

**Lake Wylie Marine Commission
February 24, 2014
Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church
Meeting Minutes**



Commissioners Present: Chairman Brad Thomas (Gaston County)
Vice Chairman Lynn Smith (Mecklenburg County)
Secretary Treasurer Ed Hull (York County)
Commissioner Robert Biggerstaff (Gaston County)
Commissioner Neil Brennan (Gaston County)
Commissioner Howard Virkler (Mecklenburg County)
Commissioner Ron Wanless (York County)
Commissioner George Medler (York County)

Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Terry Everhart (Mecklenburg County)

LWMC Staff Present: Joe Stowe, Executive Director; Chris Clark, Legal Counsel;
Emily Parker, Clerk

Meeting Minutes

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present.

Item 2 – Consent Agenda

Chairman Thomas asked if any items on the Consent Agenda needed to be removed. Commissioner Brennan made a motion to approve the January 27 meeting minutes. Commissioner Wanless seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The meeting agenda was taken off of the Consent Agenda in order for a speaker to be added. Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Wanless seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Item 3 – Discussion of Items Removed from Consent Agenda (if any) – The meeting agenda was taken off of the Consent Agenda so that Dean Barbee with NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) could be added after the Stakeholder Reports.

Item 4 – Public Comment – n/a

Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and SPLASH Report – Officer Stan Joye reported that CMPD is training to get ready for boating season. They are still looking for someone to replace Terry Everhart. The most common topic brought up to Officer Joye at the 2014 Boat Show was the NC/SC reciprocal fishing license.

Gaston County Police Department – Officer Hamrick reported that the boat should be delivered by April 11, 2014. GCPD Officers Hamrick and Hord will go to Seattle for training on the new boat on March 26, 2014. He noted that the 2014 Boat Show was a big success this year.

York County Sheriff's Office – Sgt. Mabry reported that YCSO and CMPD have worked together on water and land to apprehend offenders. The 2014 Boat Show was a great success and it will likely be good for their turn out for the March 15, 2014 boater safety training.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission – No one was present to report.

SC Department of Natural Resources – No one was present to report.

US Coast Guard – No one was present to report.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency – David Buetow reported on January water quality sampling results. The LUSI scores reflect post-storm sampling. While they are usually blue, post-storm scores appear as yellow and show up mostly in the upper end of the lake. The Bacteriological Report results show that some fecal coliform scores are over the state standard. Mr. Buetow noted that where water is muddy looking (turbid), it is likely that bacteria would be high in those areas. However, turbidity and bacteria are not necessarily related. LUESA has installed a continuous monitoring unit at the US National Whitewater Center. Commissioner Brennan asked about sampling location LW-1 (in SC), and if Mr. Buetow has a counterpart in South Carolina. He asked Mr. Buetow to give him a SC point of contact. Mr. Buetow reminded the group about the Southeastern Lake Management conference coming up in Asheville in March (<http://nclakemanagement.org/>).

Duke Energy – Ronnie Lawson reported.

- Current lake level: 99.1 (target level is 97.0)
- Currently, there are no dredge applications. Executive Director Stowe asked a question about a specific dredge application for docks at Beaver Dam. Mr. Lawson responded that there is a dredge application in place for Handmill. The dredging will need to be completed by March 1. No dredging is allowed between March 1 – July 1 due to fish spawning season.
- Drought Management Group – normal range

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – Mr. CD Collins reported that there were many heavy timbers and floating obstacles in the lake. Boaters should proceed with caution. The roof over the boating docks collapsed at Terry's Marina. Mr. Collins has been monitoring the construction job at South Point Road. Gaston County and Belmont staff are also monitoring this site. He mentioned Duke Energy's coal ash ponds and said that the news media has been good about covering about past, present, and future. The Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation has been working closely with everyone. If anyone has questions, he asked that people let him know.

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation – No one was present to report.

ADDED ITEM – Mr. Dean Barbee with NCWRC–Division of Engineering and Lands Management. NCWRC was contacted by Rowboat about a certain part of the channel (from Hwy 74 bridge to the railroad trestle) where boaters are running aground. NCWRC is going to mark the channel with six (6) 25' pilings – three on each side – to show where the water is shallow. The pilings will be lighted and marked appropriately so boaters can see them clearly. They will put the pilings in the shallow so not to disrupt flow in the channel. The signs will be either a red triangle or a green square, depending on what side of the channel you are on. Mr. Barbee will send pertinent information to Ms. Parker to disseminate.

Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

Secretary Treasurer Hull reported that the LWMC is financially sound and on budget.

