

Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission



**Mount Holly City Hall
400 East Central Ave
Mount Holly, NC**

**March 4, 2009
Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Chairman Pam Beck (Gaston County), Secretary/Treasurer Ann Danzi (Gaston County), Commissioner Chris Watson (Lincoln County), Commissioner Dan DuVall (Mecklenburg County), Commissioner Tim Eldridge (Gaston County)

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chairman Alice Battle (Mecklenburg County), Commissioner Tim Bishop (Mecklenburg County),

MILMC Staff Present: Executive Administrator Annette Lawing, Legal Counsel Chris Clark

Topic	Discussion Summary	Action
Welcome & Introductions	Chairman Pam Beck called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.	
Approval of the March 4, 2009 Agenda	<p>The March 4, 2009 meeting agenda was approved with the following revisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Item VIII, Public Safety Reports, Gaston County Police Department to report before Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department □ Legal Counsel, Chris Clark suggested that the Commission conducted a closed session meeting to discuss the debate over installation of fish attractors in Mountain Island Lake. 	A motion was made by Secretary Treasurer Danzi to approve the March 4 th meeting agenda with suggested revisions. Seconded by Commissioner Eldridge. Motion was approved.
Approval of the February 4, 2009 Meeting Minutes	The February 4, 2009 meeting minutes were approved as submitted	

Topic	Discussion Summary	Action
Statement of Purpose	Legal Counsel, Chris Clark read the Statement of Purpose into the record.	
Public Comments	Public Comments - None	
Consent Agenda	Consent Agenda – None	
Public Safety Reports	<p>Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hord reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Participated in the “Brief the Chief” meeting at Camp Thunderbird <input type="checkbox"/> Gaston County Police Chief reported that they will scale back on staff this year <input type="checkbox"/> Side scan sonar is anticipated to arrive soon <p>Chairman Beck suggested that the Commission emphasize to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners the importance of having law enforcement officers out on the lake.</p> <p>Charlotte – Mecklenburg Police Department – Officer Howard reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Officer Howard’s unit has a new Captain, Greg Collins and should be getting three new officers as well <input type="checkbox"/> CMPD conducted nine (9) zone checks at Neck Road in February 2009 <p>Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No one was present to give report <p>N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No one was present to give report <p>Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No one was present to give report <p>Duke Energy of the Carolinas – Kermitt Taylor reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> (0) Pier Applications <input type="checkbox"/> Lake level is 98.2 <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to be in Stage 2 of LIP <input type="checkbox"/> Participated in training with GPS camera. Took photos of old structures (i.e. old docks) to help find owners in order to get structures removed. 	

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<p>Environmental Reports</p>	<p>Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ No one was present to give report <p>Lakekeepers Report – Alice Battle was not present but provided her report to the Commission prior to the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Randy Miller reported on the status of the Stonewater violations. The silt bags and silt fences were installed within the 14 days notice of violation. Danon did not require the seeding of the berms behind Jeff Huggins home because it was the wrong time of the year to plant seeds. □ The Covekeepers elected to adopt the island at Duck Cove as part of the Island Habitat program. Alice Battle and Kathy Jaeck will be monitoring the prothonotary warber boxes that will be placed at this location. □ A map of Johnson Creek was distributed and discussed. It was compared to an actual topo map. The exchange to be built on the new Hwy 16 is on a relatively flat topography uphill of critical perennial streams of Johnson Creek. The topo map also showed the steep descent from that site to the stream beds. <p>Catawba Riverkeeper David Merryman reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ March 19th – 20th at The Neighborhood Theatre – Rock Out for the River - a benefit concert for the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation. □ March 24th in Raleigh – Clean Water Lobby Day – a day to voice your support for legislation and funding that protects the Catawba River. <p>Quality of Natural Resources (QNRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ No new information to report <p>MI Wildlife Stewards – Tim Eldridge and Pam Beck reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Fish attractors to be installed in Mountain Island Lake towards the end of March. <p>Chairman Pam Beck voiced her concern that the attractors will be installed in shallow water and could become a safety hazard for swimmers. Commissioner Eldridge stated that the installation would be in at least 20’ of water. Commissioner Dan DuVall added that these attractors are needed on Mountain Island Lake. Grass carp have taken</p>	

Topic	Discussion Summary	Action
<p>Environmental Reports (continued)</p>	<p>over the fish population in the lake. Attractors would provide a habitat and would be a form of vegetation for other types of fish. Fish can ambush their prey with the help of these devices and once algae start to grow on them; this could provide a form of vegetation. Commissioner Eldridge asked for clarification on the environmental impact from installing plastic PVC piping into the lake. PVC does not release any toxic chemicals that would be harmful, stated DuVall.</p> <p>Kermitt Taylor with Duke Energy informed the Commission that there are certain regulations identifying the depth of water that the attractors should be installed. Also, fish attractors can be placed under a permitted dock. This is a good location that would prevent any safety hazards. Secretary Treasurer Danzi asked who enforces these regulations. Legal Counsel Chris Clark stated that the enforcement of regulations should not be discussed. The Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission is not an enforcement body but a policy body. Danzi suggested that a policy be made through the Marine Commission on how to properly place fish habitats. Several Commissioners see that placing fish attractors into MI Lake as a non-issue. Chairman Pam Beck stated that in the future, the Commission should be informed by NC Wildlife when such an undertaking is happening on Mountain Island Lake.</p> <p>As stated in the MILMC Statement of Purpose, one of the commission's obligations is to protect and promote wildlife. Aquatic life is a part of this obligation, stated Commissioner Eldridge.</p>	
<p>Base Operating Plan</p>	<p>Update on the Base Operating Plan (BOP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Boating Safety – House Bill #39 Mandatory Boater Education will be read to the Committee on Wildlife Resources Wednesday, March 11th in Raleigh. Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting to show their support for this bill. □ Meeting with Funding Counties – Executive Administrator Annette Lawing, Chairman Pam Beck and Commissioner Chris Watson reported the successes of the Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission at the February 16th Lincoln County Board of Commissioners meeting. □ River Tour with Elected Officials – Secretary Treasurer Ann Danzi requested that the Commission begin the planning process for a River Tour with Elected Officials. 	

Topic	Discussion Summary	Action
Chairman's Report	Chairman's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Catawba Wateree Bi-State Commission – when meeting minutes are available, Pam Beck requested that the MILMC forward them to the Lake Wylie and Lake Norman Marine Commissions since Pam is the representative for all three commissions. 	
Executive Administrator's Report	Executive Administrator's Report – Interim Executive Director Annette Lawing reported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Finance report – Lawing distributed a current finance report to the commissioners for their review. □ FY09-10 Budget Preparation - The commission was provided a draft copy of the FY09-10 budget to review at its February meeting. Ms. Lawing asked the commission to send any revisions / suggestions to her as soon as possible. 	
Commission Counsel Report	Commission Counsel Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ No report 	
Commissioner's Comments	Commissioner's Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ No Comments 	
Closed Session	Closed Session As requested by Legal Counsel Chris Clark, the Commission went into closed session to discuss and answer any legal questions relating to installation of fish habitats into Mountain Island Lake. Several Commissioners questioned the Commission liabilities if a swimmer would be injured from a fish attractor in the lake. After discussing this issue, the consensus was that there are hundreds of these attractors put in the lake by individuals and other organizations. It would be very hard to determine who dropped the attractor into the lake. Commissioner DuVall added that most attractors are constructed of PVC piping that is very limber and harmless. He doesn't see them as a safety hazard. Secretary Treasurer Danzi suggested that the Commission post the guidelines (i.e. depth of water) set by Duke and HEP when installing fish attractors into Mountain Island Lake. This could be done via the Commission website.	A motion was made by Commissioner DuVall for the board to go into closed session. Seconded by Commissioner Eldridge. The motion was approved. A motion was made by Commissioner DuVall for the board to go out of closed session. Seconded by Commissioner Eldridge. The motion was approved.

Topic	Discussion Summary	Action
Closed Session (continued)	The closed session concluded with a consensus that the Commission is not opposed to the installation of fish attractors if installed correctly.	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.	
Next Business Meeting Date and Location	The next MILMC business meeting will be held on April 1, 2009 at 6:30 pm at Cowan's Ford Country Club, 761 Club Drive, Stanley, NC.	

Annette Lawing, Executive Administrator