joye reported that both of CMPD's boats are in service. They are down to three officers at the present time. Next spring they may add another full time officer to the lake patrol. Officer Joye addressed Ms. McCaw's issue with noise caused by jet skis.

People are renting jet skis and those renters do not need to have had a safe boating class. He recommended that people call 911 if it is late at night and jet skiers (or anyone) are out making noise. He said that the buoys at Copperhead Island and McDowell Park have not moved. Any movement in the past year or two has been from water movement. One of those buoys did appear in the cove across from Copperhead. It should be picked up and put back in its place.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that both boats are operational. Monday (9/1) is the last full time day for the year for GCPD lake patrol. He noted that weekend before last there were a lot of jet skiers on the water. Many of the jet skiers GCPD stopped had not had safety boating class and most people were from counties outside of Gaston or Mecklenburg. He commented that GCPD wrote more tickets this year than in the past two years combined. However, the lake has been busier this year than in previous years.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Mabry reported that things are slowing down for the season. School resource officers (SROs) have returned to the schools. He mentioned that YCSO helped find a missing jet skier (found) and conducted a multi-agency training on the lake. Last week, Sgt. Mabry spoke with SCDNR about placing shallow water hazard markers on the backside of Allison Creek beyond the 274 bridge. The water gets shallow very quickly in this area. SCDNR does not see any issue with placing these shallow water markers. Commissioner Brennan asked how long it would take to get the shallow water danger markers in place. Sgt. Mabry replied that it probably will not take too long because the shallow water is a danger to the public. He will email Ms. Parker once the shallow water markers have been put in place.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – Officer Tracy Dula reported on a recent serious jet ski accident involving a 13 and 14 year old. He described the jet ski accident. Citations were issued to the adults that were with the kids; the adults knew that the kids had not experienced a boater safety class. NCWRC wants to know about people jet skiing at night. There are rules for jet skis, for example, they are not supposed to run at night, at all. NCWRC will be scaling back its presence on the lake due to the start of dove hunting season. They may get a new boat next year. Officer Dula noted that the US Coast Guard will be on Lake Wylie this weekend.

SC Department of Natural Resources – No one was present to report.

US Coast Guard – No one was present to report.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency – David Buetow reported on the most recent full monitoring done in mid-July. He noted that the “swimmer blocks” are blue which means that bacteria levels are low, which is good news.

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported that:

Current lake level: 97.5 (target level 97.0)

Drought Management Group: Normal

Dredging: No dredging applications have been submitted.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Ellen Goff reported that they had two reports of floating mats of hydrilla. One of them was against the Seven Oaks Bridge. They received a report from a Mill Creek resident saying that she saw a hydrilla mat floating in the water as well. Ms. Goff added that Riversweep is really ramping up with ~5 weeks left. Pre-registration is going well. The planning committee expects

registration to pick up after Labor Day. She announced that Riversweep received a York County Accommodations and Hospitality Tax grant for \$5,100. There are over 20 sponsors and contributors for Riversweep. The public service announcement (PSA) video for Riversweep has been posted on the Riversweep website (<http://www.lakewylieriversweep.com/>). Ms. Goff will work with Ms. Parker to get the PSA video posted to the LWMC website.

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

Item 6 – Riversweep 2014 Update

Commissioner Brennan reported that the planning committee is still short of boat captains. Only 15 have signed up so far and there are 102 participants. The next Riversweep meeting is Wednesday, August 27.

Item 7 – Tega Cay Update

Commissioner Brennan reported that according to SCDHEC, there was a 3,000 gallon sewage spill directly into Lake Wylie, but no fines were levied against the City of Tega Cay for that incident. The 90 day report from the City of Tega Cay to SCDHEC is due in early September. Commissioner Brennan will ask for a copy of that report. Commissioner Brennan will meet with Mr. David Buetow (Mecklenburg County LUESA) in the next several days to explore developing simple graphs of the most significant water quality parameters of both NC and SC to show trends.

Item 8 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Hull provided the Finance Report. The marine commission is into the second month of the fiscal year and we are where we should be financially.

Item 9 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Joe Stowe reported.

- a. Riversweep T-shirt Update – There is \$8,000 in the budget for Riversweep. T-shirts will likely cost between \$4,600 – \$4,700 for 1,000 shirts. The hats were a great success last year. The hats will likely cost \$5.50 apiece. A motion was made by Commissioner Brennan to purchase 100 boat captain hats this year. Vice Chairman Smith seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Medler asked if there is a price break for ordering a higher number. The answer is no, but there is no set up fee. A vote was taken and approved unanimously.
- b. Nominating Committee for Officers – The Nominating Committee met and will be ready to report to the group at the annual meeting in September.

Item 10 – Chairman’s Report

- a. ReVenture Park Dedication – The US EPA recently awarded ReVenture the Excellence in Site Reuse Award. ReVenture is the region’s first eco-industrial energy park. 667 acres have been repurposed to house large scale renewable energy and alternative fuel infrastructure, conservation easements, bike trails, and stream restoration. ReVenture connects to the USNWC. The Governor was on hand at the event and it was good public relations for Charlotte and the region. Click here for information about ReVenture: <http://www.reventurepark.com/>

Item 11 – Clerk’s Report

Ms. Parker received a no wake zone request application after the agenda package went into the mail. She will send the application and attachment to the group tomorrow. She also mentioned a new option for vendors paid by the LWMC via CCOG – electronic funds transfer (EFT). This means there will be the

option of having payment directly deposited into your bank account; no more hard copy checks. However, vendors can continue to receive the hard copy check if they choose.

Item 12 – Discussion of Revised Bylaws

Legal Counsel Clark introduced the revised bylaws topic. A motion was made by Commissioner Biggerstaff to approve the revised bylaws. Commissioner Everhart seconded the motion. Discussion: There was clarification about dates within the bylaws. The vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Item 13 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

Water Quality –

- Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Biggerstaff reported that they received the new Clean Boating pamphlet. Commissioner Biggerstaff and Medler will distribute them to area marinas. If anyone wants one, let him know.
- Invasive Species – CD Collins clarified and said that it is alligator weed, not hydrilla, that Ms. Goff mentioned earlier in the meeting. Alligator weed grows close to shore and breaks loose when the water rises, then floats downstream.
- Buoys – Commissioner Biggerstaff reported that a buoy that broke loose from Lower Armstrong Bridge. That buoy is on the bank ready to be picked up. Buoys on the north side of the bridge need to be moved back to where they migrated from. Officer Joye added that one of the LWMC buoys has been moved to one of the end of Saddler Island where the proposed no wake zone would be. It was made clear that none of the marine commissioners moved that buoy.
- Safety – Commissioner Everhart said that SPLASH is currently in hibernation.
- Recreation – Chairman Thomas had nothing to add.
- Public Information – Secretary Treasurer Hull reminded marine commissioners and those present to please let him know if any changes need to be made to the website.

Item 14 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

The next LWMC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, September 22, 2014 at Belmont City Hall (115 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC)