

Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission Minutes

February 1, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.

East Lincoln Fire Department

406 S. Pilot Knob Street, Stanley, NC



Commissioners Present: Chairman Cathy Roche (Mecklenburg County), Vice-Chairman Skip Hudspeth (Mecklenburg County), Secretary/Treasurer Craig Wyant (Lincoln County), Commissioner Jerry Campbell (Gaston County), Commissioner Tim Eldridge (Gaston County), Commissioner Brian Weyeneth (Gaston County)

Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Meg Morgan (Mecklenburg County)

MILMC Staff Present: Diane Dil, Executive Administrator; Chris Clark, Legal Counsel

Topic	Discussion Summary
Welcome & Introductions	Chairman Roche called the meeting to order.
Approval of Agenda /Statement of Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agenda was approved as submitted. • Chris Clark read the statement of purpose.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The January 2012 minutes were approved as submitted.
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerry Hutton spoke on behalf of her Riverbend neighbors regarding the location of Mountain Island Charter School. The charter school is proposing to purchase 40 acres of the Bechtler property to relocate the charter school from its current location. Her concerns are: clear cutting the 40 acres, negative impact on existing wildlife habitats and increased traffic on the small road. She is seeking guidance from the commission on issues they may be overlooking. Commissioner Wyant recommended they ensure an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and traffic study are being conducted. Commissioner Eldridge stated that construction timing is many months away as there are still many issues to resolve. Ron Smith of Gaston County Planning Services stated they have been working with the school to address numerous zoning issues which include façade variance, power lines thorough the site, evacuation plan, and road classification.
Public Safety Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer Turner – CMPD carried out 2 zone checks at Latta Plantation and 5 at Neck Road access. There was a report of gunshots fired. It was most likely duck hunters as it was still during hunting season.

Topic	Discussion Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kermitt Taylor – The lake level is 97.5’ with current drought conditions supporting Stage 0 of the Low Inflow Protocol. Two new dock permits were issued: one at Mountain Point and the other in Nance Cove.
Environmental Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakekeepers Report - Alice Battle reported – new EPA requirements will be in effect soon regarding mercury and air toxics. These new regulations will not allow Duke to postpone closing Riverbend plant past the current 2015 closing date. According to the secchi disc study the only lake with more transparency than MIL was Lake James. There continue to be unresolved issues regarding the reservoir in Lancaster County. Libby Sweatt of the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation (CRF) continues to organize fundraisers for the organization. A Bechtler Museum tour is the next scheduled event. On March 24, CRF will host a train ride with dinner over the Catawba River. • Mountain Island Wildlife Stewards – No report
Future Industrial Park in Mt Holly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman Roche reviewed a Crescent Resources project that was rezoned by the City of Mt. Holly from residential to industrial. It was not a property suitably located for residential development. There are no immediate development plans. LandDesign is working on the project.
Finance Report	<p>Ms. Dil reviewed the financial statements. She stated that the NC Lake Management Society annual membership was due. <u>Commissioner Weyeneth made a motion to renew for 2012. It was seconded by Commission Wyant and approved unanimously.</u></p>
Chairman’s Report	<p>Chairman Roche stated that she and Commissioner Campbell met with Gaston County Commissioners. The meeting went well and the County Commission is supportive of the marine commission’s direction. They agreed that there are no funds available for a lake management plan and they like the concept of the TAC to offer assistance. She and Commissioner Hudspeth will meet with Mecklenburg County Commissioners on 2/7/12.</p>
2012 Operating Plan	<p>The Operating Plan report was reviewed and commented on by all. It was decided to remove the last four columns. Ms. Dil will send out MS Word and MS Excel versions to all commissioners to use to report project progress. Updates will be sent via email to Ms. Dil who will include them in the agenda package. Each committee leader will determine a goal and report back at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality – Alice Battle – the covekeepers will do secchi disc testing this year to measure the transparency of the lake. The testing is not limited to covekeepers. Testing will start again in March. This time they will also be taking temperatures. Readings should be done before and after heavy lake usage and after a large rain event. The testing should be done in a consistent location. Ms. Battle will provide a form to track readings. • Property – Chairman Roche stated that Commissioner Morgan is looking for guidance and assistance to develop the goal of this committee. Commissioner Eldridge offered to call Commissioner Morgan and offer assistance.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed – Commissioner Campbell reviewed the work done to date by the watershed committee. They are determining what the focus needs to be and then they will focus on the most critical watershed areas. They will then determine an action plan and bring it before the entire commission. They are using Gaston County as a test case scenario. • Safety – Commissioner Eldridge is working on a Gaston County location close to the lake for the boater safety course. Commissioner Hudspeth met with Michael Kirschman with Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation. Mr. Kirschman stated that the buoys in front of the cove to Latta Plantation do not belong to them and would like the marine commission to maintain them. Commissioner Hudspeth considers this a common interest and an opportunity to partner with an organization. Commissioner Eldridge stated the budget is limited and there is not enough money available to maintain additional buoys. • Communications – Chairman Roche reported that the website went live on Wednesday. Facebook is also live. Thanks to all those involved with this project. • TAC – Commissioner Wyant reviewed the list of technical advisor categories with the full commission. It was determined by all that it is acceptable to include local government workers as TAC members. Chairman Roche requested all to review the list and forward potential members to Commissioner Wyant.
Executive Administrators Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Dil reviewed the report of tasks done by CCOG for the month of January 2012.
Commission Counsel Report	<p>Legal Counsel Chris Clark reminded the Commission that in late December he received a letter from NC Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC) regarding the inclusion of no wake zones, approved by MILMC, into the administrative code. He has prepared a memorandum which addresses the concerns and requirements of NCWRC. Mr. Clark recommended that the Commission enter into closed session for further discussion. <u>Commissioner Weyeneth made a motion to enter into closed session to consult with legal counsel regarding a response to the letter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eldridge and approved unanimously.</u> Legal Counsel provided advice to the Commission relating to the issues raised in the NCWRF letter. <u>Commissioner Weyeneth made a motion to come out of the closed session. It was seconded by Commissioner Eldridge and approved unanimously.</u></p>
Commissioner Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Hudspeth reported that he had a positive meeting with Michael Kirschman. The two groups have very similar interests. Mr. Kirschman stated the preservation of the Bechtler property, maintaining the quality of the water, and preserving vistas across the lake are all important issues. He offered to stock marine commission brochures at Latta Nature Center.

Topic	Discussion Summary
Public Comment	None
Adjournment	There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30.
Next Business Meeting Date and Location	The next MILMC business meeting will be held on March 7, 2012 beginning at 6:30pm at the Lee Dukes Waste Water Treatment Facility at 7980 Babe Stillwell Farm Road, Huntersville, NC.

Diane Dil, Executive Administrator