

Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission Minutes

October 2, 2013 · 6:30 pm

Mount Holly Municipal Complex

Mount Holly, North Carolina



Commissioners Present: Chairman Kari Lanning (Lincoln County)
Secretary Treasurer Brian Weyeneth (Gaston County)
Commissioner Murray Nixon (Gaston County)
Commissioner Daniel DuVall (Mecklenburg County)

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chairman Skip Hudspeth (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Cathy Roche (Mecklenburg County)
Vacant (Gaston County)

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

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Welcome & Introductions	Chairman Lanning called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and welcomed everyone present.
Consent Agenda	Legal Counsel Chris Clark advised on how to proceed with regard to the Consent Agenda. Chairman Lanning asked if any items on the Consent Agenda should be removed. No comments were made. <u>A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.</u>
Discussion of Items Removed from Consent Agenda (if any)	n/a
Public Comments (3 minutes per person)	n/a
Public Safety Reports	Officer Turner of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department reported that in September, the CMPD had 88 calls for service, 12 boats were inspected, and they issued 3 warnings and 7 citations. Officers assisted in a Mountain Island Lake tour with MILMC members, NC Wildlife, GCPD, and Duke Energy to assess the placement of no wake and danger buoys on the lake. On 9/28, CMPD officers also assisted in a dive operation and search with Lake Wylie Lake Enforcement Unit, CFD Rescue 10,

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	<p>and Cherokee County Sheriff SC Deputies for a weapon in murder investigation. No weapon was found.</p> <p>Officer Hord of the Gaston County Police Department reported that in September, the GCPD had 5 special checks, assisted 1 boater, performed 6 safety inspections, issued 1 boating violation/verbal warning, and removed 1 navigational hazard.</p> <p>The law enforcement officers present commented on the usefulness of the lake tour and conversation with NCWRC, Duke Energy and members of the MILMC. Chairman Lanning asked what, if anything, the MILMC could do differently to support law enforcement. Officer Turner commented that constant communication and trying to keep lines of communication open between agencies.</p> <p>Kermitt Taylor of Duke Energy reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake level was at 96.8 • Low Inflow drought stage – Normal • 1 new permit was issued at Preservation Pointe. <p>Mr. Taylor followed up on Commissioner DuVall’s question from the previous month about riprap below Cowan’s Ford dam. Duke Energy was trying to repair damage caused by high water events. He also commented on the usefulness of the meeting with NCWRC. The next step is to have another meeting with NCWRC during the week of October 21.</p>
Environmental Reports	<p>Heather Davis with Mecklenburg County LUESA arrived late and reported on two months’ worth of bacteriological reports: August and September. Everything looks great and below threshold on the August report. A metals chart for Riverbend has been added to the bacteriological map. Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth asked specifically about the mercury rating at “unattainable.” Question about mercury: is 0.012 enough mercury for people to <i>not</i> eat the fish that they catch? Ms. Davis will get back to the group about the mercury score. There was conversation about LUESA’s testing methods and technology that may not be able to measure past a certain level of detail. The September bacteriological results also looked good. LUESA’s next volunteer opportunity is tree planting along Irwin Creek on November 23 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Mecklenburg County’s Big Sweep event happened on September 28. 138 volunteers participated and collected 189 bags of trash. Out of the total, there were 32 bags of recycling, 6 tires, a bowling ball, and 5 empty 55 gallon drums. A total of</p>

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	<p>4,790 pounds of trash were removed from Mountain Island Lake. Ms. Davis commented that this year was one of the more successful Big Sweep events. Ms. Davis also handed out results of fish testing LUESA has conducted. The PCB handout showed testing results and violations in red. The bottom line is: do not eat fish out of any of our lakes. Commissioner DuVall asked her to share these kinds of testing results as they come available.</p> <p>Alice Battle provided the Lakekeepers Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a report of leeches by one family. The family was swimming in one of the vacant coves and two of the family members came up with leeches. This is not an unusual occurrence and is nothing to worry about. These were the only reports from Mountain Island Lake. Lake Wylie has had more reports of leeches. • Clam die off on Mountain Island Lake and upper Lake Wylie. It appears it is most likely the clams migrated up toward shore during high water and now with lower water are dying off. • The aerial view of the coal ash ponds was taken in the middle of September, 6 months after Riverbend was closed. • There is a Covekeeper and Water Watch course being given at REI at Northlake Mall in October. There are 4 two-hour sessions. The course is opened to everyone. The first two sessions are on October 17th and 24th at 6:30 pm. The last two are on Sunday afternoons, October 27th and November 3rd at 3:30 pm. Contact Sam Perkins if you wish to sign up. The course covers regulations and laws affecting water, public record access, performing tests, identifying issues and reporting them.
2013 Blue Fin Award Presentation	<p>Chairman Lanning announced that Kay Killian had been selected to receive the 2013 Blue Fin Award. Chairman Lanning asked Alice Battle, who nominated Ms. Killian, to present the award. Ms. Battle said it was an honor to recognize Ms. Killian. The Killian family have been long time residents of Mountain Island Lake thus far, have put 562 acres of land in Gaston and Lincoln counties into conservancy. This land is important because it is in the Johnson Creek watershed (at Highways 16 & 73), which is the last piece of undeveloped property in the area. Ms. Killian has left a legacy and has led by example. Chairman Lanning commented that with Ms. Killian's contribution of land in Lincoln County, all of that shoreline is in conservation. Ms. Killian said she was honored to receive the Blue Fin award and thanked everyone present.</p>
Finance Report	<p>Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth reviewed the finance report. Ms. Parker reported that getting the \$7,500.00 moved from SunTrust checking account to NCCMT savings account is in progress. County</p>

