

# Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission Minutes

June 5, 2013 · 6:30 pm

Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities Department

Charlotte, North Carolina



**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Kari Lanning (Lincoln County),  
 Secretary Treasurer Brian Weyeneth (Gaston County)  
 Commissioner Jerry Campbell (Gaston County)  
 Commissioner Murray Nixon (Gaston County)  
 Commissioner Cathy Roche (Mecklenburg County)  
 Vacant (Mecklenburg County)

**Commissioners Absent:** Vice Chairman Skip Hudspeth (Mecklenburg County)

**MILMC Staff Present:** Emily Parker, Executive Administrator; Chris Clark, Legal Counsel

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<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Chairman Lanning called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. The marine commissioners introduced themselves.
<b>Consideration of Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Nixon said that she could give update on the loaner life jacket program as part of her committee report. <u>A motion was made by Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth to approve the June agenda as amended. Commissioner Nixon seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.</u></li> <li>• There were no items for the Consent Agenda.</li> </ul>
<b>Approval of Meeting Minutes</b>	Chairman Lanning asked if any changes needed to be made to the May 1, 2013 meeting minutes. Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth made a motion to approve the May minutes. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
<b>Public Comments (3 minutes per person)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. James Lee, lifelong Mountain Island Lake resident was present to ask about the timeframe related to hazard/danger buoy replacement. He was curious about timeframe for replacement, budget, who pays for it, etc. Commissioner Roche asked about which danger buoy he was talking about. After he said which one, Commissioner Roche said that she picked up that buoy the night before. The buoy is not in great shape – missing hardware, etc. Vice Chairman Hudspeth has been notified about ordering a new hazard buoy. Discussion continued about the status of buoys. The comment was made that since Vice Chairman Hudspeth is out of town, perhaps Ms. Parker could order another buoy. Chairman Lanning said she would get in contact with Vice Chairman Hudspeth after the meeting about ordering buoys.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Public Safety Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officer Turner of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In May, there were 24 calls for service, 9 boats inspected, 4 boats warned, 4 citations written, 1 navigational hazard, 1 special event (triathlon), and 10 volunteer hours were spent.</li> <li>○ There were 5 zone checks in Latta Planation Park and 5 zone checks at Neck Road Access.</li> <li>○ Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Lake Enforcement Unit was on the water May 7 dealing with flooding issues. Several boats and large debris were seen all over the lake.</li> <li>○ Several calls happened due to horses getting spooked and riders getting hurt.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Officer Hord of the Gaston County Police Department reported about 9 boat inspections and 2 written warnings given over Memorial Day weekend. Commissioner Roche thanked Officer Hord for his involvement in the Boater Safety Week media event. He commented that the media event opened a door for the GCPD with a relationship with the <i>Gaston Gazette</i>. Commissioner Nixon asked about people boating way too fast through the lake. Officer Hord said yes, you can report – just get the boat’s registration number.</li> <li>• Kermitt Taylor of Duke Energy reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 new pier permit issued at Stonewater</li> <li>○ Low Inflow Protocol: Drought indices are currently “Normal” (first time Mr. Taylor has reported this to the MILMC)</li> <li>○ Current lake level is 96.8</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Environmental Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Davis with Mecklenburg County LUESA provided the May 2013 Bacteriological report results. The monitoring dump was done on May 14. LUESA will start checking additional sites for fecal coliform this month. All sites are excellent and well below LUESA’s threshold of 200. Ms. Davis will have the LUSI index map from May next month. Commissioner Roche had a question about measuring bacteriological after a storm. Should we advise people to not swim after a rain event or flood waters? LUESA is doing a study right now (in preliminary stage) about the connection between increased turbidity and bacteriological increases. The study is focused on the US National Whitewater Center and will be used to educate boaters there, and to all lakes in the area.</li> <li>• Alice Battle provided the Lakekeepers Report. Activity has been reported on the property to be developed by Tom Waters. For another who has had Muddy Water Watch training, please be on the lookout for possible land disturbing activities that may cause sediment issues. The Covekeepers volunteered to help with the Open Swim Challenge, held on May 25. 150 people participated in this race. The great Secchi Dip-In will happen between June 29 until July 21. Ms.</li> </ul>

