

Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission Minutes

March 7, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.

Lee Dukes Waste Water Treatment Facility

Huntersville, NC



Commissioners Present: 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 Meg Morgan (Mecklenburg County)

Commissioner Absent: Chairman Cathy Roche (Mecklenburg County)

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

Topic	Discussion Summary
Welcome & Introductions	Vice-Chairman Hudspeth called the meeting to order.
Approval of Agenda /Statement of Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Campbell requested that Commissioner Comments be moved before Counsel Report. Commissioner Eldridge requested to add a discussion of the administration of the commission. Commissioner Weyeneth requested to add a discussion of the budget and audit. All changes and additions were agreed upon. • Chris Clark read the statement of purpose.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The February 2012 minutes were approved as submitted.
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comments.
Public Safety Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer Turner – CMPD carried out 9 zone checks at Latta Plantation and three larcenies from vehicle. 7 zone checks at Neck Road access with no problems reported. One day on the lake with six zone checks. One warning for improper placement of registration numbers • Officer Shaw – Still not out on the lake. Gaston County attempting to get on the water during spring break. Should have one day on the lake. • Kermitt Taylor – The lake level is 97.4’ with current drought conditions supporting Stage 0 of the Low Inflow Protocol. One new shoreline stabilization was approved at Stonewater Bay.

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Environmental Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Davis – reviewed most recent report. Monitoring date 1/17/12. No changes in the LUSI map. The scores are based on a 12 month average and include elevated numbers from March 2011. These scores will age off and numbers are expected to decline. Bacteriological results were reviewed with nothing of concern. Bi-annual metal reports – nothing exceeded thresholds. • Lakekeepers Report - Alice Battle reported – firmed up secchi disk program at last meeting and developed a reporting form. Kay Killian has offered to lead a spring hike 3/31. Kerry Hutton provided an update on Mt Holly City Council meeting regarding MILCS. She reminded all that the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation will have its fundraiser, dinner train ride over the Catawba River, 3/24. Duke Energy is cutting trees along power lines from Riverbend to Dam. There will be a free lecture by Dr. Steingraber “Living Downstream” at Providence Day School. See Alice for more information. • Mountain Island Wildlife Stewards – No report
Administration of Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Eldridge stated that after the cost to operate there is not much money left for programs. Commissioner Eldridge believes 90 day notification is required to notify CCOG that they are considering contracting administrative services with a different company. Mr. Clark stated he believes that there is nothing to prevent the commission from looking for another administration source, but can review the contract with CCOG and let the commission know. <u>Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to direct counsel to review the contract with CCOG to determine if 90 days notice is required to notify CCOG that the commission may not renew the contact. If the contract does state that, counsel will write a letter to CCOG notifying them of the commission’s intent to consider other options. Commissioner Weyeneth seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.</u>
Discussion of Audit and Budget	Commissioner Weyeneth requested to move this item to closed session.
Finance Report	Ms. Dil reviewed the financial statements.
Chairman’s Report	Commissioner Hudspeth reviewed Chairman Roche’s report delivered via email. It discussed the meeting with the Mecklenburg County Commission.
2012 Operating Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality – Alice Battle – the covekeepers will do secchi disc testing starting April 1 to measure the transparency of the lake. The testing is not limited to covekeepers. Readings should be done before and after heavy lake usage and after a large rain event. The testing should be done in a consistent and convenient location. Ms. Battle will provide a form to track readings. Readings will be done between 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Commissioners Morgan and Hudspeth also volunteered to test. • Property – Commissioner Morgan reported that she met with Commissioner Eldridge to discuss