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	contributions from Mecklenburg and Lincoln counties have come in; Gaston's contribution is forthcoming.
Chairman's Report	Chairman Lanning reported both the Chairman's Report and the Shoreline Protection Report. She participated in Big Sweep on September 28. At Neck Road Access, they pulled out 6 bags of trash, 2 tires, and a cooler full of beer out of the lake. Five bags of trash were recyclable and 1 bag was actual trash. Chairman Lanning was astonished by the amount of trash found. The dumpster has been delivered for this weekend's Big Sweep at Riverbend. T-shirts, gloves, bags, vests, and permission slips will be provided. The event will happen from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Chairman Lanning still needs a boat to be donated. She asked Ms. Parker to send an email blast out to the MILMC stakeholder distribution list inviting people to participate in Big Sweep at Riverbend.
Committee Reports	<p>Buoys – In Vice Chairman Hudspeth's absence, Commissioner Nixon provided the Buoy Committee report in conjunction with the Public Safety Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duke Energy worked with NCRWC to provide dates when NCRWC, local law enforcement and marine commissioners could do a review of Mountain Island Lake (follow up action item from the August 13 meeting in Raleigh between NCWRC, Duke Energy, and MILMC). • Purpose of review was to understand the current situation with regard to safety and no wake zones, buffers, and buoys. • Lake "tour" took place on September 6. Met at 9:00 am at Neck Road boat landing with six boats. NCRWC Captains Hatley (District 6) and Campbell (District 8) and six of their lake patrol officers, plus two Gaston and two Mecklenburg law enforcement officers, two Duke Energy representatives and two MIL marine commissioners. They all toured the lake then met at Commissioner Nixon's house for lunch and discussed tour of lake. • NCRWC will take the lead in providing recap of findings and recommendations for navigation and hazard markers, etc. • These will be reviewed and discussed with all entities participating in the September 6 lake review. • Duke Energy will take the lead in getting the group that met on August 13 in Raleigh back together in late October in Raleigh to hear the recommendations. • Next steps on implementation of agreed-to recommendations will be determined at the late October meeting (week of 10/21) • All responses to and support of the first two meetings from NCRWC, local law enforcement

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	<p>and Duke Energy have been very positive and collaborative. Commissioner DuVall added that NCWRC representatives said that they are interested in having buoy placement, and motivation for buoy placement, in MIL be the same as any other lake in North Carolina.</p> <p>Shoreline Protection – Chairman Lanning provided this report during her Chairman’s Report.</p> <p>Watershed/Water Quality – No report was made.</p> <p>Public Safety – Commissioner Nixon provided this report with the Buoy Committee Report.</p> <p>Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth thanked Mr. Craig Wyant for putting together and distributing the TAC list (“a Rolodex of experts”). Mr. Wyant commented that it was a work in progress. They are still soliciting names from commissioners.</p>
Executive Administrator’s Report	<p>Audit Update – Ms. Parker reported that everything is on schedule with the audit.</p> <p>Lakeside Appreciation BBQ Update – As of 3:00 pm on October 2 there are 15 RSVP’d that they will attend, 3 people said maybe, 14 people said no, and 100 have not yet replied. Since the original invitation was sent out, two reminder messages have been sent out. Before October 16 (RSVP deadline), two additional reminders will be sent out.</p>
Legal Counsel Report	<p>Election of Officers – Legal Counsel Chris Clark noted that there are three offices that the marine commissioners need to be elected to. Due to a recent by-laws amendment, Commissioner DuVall is ineligible to hold office since he has not served for one full year since being re-appointed most recently. Mr. Clark said that the marine commissioners should elect a Chairman first, then the Vice Chairman, and then the Secretary Treasurer. Commissioner DuVall asked about the missing marine commissioners (2 absent and 1 seat vacant). He asked if this election should be put off. Mr. Clark said that it could be postponed. Mr. Clark added that those who are not present can be elected.</p> <p>Mr. Clark opened floor for nominations. Commissioner DuVall nominated Commissioner Lanning to serve as Chairman. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Lanning was named Chairman for a second year. Commissioner DuVall nominated Commissioner Hudspeth to serve as Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Hudspeth was named Vice Chairman. Commissioner DuVall nominated Commissioner Weyeneth to serve as Secretary Treasurer. There were no other nominations. Commissioner Weyeneth was named Secretary Treasurer.</p>
Commissioner Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner DuVall – none. • Commissioner Roche – none.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Nixon – none. • Vice Chairman Hudspeth – none. • Chairman Lanning – none. • Secretary Treasurer Weyeneth – none.
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.
Next Business Meeting Date and Location	The next MILMC business meeting will be held on November 6, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the East Lincoln Fire Department (416 South Pilot Knob Road, Stanley, NC).

Emily Parker, Executive Administrator