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	<p>Battle commented on her experience with the flooding that occurred on May 7. She will follow up with anyone that wanted to take part in the Secchi Dip-In in the next few days.</p> <p>The annual meeting of the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation will be held on Saturday, July 27 at 1:00 pm at the Mahlon Adams Pavilion at Freedom Park in Charlotte. A rubber duck race fundraiser will be held starting at noon that day on Little Sugar Creek Greenway. Information is forthcoming about when and where one can buy a duck. Ms. Battle turned the floor over to Mr. Rick Gaskins, Executive Director at Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation (3 minutes). Mr. Gaskins updated the group on two lawsuits that have been filed on coal ash ponds: the first focuses on coal ash ponds operated by Duke-Progress in or near Asheville. The second lawsuit was filed against Duke Energy Carolinas specifically about Riverbend. This was in response to notice of intent to sue that Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation filed earlier this year. Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation will likely move to intervene, which will likely be no surprise to Duke Energy, because the Foundation is unclear as to what kind of relief the State is asking for in the lawsuit. They would like to see the coal ash ponds removed and the discharges that are not permitted stopped. Alternatively, the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation could file its own suit in federal court. Please feel free to contact Mr. Gaskins (<a href="mailto:rick@catawbariverkeeper.org">rick@catawbariverkeeper.org</a>) with any questions or concerns. Also, Huntersville is changing its post-construction storm water ordinance. Currently they require the first 2 inches of rainfall be detained in retention ponds. They are changing that to 1 inch. This means that more storm water will head into Mountain Island Lake. Chairman Lanning invited Mr. Gaskins and Ms. Davis to come back and make presentations at the July meeting. Ms. Davis will present on Huntersville's new storm water ordinance.</p>
<p><b>Acknowledgement of Service Award Presentation</b></p>	<p>Even though former Commissioner Morgan was not present that evening, Chairman Lanning acknowledged her for her dedicated service to the MILMC. Commissioner Morgan's time and effort, particularly on the litter prevention program, is appreciated by the marine commissioners and everyone present. The commission has an award for Commissioner Morgan and Chairman Lanning plans to hand deliver this award to her.</p>
<p><b>Finance Report</b></p>	<p>Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth reviewed the finance report that says 'thru May 29' at the top, highlighted in yellow. He reviewed where the commission is with regard to funding received versus funding spent, and what's left over. Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth asked Ms. Parker about any other major expenses that may be coming before the end of the fiscal year. She thought perhaps some amount in insurance and legal fees. Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth surmised that the MILMC may end up the year with a surplus. Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth concluded his report and there were no questions from the commission.</p>

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<p><b>FY 13-14 Budget Discussion and Adoption</b></p>	<p>Legal Counsel Chris Clark explained how to properly transition into a public hearing. <u>Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth made a motion to go to public hearing to discuss the FY 13-14 budget with the public. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.</u> The public hearing period was declared open to discuss and adopt the budget for the next fiscal year.</p> <p>Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth explained the lay out of the proposed budget and how the MILMC received two management contract proposals – one from Green Moose Consulting and one from Centralina COG. The details of these proposals were provided in the proposed budget in a side by side fashion. Commissioner Nixon explained that between the two organizations, from the proposals, it was tough to make a decision. Chairman Lanning then commented on the history of Centralina COG’s contract with the MILMC. The Centralina contract used to be more robust in that Centralina staff worked as Executive Director, including administrative duties. After that staff person left, the Centralina contract reduced along with staff responsibility, as the marine commission looked to reduce funding spent on administrative services. Then there was discussion about taking the approach of the Lake Wylie Marine Commission – having an Executive Director, an administrator, and then legal counsel. Chairman Lanning finished providing background information. There was discussion about what services are included in each of the two proposals. Commissioner Nixon asked if it a blend of both proposals or, one or the other. Chairman Lanning wants to continue exploring a model like Lake Wylie; however she does not think the commission can afford this model. Legal Counsel Clark pointed out that this portion of the agenda is for hearing from the public.</p> <p><u>Public Comment:</u>  Mr. Mitch Francis, Mountain Island Lake resident. This is his first MILMC meeting. He supports Commissioner Nixon’s points, and in his experience he likes to have a more focused relationship with one vendor versus multiple vendors. He would vote for Centralina COG since they offer more of an array of services. He thinks that commissioners would want to be more hands on, up to a point.</p> <p>Ms. Alice Battle commented on Green Moose Consulting. According to Ms. Battle, they are going more into grant writing and fund raising. They are a 501c3. They’ve already been through this process. This non-profit status is something that they offer that the other option does not offer.</p> <p><u>Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Roche seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.</u></p>

