

Lake Norman Marine Commission Regular Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2026

The Lake Norman Marine Commission met in Regular Session on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room at the Lake Norman State Park, 759 State Park Rd.; Troutman, NC.

Members present were Barbara G. Beatty, Richard C. Gaskins, Kristian Hernandez, Timothy Holder, Mark Mullen, Jason Ralston, Cameron Sloan, and Gregory Truesdell. Also present were Lincoln County Manager Davin Madden and Catawba County Manager Mary Furtado.

1. **Call to Order.** In absence of having established Commission officers, Ms. Furtado called the regular meeting of the Lake Norman Marine Commission to order at 7:00 p.m., noting a quorum was present.
2. **Public Comment.** Grant Cameron, President of Lake Norman Ski Club, introduced himself to the Commission and thanked members for their efforts to get the body re-established.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** Commissioner Gaskins made a motion to approve the Regular Minutes of the December 18, 2025 Lake Norman Marine Commission meeting, with a revision correcting the misspelling of Commissioner Holder's name. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beatty and passed unanimously.
4. **Partner Reports.**
 - Catawba County Sheriff's Deputy Josh Sawyer provided an overview of Lake Patrol activities for the months of December and January.
 - Chad Broadway with Duke Energy Lake Services shared information about a planned expansion at the Little Creek Access Area, which will involve construction beginning in 2026 and targeted for completion in 2027. The expansion involves additional boat and kayak launches, bathrooms, and parking lot repaving. Mr. Broadway received a question about fuel barge permitting, and he shared that in November Duke Energy received an inquiry about a purpose-build fueling barge, proposed to have 900 gallons of effective storage capacity, with the intention of providing home fueling services. Mr. Broadway indicated the request is being reviewed by Wildlife Resource Commission and Duke Energy. If the request moves forward, LNMC would be asked to provide comments, and a spill prevention plan would be required. This is the second inquiry of this nature that Duke has fielded in recent memory.
 - In absence of Mecklenburg County Environmental Specialist Dave Ferguson, Ms. Furtado shared the water quality monitoring reports for November 2025, the most recent reports available.
 - Brandon Jones with Catawba Riverkeepers shared information about the Riverkeepers' legislative advocacy efforts to reduce stormwater runoff through modifying redevelopment standards (HB369), and also potential changes to algal bloom response to make it more flexible and efficient. Mr. Jones also invited those

in attendance to attend an event to unveil the updated State of the River report, which is scheduled for January 31st at 3 pm at the Confluence in Kramerton.

5. **Operational Updates. ATONS Contract** - Ms. Furtado provided an overview of the status of ATONS maintenance and repair on the lake. After the December meeting, Mozeley Construction was authorized to move forward with the full \$73,682 work scope (both labor and materials), and he has sent a bill for the materials. The update from Mozeley passed along by Iredell County (the entity managing the contract) is below:

Our schedule is dictated on arrival of the equipment from our suppliers and weather during the winter season. However, we should be able to begin repairs on the south end of the lake within two weeks utilizing the inventory that we have on hand.

Commissioners asked when the 2-week period began, and Ms. Furtado indicated she wasn't sure but would ask that question and report back. Commissioners requested and Ms. Furtado agreed to invite someone from Mozeley Construction to attend the next LNMC meeting to provide an update on status of the repairs and to have some broader dialog with the Commission. It was also requested that the email addresses service@LKNATONS.com and LNMC@LNMC.org be added to the website on a page where the public can report issues with ATONS.

Ski Course Permits – Ms. Furtado informed the Commission that while LNMC was previously responsible for permitting water ski courses, through conversations with Mr. Broadway at Duke Energy, she'd come to understand that due to shoreline management plan regulation changes, Duke Energy would be managing that process in the near-term to ensure a smooth transition to the new regulatory framework. Mr. Broadway has been working with Lake Norman Ski Club to implement these changes.

Ms. Furtado further explained that over time, LNMC's management of this program had become disconnected from Duke in problematic ways. For example, LNMC collected inaccurate permit fees of \$100 per application, as the fee schedule indicated the fee per application is \$500. Based on these disconnects, the question was posed to the Commission as to whether they wanted to retain long-term responsibility for reviewing water ski course permit applications or whether this responsibility should more appropriately reside with Duke Energy on a permanent basis. By consensus, the Commission agreed Duke Energy was the more appropriate body to manage this process; moving forward, LNMC would be a commenter rather than accepting applications at initial intake and managing the review process.

Website Inquiries. Ms. Furtado shared with the Commission that a public records request was received through the website for all water quality monitoring reports for Lake Norman for calendar year 2025. Ms. Furtado is coordinating fulfillment of this request through Mr. Ferguson with Mecklenburg County. She also shared information on a report of hydrilla in Muddy Creek Cove that also came in through the website. Mr. Broadway offered that Duke Energy administers a website ([Aquatic Plant Report - Duke Energy](#)) where hydrilla and other suspected invasive plants can be reported, and Ms. Furtado indicated she would close the loop with the citizen making the inquiry.

6. **Administrative Services Contract.** Ms. Furtado provided an overview of the proposed administrative services agreement received from the Centralina Council of Governments (COG), which covers the period January 15th through June 30, 2026 for a total cost of \$16,625 (monthly fee of \$2,325 plus \$5,000 transition fee). The proposal includes Financial Management Services (Accounts Payable and Receivable, Annual Funding Request Preparation and Invoicing, Annual Budget Development, Annual Audit Coordination, Monthly Reporting), Commission

Administrative Support (Commission Management Responsibilities, Monthly Meeting Preparation, In-Meeting Responsibilities, Post-Meeting Responsibilities, and Special Activities or Committee Meetings), and Public Information Support. Ms. Geraldine Gardner, Centralina COG Executive Director, was in attendance to address any questions or concerns about the contract. The group discussed the potential for this service arrangement to evolve over time, given the specific needs of the LNMC at any given point may shift based on priorities and resource availability. After a brief discussion regarding the need to soften the intellectual property language in the proposed contract, to which Ms. Gardner indicated she was amenable, **Commissioner Gaskins made a motion to authorize execution of the agreement with Centralina COG. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mullen and passed unanimously.**

7. Selection of 9th Commission Member. By consensus, the Commission agreed to set an interview schedule for both applicants for the 9th Commissioner seat. The interviews are scheduled to occur at 6 pm and 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at the St. Peter By-the-Lake Episcopal Church, 8433 Fairfield Forest Rd.; Ste. #1; Denver, NC. Ms. Furtado will confirm interview times and locations with each applicant, and Mr. Madden will ensure the room is available and reserved for this purpose.

8. Website Status and Feedback. Ms. Furtado provided an overview of the recent website changes, sharing the approach of removing the active links for programs no longer fully operational or not fully understood. She solicited feedback from Commission members regarding website content and organization. There was a discussion of the desire to transition the website to Word Press and lack of clarity regarding the current level of effort associated with managing current website content. The group agreed the boating regulations content should be stripped from the webpage, but the link to the primary source for boater regulations should be left. Ms. Furtado shared a "@LNMC.org" email address has been created for each Commissioner. It was suggested that the site include Commissioner photographs, and it was agreed photos can be added at a later time.

9. Executive Director Job Description. Ms. Furtado reported she had revised the job description consistent with the discussion at December's Commission meeting but had not yet compared the draft job description with the Lake Wylie Executive Director job description to identify and integrate any relevant missing components. Ms. Furtado requested feedback from Commissioners regarding media and communications outlets for posting the position, and Commissioners provided suggestions including Cornelius, Denver, and Lake Norman news publications, the Denver Citizen, Centralina and Western Piedmont Councils of Government, and each of the member county's recruitment pages, along with Indeed and Monster. Ms. Furtado indicated she would either post the job and communicate the timelines for first review or would circulate a revised draft for approval before posting, depending on whether there were substantive changes to be made, based on the Lake Wylie Director's description.

10. Election of Officers. The Commission discussed the need for selection of officers and agreed this item should be taken up for action immediately.

Ms. Furtado opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Commissioner Beatty nominated Commissioner Truesdell, and Commissioner Mullen nominated Commissioner Holder for Chair. Nominations were then closed. **Commissioner Beatty made a motion to elect Commissioner Truesdell as Chair of the LNMC, and Commissioner Ralston seconded**

this motion. The motion passed 6-2, with Commissioners Beatty, Gaskins, Hernandez, Ralston, Sloan, and Truesdell voting in favor, and Commissioners Holder and Mullen voting against.

Ms. Furtado opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Mullen nominated Commissioner Holder, and Commissioner Sloan nominated Commissioner Beatty for Vice Chair. Nominations were then closed. Commissioner Mullen made a motion to elect Commissioner Holder as Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Holder seconded the motion. The motion failed 3-5, with Commissioners Hernandez, Holder, and Mullen voting in favor and Commissioners Beatty, Gaskins, Ralston, Sloan, and Truesdell voting against. **Commissioner Sloan made a motion to elect Commissioner Beatty as Vice Chair, and Commissioner Ralston seconded the motion, which passed 5-3.** Commissioners Beatty, Gaskins, Ralston, Sloan, and Truesdell voted for the motion, and Commissioners Hernandez, Holder, and Mullen voted against it.

11. **FY26/27 Budget Development.** Ms. Furtado reported the Budget subcommittee met prior to the January Board meeting to develop a draft budget, in anticipation of submittal deadlines associated with each county's annual budget process. Based on some initial direction received from the subcommittee members, Ms. Furtado and Mr. Madden will further refine a draft for future Commission discussion and consideration.
12. **Bylaws Revisions.** The Commission reviewed the bylaws reflecting revisions discussed at the December 2025 Commission meeting and continued to refine the content. The Commission agreed the LNMC Bylaws should be reviewed by attorney Chris Clarke, who previously supported the Commission, to ensure there are no issues with the content, once the revisions are completed. This round of revisions will be recirculated to the Board at a future meeting.
13. **Open Discussion.** No Commissioner or attendee raised any topics for additional discussion.
14. **Adjourn.** With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m. after a motion by Commissioner Holder, which was seconded by Commissioner Sloan, passed unanimously.