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**LNMC MINUTES**

**March 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 (absent)

Dennis Eddinger 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 February 11, 2019 meeting, approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

**Reports – LNMC Executive Director**

Commissioner John Gerke reported for Executive Director Morris Sample the following items:

* Brett Hartis with Duke Energy, Bob Elliott and I (John Gerke) attended the Weed Council meeting in Raleigh a couple of weeks ago. The Lake Norman Marine Commission is a non-voting member. We continue to work on the acquisition of grass carp to control the Hydrilla. Current plans are to stock the 12,330 grass carp in Lake Norman sometime during the first week of April. Fish will be released at Blythe Landing and Ramsey Creek landings. Once the actual date is established, we will issue a press release and would welcome any public or news media to observe the stocking. This stocking, along with the fish remaining from the 10,500 stocked in the spring of 2018, should keep the population density to around 30 fish per hydrilla acre. This is about twice the density used in the past and should result in significant reduction of visible hydrilla through this growing season.
* The LNMC website has been updated with a list of all known boater education classes. If you know if some classes not listed, please send us an email and we will include that class in the list. We encourage everyone operating a boat on Lake Norman to take one of these classes, it’s a requirement for anyone born after January 1, 1988. Commissioner Scott will talk more about our website in his report.
* Osprey nesting platforms have been installed on 11 navigation markers so we are awaiting the return of the osprey’s in the next month and hopefully they will use the new platforms. The purpose was to encourage the osprey not to build nests on the navigation markers. Osprey have been sighted in the area.
* We received a question about sea planes on the lake. Sea planes are allowed to land anywhere on the lake but they do have to follow some rules on having the right of way. Sea planes have lowest priority of any vessel on the water so they must only land where they don’t interfere with other vessels. Also, the FAA might have some other rules on being close to large commercial facilities such as McGuire Nuclear Plant, Cowan’s Ford Dam and Marshall Steam Plant.

**REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

**Cornelius Police Department**

Officer Figaro reported there were 104 calls for service. There were no citation during the month. The most calls were received on Mondays between 6:00pm-1:00am. The average response time was 4 minutes with the average in route time of 6 minutes. New Lake Patrol officer. Lake clearing event with Duke Energy planned. Lake Safety Day will be June 22nd. 256 boats participated in the National College Fishing tournament from Blythe Landing.

**Iredell County Sheriff**

Lake Patrol with Iredell County reported they are short and trying to fill a third position and hoping for a fourth position in July. Had 16 on the water hours. Doing door-to-door introductions to increase lake presence. March 30th Lake Norman Yacht Club Keel board Parade & Salute. April 18th Operation North State fishing tournament for disabled veterans.

**Catawba County**

Catawba County Sheriff’s office reported no lake hours. 2 deputies short, 1 injured, 1 on maternity leave.

**Lincoln County**

Lincoln County Lake Patrol – No Report

**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

Officer Lon reported for Sargent Ron Robertson – April 1st Becoming an Outdoor Woman. ARIDE class in April. On the Road, On the Water and Operation Dry Water coming up this summer. Alan Vein new officer for Mecklenburg County. Provided a list of boater education classes to the commissioners.

**Reports – Lake Issues**

**Duke Energy**

Joe Klutz introduced a new hire Chad, from Mecklenburg Water Quality. 98.9 lake level, target elevation is 95.7. 98 is considered recreational level. Brett Hartis has volunteered to present at a meeting in regards to the Hydrilla growing season. Effective July 1st you will need a permit to replace floatation. The only thing that will not require a permit is placing a boat lift inside a boat slip. Any other maintenance does require a permit.

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Steve Riggan no on the water hours. 8 vessel safety checks

1. Flotilla 26-04 Lake Norman West has scheduled public education 8 hour About Boating Safely courses: upcoming is March 23 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.
2. LKN Safety day confirmed for June 22. Plans are being coordinated with CGAUX and Lake Norman Sail and Power Squadrons for vessel safety checks.
3. Vessel safety checks will be offered every third Saturday of the month at Blythe Landing beginning in May.
4. CGAUX will participate in upcoming Search and Rescue exercises with Cornelius Police Dept.
5. CGAUX has signed an enhanced Memorandum of Understanding with Sea Scouts (a division of Boy Scouts of America) that allows cross-participation in each other’s activities and ability to belong to each other’s organizations under certain circumstances. A Sea Scout Ship (local unit) exists in Mt. Holly.

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

Commander Lou Swartz reported March 23rd will be the first ABC course at the Catholic Church in Denver with 42 registered students. March 29th-30th will be district meeting in Durham. April 6th 1st vessel safety check at the PYC. April 13th Blessing of the Fleet at Marker 1 followed by lunch at Port City Club. Finalizing Dragon Boat Race May 18th at Ramsey Creek. June 22nd Lake Safety Day.

**Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.**

No Report

**Island Habitat Program**

Billy Wilson (see wildlife report)

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

**Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

Dave Ferguson reported

**NC Wildlife Federation**

Commissioner Billy Wilson reported about the 11 osprey platforms added to the ATONS thanks to Duke Energy. Will keep updated on the success of the program. Heron Island rookery has been installed. Osprey Cam is live at lnwc.org and stuttsmarina.com. Reuben and Cherise are preparing the nest. Also broadcasting on Face Book. Heron Island Cam will be 24/7 with night vision. Still working through the application process for the stabilization of the island. Completed 4 osprey platforms that were damaged from last year.

**Comments from the Public:**

None

**Committee Reports:**

**ATON Committee**

John Gerke reported for Morris Sample the following…

* Main Channel Marker 6 was knocked down, marker will be replaced in the coming week.
* Received a report that Main Channel Marker 21 light is not working. It will be checked and replaced if necessary.
* Pick up a wayward No Wake Buoy in McCrary Creek

**Environmental Committee**

Billy Wilson – No Report

**Boater Education/Communication**

David Scott reported we are working on a survey to send to all boat dealers around the lake to determine what education is provided to boat purchasers. Compiled a list of the education courses, please notify us if there are others. Working on improving the website and welcoming any ideas.

**Charter Boat Committee**

Dennis Eddinger – charter boat applications have been sent. Meeting March 14th. All boats have been inspected except for one and it is scheduled for April.

**No Wake Buoys**

Michael Hughes – No report

**Rafting Committee**

Michael Hughes – No Report

**Applications**

**No-Wake Buoy Requests**

* Gary Herrault presented No Wake Buoy application for 20101 and 20105 Riverchase Drive in Cornelius down from Holiday Marina showing 140+ boaters within the 150’ no wake zone. Per Commissioner Gerke the vote for this buoy will be on the April agenda.

**Rafting Applications**

**Charter Boat Applications**

**Variances**

None

**PERMITS**

None

**FERC Applications**

None

**Administrative Matters**

None

**Adjournment**

The next meeting will be April 8, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.