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LNMC MINUTES

January 14, 2019
At the CHARLES MACK CITIZENS CENTER, Mooresville, NC

Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:

John Gerke	Chairman
Billy Wilson	Iredell County
Michael Hughes	Lincoln County
Dennis Edinger	Mecklenburg County
David Scott	Catawba County

Staff:

Morris Sample	Executive Director
Bob Elliott	Assistant Director
Angela Palmer	Administrator

Call to Order

A quorum was declared and the meeting was called to order by Commissioner Gerke at 7:00 pm. All in attendance rose to salute the flag and repeat together the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

After a review of the minutes from the November 19, 2018 meeting, Approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

Reports – LNMC Executive Director

Executive Director Morris Sample reported on following items:

The website was down the month of December due to being hijacked. It has been transferred and is up and running. There was a meeting with the state in December in regards to hydrilla. The survey was reviewed consists of ~640 acres. Based on these results we are now scheduled to release 12,500 crass carp in March. Cost is shared. There will be another survey conducted in the fall with additional stocking of fish in Spring 2020. There will be a booth at the upcoming boat show in January. Following the meeting the commission would like to meet with law enforcement.

REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT

Cornelius Police Department

Officer Figarro reported Cornelius PD would like to invite the LNMC to visit the new dock. There were 107 calls for service during December. Most calls were on Friday between 6:00am-1:00pm. Two calls related to duck hunters. Assisted PYC Boat Light Parade.

Iredell County Sheriff

Deputy with Iredell County reported they assisted road crews in December. Removed a large tree from a cove. Assisted with the light parade and the polar plunge at Trump International. Iredell is shopping for a new boat. Visited 350 homes about Lake Patrol and introduced themselves.

Catawba County

Catawba County Sheriff's office reported December patrols were on land. Responded to Midway Marina when the roof collapsed due to snow.

Lincoln County

Lincoln County Lake Patrol – No Report

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Sargent Ron Robertson reported they've been busy with hunting season. Had an officer out since the beginning of December, but will be returning January 23rd. Another officer has made a transfer and his replacement, Allen Vein, will begin January 24th. February 18-19 will be a special class for responders. The Emergency Response plan went into effect on January 1st. It is currently under review by all emergency response departments and is due by the end of the month. The plan seems to be going smoothly. Dispatch instructions are currently still a concern, working to get all dispatches by coordinates to expedite response times. Weather has not been cooperative during hunting season, resulting in a slow season. Duck season closes January 29th. Youth (under 18) days are February 2nd and February 9th. Concerns about how to handle expense of removing debris (abandoned vessels, etc.) in the water. The responsibility lies with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Reports – Lake Issues**Duke Energy**

Joe Klutz reported the current lake level is 98, the target is 95.2. Per the records for Duke there are approximately 13,000 permitted facilities (residential and commercial). In regards to the abandoned vessels on the lake, the current ones are not a navigational hazard. Also, DEQ is not interested at the moment because they are also not posing an environmental issue. It is ultimately the responsibility of the owner. In this particular case the owner does not have the financial means to remove the vessel. All parties are aware and working to resolve the situation. Implementing new policies and procedures on permitting. Loose floatation is an issue. Permitting for replacing floatation is going to be mandatory to avoid old floatation being released into the lake.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggan reported there were 15 on the water patrol missions through December 31, 2018. The patrol season concluded on 11/30/18. During partial Federal Government Shutdown the CG Auxillary can continue programs that do not expend CG funds (such as attending LNMC meeting and flotilla unit meetings), but not any on-the-water operations. This ruling was issued on Saturday, January 12, 2019.

Lake Norman – America's Boating Club

Commander Lou Swartz reported Tuesday, January 28 2019 was the annual meeting. On February 2, 2019 will be the Change of Watch at the Hilton Suites in Mooresville. 2019 calendar is being prepared and should be ready for the February meeting. The first event is the boat show January 25-27, 2019. The main attraction is the boat simulator. The new meeting place is being reviewed – Hilton Suites, CookHouse and Victory Lanes. A decision will be made at the end of February.

Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

No Report

Island Habitat Program

Billy Wilson reported exciting news regarding a project on Heron Island near Marker D3. Herons have expanded to three more islands. The original Heron Island has drastically eroded and needs protection. Working to protect the main channel side by stabilizing ~ 300' of shoreline with a rock shoreline with matting and utilize the downed trees. This project is following the Army Corps of Engineer guidelines. Deployed Osprey cam in 2018 with over 2,000,000 views. Creating an artificial heron rookery with a 24/7

night vision camera focused on up to 9 nests. Working with Duke Energy to maintain compliance.

Requesting approval from the LNMC. Commissioner Eddinger made a motion to approve, Commissioner Scott seconded, approved unanimously.

Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge

Mecklenburg County Water Quality

Dave Ferguson reported November sampling is very good. Kudos to Duke for managing the water so well. The lake is muddy so be vigilant. Water temp is around 60. Continuing to keep an eye on the hydrilla.

NC Wildlife Federation

Commissioner Billy Wilson reported ATON's do not offer a safe place for Osprey to nest. Received approval to convert ATON's to Osprey nest platforms. LNWC.org is looking for volunteers to build these platforms.

Comments from the Public:

- Robby Maschuqpt. – NO Wake Buoys – Requesting education. Representing the Water Sports Industry. Wake Responsibly is about educating EVERYONE regarding boating. Will be present at the boat show in January.
- Amanda Levandowski – Representing Charlotte Ski Boats – NO Wake Buoys – All about education. Partnered with the Coast Guard for a boaters education class. Concerned about safety when “pushing” people to the main channel for pulling a skier/waker. Offering classes to teach boater safety.
- Bobby Cashion – Thanked the marine commission for their service. NO Wake Buoys – 1963 Duke Energy was created under FERC. One of the reasons for the lake is recreational. Requests for NO Wake Buoys is going to continue to increase as the lake traffic grows. Requesting the NO Wake Buoy policy be reviewed.
- Emily Kusz – Representing the waterskiing community. Concerned about the quantity of NO Wake Buoys being added to the lake. Requesting a demonstrated safety issue be present before a buoy be added. NO Wake Buoys are squeezing in the usable water space.
- Becky Fox– NO Wake Buoy Requests –Requesting LNMC follow the NC Wildlife process for approving buoys. Concerned about the current process.
- Jeff Quirk – NO Wake Buoy Application that is currently in front of the LNMC. Attempting to mark where the NO Wake zone is located. Have complied with all requests and requesting approval.
- Glenn Tynan – NO Wake Buoy Application is currently in front of the LNMC. Dock receives heavy traffic within 50' of the dock and do not feel safe due to violators. No wake areas are the law not a matter of opinion. The law is to provide safety on the lake. Ask for approval and vote in accordance of the law.

Committee Reports:

ATON Committee

Morris Sample reported only 1 light not functioning correctly. However, we are having a problem with signs disappearing. Currently have 5 signs missing. If you see anyone messing with a marker please ask questions or report to law enforcement. The ATON list is located on the website. Osprey platforms are being added to get the nest off of the ATON and protect our lights. Report ATON issues to lnmc@lnmc.org

Environmental Committee

Billy Wilson – No Report.

Boater Education/Communication

David Scott - No Report

Charter Boat Committee

Dennis Eddinger reported that all applications have been mailed. Awaiting receipt of these along with payment.

No Wake Buoys

Michael Hughes – No Report

Rafting Committee

Michael Hughes – No Report

Applications

No-Wake Buoy Requests

Quirk & Tynnan Applications – Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve, Commissioner Hughes seconded. Commissioner Wilson thanked everyone for their feedback for and against the NO Wake Buoys. Agrees that the application process needs some improvement. Would like to propose a provisional/temporary buoy deployment. Executive Director Sample informed the commission that the legal representation stated current applications must be reviewed using the current ordinance. Commissioner Eddinger expressed concern with the missing pieces of the application and the process taking too long making it difficult to review. 3 for and 2 against, the motion passed by majority. Chairman Gerke requests feedback at the end of the summer after deployment.

Rafting Applications

Charter Boat Applications

None

Variances

None

PERMITS

None

FERC Applications

None

Administrative Matters

2019-2020 Budget for Review – passed unanimously

18-19Q2 Financial Report

2017-2018 audit has been submitted to the state – only finding was the budget be reviewed before the end of the fiscal year.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be February January 11, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.