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	<p>Legal Counsel Clark offers clarification: the proposed budget shows total costs for Green Moose Consulting handling services and separately for Centralina COG handling services, in the form of a side by side comparison. The question before the commission is do you go with all Green Moose Consulting or all Centralina COG. Commissioner Roche asked about Green Moose Consulting and whether or not their proposal includes financial management. The answer is no, covering financial duties falls under expanded duties. Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth \$45,522 is total scheduled revenue to be received from Gaston, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg counties – it does not change. Commissioner Roche recaps Green Moose Consulting versus Centralina COG. The things that GMC proposed are things that the commissioners are currently able to do themselves. However, we are not necessarily equipped to take on truly administrative tasks, including financial management. Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth confirms that Commissioner Roche is leaning towards CCOG, unless there was an infusion of money where someone else could be hired to do the other work.</p> <p><u>A motion was made by Commissioner Roche to sign an agreement for FY 2013-2014 with Centralina COG to provide a level of services as outlined in their proposal and in the proposed budget. Commissioner Nixon seconded the motion.</u> Discussion: Commissioner Nixon asked, if we go with Centralina COG, but decide down the road that we want to do more with website maintenance, or do something more with the annual report, could we approach Green Moose Consulting with discreet tasks? Chairman Lanning’s thought is that we could go back and ask Green Moose Consulting. She also noted that Centralina COG could also provide these additional services, but the MILMC would have to pay additional for it. Commissioner Campbell commented that the former CCOG Executive Director for MILMC provided services, plus solid guidance. He commented that the MILMC needs prepare our budget to reflect the need for an Executive Director and do better planning moving forward. Chairman Lanning asked if the MILMC is willing to make a commitment moving forward. There is an opportunity out there if we want to go with an independent Executive Director. Perhaps the MILMC could move forward thinking about meshing contracts more on the LWMC model. Commissioner Roche talked about perception. Lake Wylie Marine Commission Executive Director Joe Stowe is seen as the face of that commission. The leader of Green Moose Consulting is already involved in lots of projects. Chairman Lanning is concerned about what happens when marine commissioners with certain strengths roll off the commission. She stated that there are heightened levels of service out there and the MILMC can have them, the group would just have to pay for extra services. Commissioner Campbell went on to comment that if Ms. Chirico puts her mind towards something, she will give her vision and energy to see it through. Commissioner Campbell offered</p>

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	<p>that the MILMC could try having an executive director on a trial basis. Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth commented that the MILMC can enter into a contract with whomever they want and they have the funding in reserve to do so. <u>The vote was taken and approved unanimously.</u> Chairman Lanning acknowledged the significant amount of time Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth spent working on the budget and administrative services proposals.</p> <p>Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth walked through the proposed FY 13-14 budget line by line, starting with MILMC Administrative expenses, reviewing proposed changes, where applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit (\$2,500) and Contract Services (CCOG; \$14,934) stayed the same.</li> <li>• Bank Charges decreased to \$0 from \$22. If there are any charges, they can be paid out of Miscellaneous).</li> <li>• Joint Meeting decreased from \$900 to \$0. \$900 was moved into Miscellaneous.</li> <li>• Legal Fees increased to \$8,400 from \$4,536.</li> <li>• Liability Insurance increased to \$1,267 from \$900.</li> <li>• Miscellaneous \$300 + \$900 from Joint Meeting. Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth asked for comments, as that a significant amount of money in Miscellaneous. Commissioners commented and said that it is alright to keep that much in Miscellaneous, as the need may arise to use it.</li> <li>• Website Maintenance decreased from \$500 to \$125, after brief discussion.</li> </ul> <p>Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth continued on with Statement of Purpose Project Expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping was at \$1450 decreased to \$1000.</li> <li>• Riverkeeper Donation \$400 increased to \$500.</li> <li>• Safety Markers, Buoys, and Hardware stays same at \$6650. This amount includes cost to hire a contractor to install buoys. If costs in this line item exceed \$6650, additional funds could be used from the Miscellaneous line item.</li> <li>• Public Relations, changed to Public Information/Marketing. Increased from \$1900 to \$2496.</li> <li>• Blue Fin Award stays at \$50</li> <li>• Water Safety/Boater Education decreased from \$8780 to \$4000</li> <li>• Dues/Professional Development stays at \$500</li> <li>• Litter Prevention and Remediation \$1300 increased to \$1900. This line item could be thought of the budget for shoreline protection.</li> </ul> <p><u>Commissioner Nixon made a motion to approve the proposed FY13-14 budget. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Commissioner Roche</u></p>

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	commended Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth for the time and effort put into putting the budget together.
<b>High-water Event Notification Issues</b>	Commissioner Roche addressed what happened in May when MIL flooded. She heard from many distressed lake residents and neighbors about the fact that they did not know that Duke Energy was going to flood the lake. Commissioner Roche has also spoken with Duke Energy about the need to warn lake residents ahead of time, if a flood situation is going to occur. Many residents had serious property damage due to lack of warning – docks and boat houses destroyed or disappeared, boats damaged, etc. The lack of notice from Duke Energy caused loss of property and property damage and chaos during and after the flood. Duke should consider alternate approaches to notifying residents, such as using Facebook or going through HOAs, versus the traditional method of putting messages on network TV.
<b>Chairman’s Report</b>	<p>Chairman Lanning provided the monthly Chairman’s Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be no QNRC meeting this month or in July.</li> <li>• There has been a lot of participation from each of the commissioners working on their projects. The MILMC received quite a bit of publicity this month – Chairman Lanning hopes the group can keep the momentum going.</li> <li>• Chairman Lanning gave special attention to Officer Hord. 3500 books and trinkets were distributed to students in 5 local schools. We have about 350 books left to distribute through the summer. Commissioner Nixon, Mark, and Commissioner Roche and her husband helped Chairman Lanning put labels on the books and get them distributed to the schools.</li> <li>• Chairman Lanning thanked Vice Chairman Hudspeth and Commissioner Roche for fielding phone calls and requests during the flooding. Chairman Lanning received one news inquiry and gave one interview during the month to the <i>Mountain Island Monitor</i>, but Vice Chairman Hudspeth and Commissioner Roche went the extra mile chauffeuring people around and fielding the majority of the news requests. They did a great job.</li> <li>• Commissioner Nixon and Commissioner Roche pulled all the work together for the loaner life jacket program and it went off beautifully. Again, we received extra publicity and I want to thank them for their extra effort.</li> <li>• Chairman Lanning received positive emails from Gaston County Commissioners Tracy Philbeck and Mickey Price during the month, acknowledging the MILMC’s extra efforts. It was encouraging to hear positive feedback.</li> <li>• Chairman Lanning acknowledged Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth for his work on the budget.</li> </ul>

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	<p>He keeps joking that he's giving it up, but he does such a good job counting the pennies and keeping us on track. It truly is a tremendous job and it is very much appreciated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman Lanning did not want to leave Commissioner Campbell out. She thanked him for continuing to attend all those meetings and reporting back to the group.</li> <li>• She concluded by thanking everyone for your efforts this month. It was noticed by the public and she has not received any negative feedback.</li> </ul>
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buoy – Vice Chairman Hudspeth was not present. Vice Chairman Hudspeth would like to purchase at least two (2) hydrostatic self-inflating inflatable PFDs and be in charge of keeping track of them. The cost for one hydrostatic inflatable PFD is \$205.95. Vice Chairman Hudspeth provided two quotes (automatic and manual). Commissioner Nixon thinks we should purchase a minimum of two (2) hydrostatic inflatable PFDs. Commissioner Roche agrees – when you're out installing buoys, a lot of time is spent leaning over the side of a boat, which can be dangerous. Commissioner Campbell asked who will maintain the PFDs. Commissioner Nixon said that the chair of the buoy committee is her recommendation. <u>Commissioner Nixon made a motion to purchase two (2) hydrostatic self-inflating life jackets to be maintained by chair of buoy committee. Commissioner Roche seconded this motion.</u> <u>Discussion:</u> Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth commented that if we are going to hire a buoy contractor, the contractor should have his own life jacket. <u>A vote was taken and Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth, Commissioner Roche, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Campbell voted in favor of ordering the PFDs and Chairman Lanning remained opposed. The motion carries.</u></li> <li>• Communications – Commissioner Roche sent her report and has nothing to add.</li> <li>• Shoreline Protection – Adopt-a-Highway program is a 4 year commitment to clean a 2 mile section of the highway, a minimum of every 3 months. The state will provide a sign, training, and trash bags, and will pick up the trash after the pick-up. If this is something the MILMC wants to do, there will be coordination involved. The two mile stretch over the bridge is available. Commissioner Roche's concern is about getting volunteers. The group should assume that they will be the only ones volunteering. Commissioners need to soul search and think how realistic this commitment is. Commissioner Campbell noted that if the group is going to commit to this program, then a calendar needs to be set. The decision was made to think about the Adopt-a-Highway program and commitment and come back in July to proceed or let it go. Ms. Heather Davis told the MILMC about the Adopt-a-Stream program. It is a 2 year commitment, at least two times a year. LUESA would provide bags, gloves, and</li> </ul>



