



## **Lake Norman Marine Commission**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2026**

The Lake Norman Marine Commission met in Regular Session on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library at 9154 Sherrills Ford Rd., Terrell, NC 28682

Members present were Barbara G. Beatty, Richard C. Gaskins, Timothy Holder, Mark Mullen, Jason Ralston, Cameron Sloan, Gregory Truesdell, and Billy Wilson. Also present were Catawba County Manager Ms. Furtado and Centralina Regional Council staff support to the board Megan Upchurch.

**1. Call to Order.** Commission Chair Truesdell called the regular meeting of the Lake Norman Marine Commission to order at 7:00 p.m., noting a quorum was present.

**2. Public Comments.** Ms. Irene, owner of What's Up Water Sports, shared concerns about the growing number of parties occurring around Dog Island. She noted that her business recently experienced its single worst day of rental damages and is still involved in ongoing court proceedings related to those incidents. Irene asked for clarification on what insurance or safety requirements apply to party and event organizers, as well as who holds responsibility for ensuring safe operations on the water. She also expressed interest in understanding how these gatherings may evolve as the area continues to grow and what measures might be considered to improve safety.

**3. Approval of Minutes.** Commissioner Holder made a motion to approve the Regular Minutes of the March 19, 2026 Lake Norman Marine Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beatty and passed unanimously.

**4. Update from Chair:** Chair Truesdell updated the Commissioners that he will begin a one-year military deployment starting in May. He requested to continue serving as Commissioner during his deployment, participating virtually as he is available, with which all Commissioners were in agreement.



## 5. Partner Reports

- Town of Cornelius, Lincoln County, Catawba County, and Iredell County law enforcement officers individually provided a debrief of activities on the Lake between the March and April meeting. Each law enforcement agency reported on service calls, ATONS updates, property checks, trainings, as well as community outreach and education events.
- Duke Energy’s Chad Broadway provided updates to the Commissioners, noting water levels are currently 2.5 feet below target, prompting the start of drought Low Inflow Protocol Stage 1 today, which calls for voluntary water conservation efforts. Recreation flows are being minimized immediately, and the system has fallen short of monthly water -supply needs consistently since September 2025. Commissioners and attendees were given a walk-through of the rain -management system, and it was reported that the ramps at Ramsey Creek have been redone. During the discussion, Commissioner Gaskins asked which boat ramp is typically the first to close during drought conditions: Blythe Landing.
- Mecklenburg County Water Quality – Not present. No report.
- Catawba Riverkeeper’s Brandon Jones shared the floating classroom has been fully repaired, is now booking trips, and is seeking a better loading location. The Swim Guide program will launch Memorial Day weekend, with sampling beginning May 21. With a triathlon scheduled for this weekend, water conditions are currently excellent. However, aquatic growth is expected to increase under ongoing drought conditions.
- NC Wildlife Resource Commission - Not present. No report.
- NC Wildlife Federation’s Commissioner Wilson reported strong participation in the recent Clean and Green event, noting volunteers collected 25,000 pounds of trash—an effort that garnered the planting of 25 trees in Cornelius. He also announced an upcoming community gathering on May 18 at 6 p.m. at Eleven Lakes Brewing, where attendees will have the opportunity to “adopt a lake.”
- NC Department of Environmental Quality – Not present. No report.



**6. LNMC Legal Services – Introduction and Update.** Ms. Furtado reminded the LNMC that it authorized her to hire attorney Chris Clark several meetings ago. Ms. Furtado introduced Mr. Clark to the commission and gave him opportunity to introduce himself. Mr. Clark provided background on his prior experience with this commission and other marine commissions. He addressed the previous discussion regarding the Chair’s military deployment, explaining remote participation is allowed under certain conditions in open -meeting laws and noted that, if the Board was agreeable, there was a way to make this happen.

Mr. Clark shared relevant history and long-standing challenges around enforcement of LNMC regulations, referencing lessons from Lake Wylie in the early 2000s and emphasizing the need for coordinated support from law enforcement, attorneys, district attorneys, and judges. He noted that while regulations have historically been pursued at the state level as additions to the NCGS, commissions do have the authority to adopt local regulations, though reconstitution alone does not resolve enforcement issues. The group discussed NC Wildlife’s recent, quickly paused effort to remove unauthorized buoys, and it was recommended that NC Wildlife attend a future LNMC meeting to explore solutions. Ms. Furtado suggested sending the topic to the committee to develop a practical approach. Chris emphasized collaboration with local law enforcement and integrating regulations into local government frameworks, along with education for officers, judges, and attorneys. Ms. Furtado reiterated that education is a key need. Additional questions were raised about how officers would cite regulations, whether the commission could establish its own rules as a local government entity, and the status of previously approved rules, which will be reviewed in committee.

## **7. Committee Updates**

### **a. Buoys and ATONS**

Commissioner Truesdell provided an update on recent buoy and ATON discussions, noting that the storage location for backup buoys is still to be determined. The group reviewed a temporary lighting solution and explored options for a quickly deployable system, with plans to coordinate logistics with Mosely. Mosely reported that several recovered buoys will be evaluated to determine whether any can be refurbished for short--term emergency use. Due to limited inventory, activity has been light this



month. A large shipment of new equipment is expected to arrive within the next week, and the recently deployed osprey pedestals continue to perform successfully.

b. Charter Boats, Rental Boats, and Rafting

The committee reported that its next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 3 p.m. Commissioner Holder provided a brief recap of the recent committee discussion and noted plans to follow up with Duke Energy, stating that the group is in a good position moving forward.

c. Environmental

Commissioner Wilson reported on the March 27 meeting, which focused exclusively on hydrilla management. He explained that NC State will address two areas of the lake using approximately 400 grass carp, with DEQ and the Wildlife Resources Commission planning to deploy additional fish at Monday Creek. Ms. Furtado added that LNMC would be responsible for \$6,000 of the associated cost.

d. Education – Did not convene this month.

e. Government / Legislative – Did not convene this month.

**8. Executive Director recruitment update.** The board was informed that eight applications were received, with five candidates fully meeting the qualifications. These applications are currently being reviewed within the subcommittees. The first round of interviews is scheduled for next Friday.

**9. FY26/27 Budget Update.** The board was informed that the draft budget is nearly complete and is expected to be presented next month. Ms. Furtado will convene the budget subcommittee in the meantime. An inquiry was received from the auditor used in the past regarding LNMC's need for audit services, and because LNMC did not have bank accounts or budgets established in FY25/26, the plan is to forgo an audit in the current year while resuming formal audit services to review the FY26/27 budget, which is an expense that would occur in FY28.

**10. Open Discussion.** Commissioner Mullen reported that Beatties Ford Park in Lincoln County will be receiving a new boat lift and requested that the board approve sending a letter of support related to the project to Duke. Commissioner Beatty made a motion to



that effect, and Commissioner Holder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Holder then moved to adopt policies allowing Commissioner Truesdell to participate virtually while on deployment, with Commissioner Beatty seconding the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Powell provided extended remarks regarding Mecklenburg County's commissioner appointees.

11. **Adjourn.** With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. after a motion by Commissioner Holder, which was seconded by Commissioner Beatty, passed unanimously.