Item 7 – Riversweep 2014 Update

Secretary Treasurer Hull reported that the first planning meeting for Riversweep 2014 happened last week. He encouraged everyone to participate. He asked Ellen Goff if she had anything to add to his update. Ms. Goff said that before the next meeting, the planning group hopes to secure a chairman for the planning group. It was then officially announced that Commissioner Brennan has agreed to be chairman for Riversweep 2014. She addressed the importance of getting ahead and getting sponsors early. They want to use data, based on who signed for sites in the past, to advertise Riversweep. The date this year is Saturday, October 4, 2014. Commissioner Medler asked if providing food would be left up to individual sites captains again this year, and she said yes. Significant progress has been made on getting site captains lined up (9 out of 14).

Item 8 – Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Joe Stowe reported.

- a. 2014 Goal Setting Session – Next Steps: Executive Director Stowe discussed Goal Setting notes with each marine commissioner at the Boat Show. There was no strong sentiment expressed towards one particular goal, aside from sedimentation issues and the Tega Cay spills. He asked the marine commissioners to let him know if there are any other particular goals to focus on. The next step would be prioritizing 2014 goals that are of interest.
- b. Gaston County Sedimentation Meeting Update: Executive Director Stowe asked Mr. Collins about how this meeting should be handled. Mr. Collins said that yes, we still need to meet with Joseph Alm of Gaston County and other relevant staff (NCDENR) to address this issue. CD will follow up with Mr. Stowe and Mr. Stowe will work with the LWMC.
- c. Tega Cay Update: Chairman Thomas prefaced Commissioner Brennan’s presentation by saying that the sewage spills happening at Tega Cay is a Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation issue that the LWMC is helping out on. Commissioner Brennan thanked the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation and Riverkeeper Sam Perkins for providing him with information (including the presentation slides he would refer to during this meeting) related to the Tega Cay sewage spills. Before reviewing the slides, Commissioner Brennan provided the group with background information related to Tega Cay and how we got to this point. Last week, Commissioner Brennan attended a meeting in Columbia, South Carolina between the South Carolina Public Services Commission (they control rate increases) and Tega Cay Water Service, Inc.

Commissioner Brennan reviewed certain PowerPoint slides that were presented to South Carolina Public Services Commission by Tega Cay Water Service, Inc. during the meeting in Columbia. If anyone is interested in seeing the PowerPoint slides, please let Ms. Parker know.

- d. Quality of Natural Resources Commission (QNRC) Meeting: The QNRC requested that Chairman Thomas and Executive Director Stowe speak to the group on March 6. The QNRC is concerned about the status of the Mountain Island Lake Marine Commission and if the LWMC has any similar issues.

Item 9 – Chairman’s Report

Chairman Thomas reported that:

- a. Northern Law Center Update: The LWMC has been in contact with City of Belmont staff about Dale’s Landing property. The City has recently closed on Dale’s Landing property; it is now City of Belmont property. The LWMC has received a verbal go-ahead from the City to build the Northern Law Center on this land. Chairman Thomas encouraged GCPD Officer Hamrick to try out Dale’s Landing boat ramp. Chairman Thomas asked to go with GCPD to look at the site and see what improvements can be made. The plan is to take Belmont City Manager Barry Webb to the Southern Law Center so he can see what the Northern Law Center could look like. The City will run water and sewer to the site. The site will likely be closed quickly now that the City owns the land.
- b. 2014 Boat Show Review: Chairman Thomas reported that there was great attendance. He thanked all of the marine commissioners for coming. He asked that the group start collecting images now to add to the slideshow for next year.

Item 10 – Clerk’s Report

- a. Ms. Parker reported that she is in the process of requesting funds for FY 14-15 from each county.

Item 11 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports

- Water Quality –
 - Clean Marina/Clean Boating – Commissioner Biggerstaff noted that there was not too much to report about Clean Marinas at this time. He asked about whether or not the group needs to check on Terry’s Marina, in light of recent storm damage. Chairman Thomas answered that the group can just keep an eye on the situation and respond as needed.
 - Invasive Species – Commissioner Virkler said that he assumed that the LWMC will restock carp again in May. However, it is likely that less carp will be needed since the program has been so successful.
- Buoys – Commissioner Biggerstaff said that there was another buoy reported in Misty Waters Cove. He requested a map of Lake Wylie that has all of the LWMC buoys marked. Executive Director Stowe will ask Commissioner Everhart or Smitty Hanks for that map. Mr. Stowe said that the Misty Waters Cove buoy does not belong to the LWMC.
- Safety – Commissioner Everhart was not present to report.
- Recreation – Chairman Thomas had nothing to report.
- Public Information – Secretary Treasurer Hull had nothing to report.

Item 12 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next LWMC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, March 24, 2014 at Belmont City Hall (115 North Main Street, Belmont, NC).