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**LNMC MINUTES**

**February 11, 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 Eddinger Mecklenburg County (absent)

David Scott Catawba County (absent)

**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 January 14, 2019 meeting, Approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

**Reports – LNMC Executive Director**

Executive Director Morris Sample reported on following items:

* Thanks to all of the commissioners for helping with the boat show. Talked to many people regarding lake issues. Gave out info on hydrilla and boater education requirements. Wake issues were the main complaint.
* Heard one complaint about possible dumping of construction debris around the I-77 causeway. If you see anything being dumped please contact us at lnmc@lnmc.org. Pictures are helpful.
* Marine Commission pamphlet was updated to include the info about Lake Norman, Marine Commission and boating requirements. These will be available at each meeting.
* On track to stock grass carp in late March. Weed counsel meeting next week in Raleigh and the Marine Commission will be represented by Chairman Gerke and Assistant Director Bob Elliott.
* Personnel note, Executive Director Morris Sample will be out of commission for a few weeks starting next week due to back surgery. Chairman Gerke will handle calls/emails in his absence.

**REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

**Cornelius Police Department**

Officer Figarro reported there were 117 calls for service. Most calls were on Monday between 6:00am-1:00pm. The average response time for calls for service was 3 minutes. The new boat dock is coming along and boat house is taking shape. Received several calls about duck hunters too close to homes. Once on scene, the hunters were well beyond a safe distance away.

**Iredell County Sheriff**

Lake Patrol with Iredell County reported down time during off season. Working on fixing up the boat.

**Catawba County**

Catawba County Sheriff’s office reported low hours during off season. 6 hours on the water. 60 calls for service. Provided a list of the boater safety courses to add to the LNMC website.

**Lincoln County**

Lincoln County Lake Patrol – No Report

**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

Sargent Ron Robertson – No Report

**Reports – Lake Issues**

**Duke Energy**

Joe Klutz reported the current lake level is 97.4. The target is 94.5. Not likely to drop significantly before rec season. Non-natural debris is out of control and needs a better way to manage. Suggested working with LNMC and Wildlife. Dredging season ends March 1st. Any recourse is with the landowner who holds the permit and not with the contractors. People have asked if anyone ever approached the marine commission about having an oversite/regulatory committee for the contractors? Duke referred them to the public comments time during the LNMC monthly meetings. Received a request for public comments. The marine commission to review.

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Steve Riggan – Reported via email. No on the water activity.

1. Flotilla 26-04 Lake Norman West has scheduled public education 8 hour About Boating Safely courses for this year. All classes are held at the Denver Fire Dept. in Denver, NC. Contact: Scott Wigginton scottw@scottwigginton.com or visit <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=054-26-04> or Facebook US Coast Guard Auxiliary West Lake Norman Flotilla 26-04. Dates: March 23, May 25, July 27, Sept 28, Nov 16
2. Lake Norman and Charlotte area CG Auxiliary units will hold an internal training event on April 6 in Charlotte
3. Preparations are underway for the upcoming on-water patrol season
4. Plans are being coordinated for vessel safety checks for Lake Norman Safety Day in June jointly with the Lake Norman Power Squadron.
5. Vessel safety checks will be offered every third Saturday of the month at Blythe Landing beginning in May.

**Lake Norman – America’s Boating Club**

Commander Lou Swartz reported they participated in the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show. A lot of activity around the boat simulator. Signed up several people for the ABC safety course and requests for vessel safety check. Change of Watch has happened. 30 members present. February 18 the national meeting will be in Orlando. March 23rd is the first ABC course at the Catholic church in Denver. April 6th will be the first vessel safety check in correlation with a boat show.

**Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.**

No Report

**Island Habitat Program**

Billy Wilson reported a loon tour is scheduled for this weekend and is completely booked. Thank you to Morning Star for the use of their boats. Need additional pontoon captains. Additional tours scheduled for the spring.

**Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge**

**Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

Dave Ferguson reported January sampling was not as clear due to increased water levels. Sampling will be conducted again next Tuesday. Watching the water flow between Lake Norman and Lake Cornelius and Lake Davidson. Duke research buoy at L9 is about gone.

**NC Wildlife Federation**

Commissioner Billy Wilson reported currently in the process of executing three projects thanks for the Habitat Enhancement Funds through Duke Energy. 1) ATON project – Adding osprey platforms to 12 ATON’s. 2) Funding for Heron Island stabilization. Working with Duke Energy and DENR to get approval to stabilize the southern shore as it is eroding rapidly. 3) Adding a Heron cam. Construction begins this week. This cam will have night vision and will run 24/7.

**Comments from the Public:**

* Rob Bennett – Aloha Paddle Sports – Annual race “Paddle for Purpose” on August 3rd out of PYC. Expect 150 participants.

**Committee Reports:**

**ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported Marker 6 is down. All other signs have been replaced as well as lights. Added a shoal marker at Lucky Creek between the old marker and the shore. Added a rock marker above Hwy 150. If you see something that needs repair email lnmc@lnmc.org

**Environmental Committee**

Billy Wilson – Hoping the carp due their job. A press release will be issued once scheduled.

**Boater Education/Communication**

David Scott - No Report

**Charter Boat Committee**

John Gerke – charter boat applications have been sent. Meeting March 14th.

**No Wake Buoys**

Michael Hughes – Conversation around No Wake Buoys. Believe the application process needs to be reviewed. Committee to be expanded to add homeowners and wake board business community to collaborate to improve and/or revise. Work in progress.

**Rafting Committee**

Michael Hughes – No Report

**Applications**

**No-Wake Buoy Requests**

**Rafting Applications**

**Charter Boat Applications**

**Variances**

None

**PERMITS**

None

**FERC Applications**

None

**Administrative Matters**

The LNMC falls under the guidelines for government spending and cannot go over budget. We are allowed to move budget line items. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the following verbiage as follows “The Lake Norman Marine Commission authorizes the Executive Director to transfer moneys from one appropriation in the budget to another as long as the overall total budgeted expenses are not exceeded in any fiscal year. Any such transfers shall be reported to the Marine Commission at its next regular meeting and shall be entered in the minutes. The Marine Commission must approve in advance any transfers of funds from reserves if the overall total budgeted expenses will be exceeded.” for the transfer of monies. Commissioner Hughes seconded. Passed unanimously.

Received a great deal of feedback regarding wake boats and other vessels at the boat show. Many inquiries on how to get a No Wake Buoy. The law is 150’ from docks and the No Wake Buoy is just a reminder, not the law. Concerns for the increased activity on the lake especially during a holiday weekend. Safety is of upmost importance and education is the key. Commissioner Gerke believes boater education should not be based on age and it should be required by all. Recommended communication with the boating business. Commissioner Wilson agreed education is key in reducing some of the violations and unsafe movements that are happening on the lake. Commissioner Hughes agreed and stated that the boat dealers are pushing a safety campaign. Believes education will go a long way in resolving many of these issues.

**Adjournment**

The next meeting will be March 11, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.