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	<p>ideas for encouraging trash collection. They are researching costs for installing trash dispensers at Riverbend, Latta and various neighborhoods with lake access. The trash stations would include flyers and instructions. They would seek sponsorship to cover costs. They still need to determine how to dispose of trash once collected. Mr. Taylor encouraged the commission to check with Duke Energy Lake Management Services about regulations concerning installing trash dispensers at the access points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed – Commissioner Campbell reviewed the work done to date by the watershed committee. They will focus on Gaston County first. The committee met Feb 8 and they determined there is a need to better understand each county’s vision of watershed protection. The committee also feels there is a lack of clear direction from the marine commission of the purpose of the watershed committee. Ron Smith of Gaston County Planning Department provided an update on the MILCS. The charter school has withdrawn their petition for a variance from Gaston County. It is now seeking annexation from the City of Mt. Holly. Commissioner Campbell requested comments from the commission regarding concerns and direction for the watershed committee. • Safety – Commissioner Eldridge is helping to promote the two scheduled boater safety classes. Commissioner Eldridge discussed goal number two that he submitted regarding reducing the number of buoys maintained by the marine commission. Commissioner Eldridge believes there is confusion as to who owns the buoys and we need to know that. The commission needs to research old minutes to see who owns the buoys. Commissioner Campbell stated that he has old minutes that might be helpful. Commissioner Hudspeth stated he is planning to inspect the condition of the existing the buoys over the next few weeks. • Communications – Commissioner Hudspeth reviewed the tasks completed as listed on the 2012 Operating Plan report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Campbell reported that Tim Gauss from Duke Energy has replied back to property owner Ellen Huffman regarding her request to build a structure in the lake. ○ Commissioner Weyeneth met with the leadership of the Gaston County police force and Mark Falkenberg of CMPD to introduce himself and let each agency know he is the liaison with the commission. He will meet with Charlotte Fire Department and the volunteer fire departments that serve the lake in March and April. ○ Commissioner Wyant met with the State Educational Forest through a variety of committees. ○ Commissioner Eldridge met with DOT representatives. ○ Commissioner Campbell met with Senator Dan Clodfelter and spoke about the difficulty of understanding the marine commission’s authority. Commissioner Campbell asked if he

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	<p>would be willing to help the commission better understand their authority. It would be preferred that this work session occur before the next legislative session. <u>Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to invite Sen. Clodfelter to our next work session to provide his opinions regarding jurisdictional concerns. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weyeneth and approved unanimously.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAC – Commissioner Wyant reviewed the names of the people he has contacted to be included in the TAC. He has continued to determine a list of maps that need to be created. Commissioner Wyant encourages the commission to respond back with any additional names for him to contact. There was discussion of including local governments and it was agreed that commissioners can provide these names. Commissioner Wyant agreed to provide the list of names he currently has to all commissioners.
Executive Administrators Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Dil reviewed the report of tasks done by CCOG for the month of February 2012. The big focus on February was completing the Gaston County funding request for FY 2012-2013.
Commission Counsel Report	Legal Counsel Chris Clark has no report.
Commissioner Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Campbell reviewed the Bi-State Meeting he recently attended. He provided a memo of the meeting's proceedings. • Commissioner Campbell referred commissioners to a handout from the website regarding the committee structure. There still exists a difference between the committee structure on the website and the structure in the agenda. This needs to be reconciled. Need to determine the responsibilities of each committee. Commissioner Morgan concurred that sorting this out will help give her direction to define the purpose of the committee.
Public Comment	None
Closed Session	<p><u>Commissioner Campbell made a motion to enter into closed session to consult with counsel. It was seconded by Commissioner Eldridge and approved unanimously.</u> Mr. Clark advised the commission that Commissioner Weyeneth's request to discuss the audit and budget during closed session does not fall within the realm of issues allowed in closed session. Commissioner Weyeneth agreed to remove his item from closed session. Legal Counsel provided advice to the Commission relating to the issues in the NCWRF letter. <u>Commissioner Hudspeth made a motion to come out of closed session. It was seconded by Commissioner Weyeneth and approved unanimously.</u></p>

Topic	Discussion Summary
Discussion of Audit and Budget	Commissioner Weyeneth withdrew this item from the agenda given how late it is.
Adjournment	There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45.
Next Business Meeting Date and Location	The next MILMC business meeting will be held on April 4, 2012 beginning at 6:30pm at Mount Holly City Hall, Mount Holly, NC.

Diane Dil, Executive Administrator