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	<p>they pick up trash as well. Sections of streams still available are not desirable sections of stream (e.g., poison ivy, Copperheads, deep pools, steep banks, etc.).</p> <p>Coves can also be adopted. Chairman Lanning stated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This program would work like the Adopt-a-Stream program.</li> <li>• MILMC would work with stormwater services to implement it.</li> <li>• MILMC would lobby HOA groups, Covekeepers, and the marine commission to adopt certain coves, which now would need to be named.</li> <li>• Adopting groups would need to coordinate, provide own safety equipment. The county will pick up trash from designated location.</li> <li>• We will probably need to identify boundaries for the cove so each adopting group knows how much shoreline they are adopting.</li> <li>• Need to pick up a minimum of twice a year – we should consider lobbying a commitment of four times a year</li> <li>• Mecklenburg County would provide signs that would read – “This cove adopted by: MILMC”</li> <li>• We can add a page to our website soliciting additional groups, and showing which areas are adopted, it could also have an overview of how the program works.</li> <li>• If pilot works, Mecklenburg County will take it to the other two lakes. We can ask Gaston County to adopt a similar program for the Gaston County Shoreline, or we could implement the program ourselves.</li> <li>• Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase partnership</li> <li>○ Reduce litter</li> <li>○ Encourage involvement</li> <li>○ Meets our mission statement</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Program success would be measured at Clean Sweep – if tonnage of trash is down, then the program is working. Commissioner Campbell was concerned about taking away from Clean Sweep. This would add to Clean Sweep. Commissioner Nixon recommended that the MILMC think about this program and talk about it at the July meeting. The group is interested in hearing more information on cove adoption program. Mr. Rick Gaskins advised to clean up coves when the water is low.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watershed/Water Quality – Commissioner Campbell distributed copies of a report and he notes a correction that should be made at the end of the second paragraph, it says “Mountain Island Lake” – it should say “Catawba River Lake Wylie jurisdiction.” He addressed a zoning and hazardous materials issue. Local government staff has assured that there are no hazardous materials would go into the ground. This situation is being monitored closely.</li> <li>• Public Safety – Commissioner Nixon reported on the loaner life jacket program and book delivery. The loaner life jacket set up is ready to be installed at Latta. The number of life jackets varies as people are taking them and not returning them. Started with 7 in each location. Commissioner Nixon has marked them and will number them. Officer Hord may be able to help with getting the life jackets screen printed or stamped. Marking with a Sharpie does not work, as it fades quickly. Commissioner Roche commented that folks may have life jackets on board, but there are not suited or sized for (other people’s) children.</li> <li>• Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth did not have a report. Craig Wyant said he would do a presentation next month.</li> </ul>
<b>Executive Administrator’s Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Parker said she needs to order the reflective vests along with the self-inflating life jackets.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. James Lee. Commented on the Duke Energy flooding situation. He suggested implementing a calling tree. Mr. Lee also suggested adding a port-a-potty with a lock for officers. That may get them there on the weekend. Ms. Alice Battle noted that the NCWRC’s budget is being cut by 49% - part of the reason that the MILMC and Duke Energy have not been able to meet with them yet. Mr. Lee continues about dumping oil in the river years ago.</li> <li>• Mr. Francis commented that he likes Mr. Lee’s calling tree idea. Like most people, he is very displeased about what happened in May. He asked about the possibility of Duke Energy dropping the level of the lake so that damaged property can be repaired and, could there be a coordinated effort to insert pilings. Mr. Kermitt Taylor said that permit costs are waived when related to storm issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioner Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Campbell – None.</li> <li>• Commissioner Roche – None.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice Chairman Hudspeth – None.</li> <li>• Commissioner Nixon – None.</li> <li>• Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth – None.</li> <li>• Chairman Lanning – None.</li> </ul>
<b>Legal Counsel Report</b>	<p>Legal Counsel Chris Clark walked through bylaws changes. Most changes made were related to making the bylaws a more up to date and accurate document. He also made changes to the attendance policy. It states the MILMC’s attendance policy and that if a county has a more stringent attendance policy, then the commissioner must abide by the stricter of the two policies. Mr. Clark also removed a section of that listed the original marine commissioners. If anyone has comments or additional changes, please say so. If not, Mr. Clark advised that the group should vote to approve the revised bylaws. <u>A motion was made by Commissioner Campbell to approve the bylaws as presented by the attorney. Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.</u></p>
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.
<b>Next Business Meeting Date and Location</b>	The next MILMC business meeting will be held on July 3, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Mount Holly Municipal Complex (400 East Central Avenue, Mount Holly, NC).

Emily Parker, Executive Administrator