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**LNMC MINUTES**

**June 10, 2019**

**At the CHARLES MACK CITIZENS CENTER, Mooresville, NC**

**Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:**

John Gerke Chairman

Billy Wilson Iredell County (absent)

Michael Hughes Lincoln County

Dennis Eddinger Mecklenburg County (absent)

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 Chairman John 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 May 13, 2019 meeting, approval of the minutes as presented, with the exception of a spelling error correction of crass carp to grass carp, were passed unanimously.

**Reports – LNMC Executive Director**

Executive Director Morris Sample reported the following items:

* LKN is full and upper lakes are full as well. Be cautious of debris and islands that have become shoals.
* Water temp is above 70 and we are anticipating the hydrilla to begin sprouting. Please notify the LNMC if you see any hydrilla. We are encouraged that the grass carp will help to control the hydrilla growth.
* Current discussions with the NC Wildlife and DEQ for a plan going forward to continue to manage the hydrilla on LKN. Anticipate a meeting at the end of July.
* Thank you to America’s Boating Club for their inspection of all of the LKN ATONS. Extremely helpful with the heavy boating season upon us.
* Met last week with law enforcement at the Cornelius police department. Great discussion regarding issues on the lake. Agreed to hand out the LNMC brochure with all lake regulations during the Lake Safety Day to be held June 22nd.

**REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

**Cornelius Police Department**

Officer Figaro reported officers responded to 39 calls for service during the month of May. Officers issued 18 verbal warnings, 2 written warnings as well as 2 citations. Most calls for service were on Friday between 6:00pm-1:00am. Average enroute time was 21 minutes. Officers made a vessel safety stop and made contact with 5 underage males. Operator was issued citation for Boaters safety violation and underage consumption; 4 other passengers were also written citations for underage consumption. Assisted Catawba County in locating a rental boat, passengers smelled strongly of marijuana. 24 grams of marijuana was seized w/ 3 subjects being charged via citation and a 9mm handgun was located and seized. Subject was arrested and transported to MCSO jail for possession of a concealed weapon.

**Iredell County Sheriff**

Lake Patrol with Iredell County – No Report

**Catawba County**

Catawba County Sheriff’s office – No report

**Lincoln County**

Lincoln County – Present, but No report

**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

Sargent Ron Robertson reported increased drug selling on LKN at the bridges. July 15th ASU intern will begin, Caleb Martin. Currently in other counties. Non-paying position shadowing officers. July 22nd new recruit, Bailey Gray will begin 6 month field training. On the Road, On the Water began Memorial Day weekend. May 25th BAT bus was set up at Blythe Landing. May 27th focused on No Wake violations. 21 boating citations, 43 warnings, 3 arrests for DWI, 2 drug related offenses. No boating accidents. 14 violations were No Wake/Careless or Reckless. 6 warnings to minors between 16-17 on PWC’s, 2 under 15. Important to note 8 of the 14 violations were under 18 years old. They can lawfully operate a vessel, but the adult in charge is ultimately held accountable for the violation. June 8th BAT at Pinnacle scheduled, but canceled due to weather. Since Memorial Day 8 DWI, the highest was blood alcohol was .13. June 12th scheduled “clear and drill” at the Cornelius Town Hall. This prep for the FEMA event on July 24th at McGuire. Updated officer list by county and provided to the LNMC.

**Reports – Lake Issues**

**Duke Energy**

Joe Kluttz reported high water capacity. Lake level is 98.9. June 9th it was 100.1. Reservoirs are full and the dam at McGuire had 2 gates fully opened on June 9th. Mt Island crested at 7’ above full pond. Duke will assist in removing man made hazardous debris. They do not remove natural woody debris. Boat responsibly and pay attention to debris. Contact law enforcement if you detect what could be warranted as an emergency. 5 access areas are currently closed on the Catawba River. Publicly launched a free app called Lakeview and it is customizable.

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Steve Riggan reported 10 on the water hours. 64 vessel safety checks in May.

1. Conducted an ABS Boating Safety Course on May 26 with 6 graduates. Mooresville conducted an ABS class with 11 students.
2. Planning set for Lake Safety Day June 22nd for conducting Vessel Safety checks at all NC Wildlife ramps on LKN in partnership with American’s Boating Club.
3. Will conduct a boating safety booth jointly with Sea Scouts ship Calypso on June 29th in Denver for the Denver Fireworks event at E Lincoln HS.
4. Patrols continue on LKN for both training and safety/observation.

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

Lou Swartz reported that law enforcement is busy. On May 22nd held the Rookery Island cruise. Worked with the Pines to go see the blue heron. 32 participants. Request to do again next year. Received a donation to the education program. 44 students registered, 39 in attendance age 13-76 at last boating class. Throughout the month of May recorded and inspected all ATONS on LKN. Participated in the Asian Boat Race. One boat capsized, but all were safe and picked up by the chase boat. Cruise to the shoal dam was cancelled due to weather. Set of June 22nd Safety Day.

**Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.**

No Report

**Island Habitat Program**

No Report

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

**Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

Dave Ferguson reported via email routine lake monitoring for May was conducted on May 22nd. Average water temp on the day of sampling was 79.3. Lake level on day of monitoring was 98.9. Average water clarity.

**NC Wildlife Federation**

Morris Sample reported that the cam for the Heron Island is up and running. However, it is currently showing an Osprey nest.

**Comments from the Public:**

* Gary Hearault – In March presented application for No Wake Buoy which was voted on in April with a tie vote. Requesting revote. (Chairman Gerke recommended this be tabled until July meeting)
* Jeff Weir – Owner of Freedom Boat Club – Participating on June 22nd in Lake Safety Day. Lost 2,000+ vessels due to rocks. This is located on the back side of Denny Hamlins property off of Carlos road. Wanted to make public aware. Also, is there an area of hydrilla that needs to be avoided? (Executive Director stated as that information is made known it will be shared)

**Committee Reports:**

**ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported the following…

* Shoal sign near Marker 3 is being replaced
* Marker BL2 lights not working
* Marker 24 lights not working
* I-77 causeway 2 buoys are missing
* Marker S3 is missing side of sign
* Installing new shoal markers – rock hazard mentioned by Jeff Weir and one other
* Working to replace signs that are difficult to see – will be worked in when there is time and funding
* NC Wildlife installed osprey poles beside ATONS. Very successful. There were a few that did not get new poles. This will be re-evaluated after osprey season.

**Environmental Committee**

Billy Wilson – No Report

**Boater Education/Communication**

David Scott reported the survey has not gone out. Working to update the mailing list and coordinate with the rental companies. Continued upgrades to the website.

**Charter Boat Committee**

Dennis Eddinger – No Report

**No Wake Buoys**

Michael Hughes reported meeting scheduled for end of June. Currently have 5 interested and 2 maybes

**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**

* Approval of annual audit engagement letter. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve current CPA, Commissioner Scott 2nd. Passed unanimously
* Executive Director notified commission that there will be some line item adjustments to the budget.

**Adjournment**

The next meeting will be July 8, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm