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**LNMC MINUTES**

**July 08, 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

**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 June 10, 2019 meeting, approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

**Reports – LNMC Executive Director**

Executive Director Morris Sample reported the following items:

* July 4th was a busy weekend on the lake. Thanks to all of the law enforcement for a job well done.
* Currently all hydrilla that has been reported has turned out to be chara. No new growth as of yet.
* The LNMC published a brochure about the lake and copies are available on the back table. If anyone would like copies to distribute please contact the commission at lnmc@lnmc.org
* There is a meeting scheduled with DEQ, Wildlife and Senator Marcus for the end of July to discuss long term hydrilla control. Proposing the state allocate dollars each year to the commission to manage hydrilla.

**REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

**Cornelius Police Department**

Lake Enforcement reported 41 calls for service. 15 verbal warnings, 6-8 citations. In route time 13 minutes. Lake Safety Day was conducted on June 22nd. Approximately 175 vessel safety checks. Most of June was slow due to excess rain.

**Iredell County Sheriff**

Lake Patrol with Iredell County reported 300 hours on the water for June. 1 BWI charge

**Catawba County**

Catawba County Sheriff’s office reported 217 hours on the water for June. 198 property checks. 47 warning citations (43 wake violations). Removed 32 navigational hazards.

**Lincoln County**

Lincoln County reported 360 hours on the water. 25 enforcement actions. 1 alcohol related charge with juveniles.

**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

Sargent Ron Robertson reported June 12th attended the Lake Norman lake clearing drill training. The annual FEMA evaluation will be July 24th. 6 boating accidents this season, all injuries were minor and victims are doing fine. July 4th traffic was low compared to years past. July 5th BAT Bus was at Hager’s Creek. 12 boating citations, 2 BWI. July 4th and 6th aircraft detail plan. July 7th BAT Bus at Blythe Landing. 7 boating citations, 1 BWI

**Reports – Lake Issues**

**Duke Energy**

Chad Broadway reported lake level is 98.2. Numerous complaints regarding man made debris in the lake. Working to get caught up. Complete structures that have been abandoned on the lake. Permitting process changed July 1st. All dock work now requires a permit, including floatation and pilings. When in doubt, call Duke Energy Lake Services.

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Steve Riggan reported 5.4 on the water hours. 55 vessel safety checks in June.

1. Participated in Lake Safety Day 22 June conducting Vessel Safety Checks at 4 Ramps on Lake Norman in partnership with America’s boating Club (Power Squadron). Jointly, 116 VSC’s were conducted, 113 hours on duty and 1,237 miles were traveled, all between 0900-1500. Weather moved in terminating activities earlier than planned but results were much greater than last year.
2. Flotilla 26-04 West Lake Norman will conducted a boating safety booth jointly with Sea Scouts ship Calypso on 29 June in Denver, NC for the Denver Fireworks event at East Lincoln High School.
3. Patrols continue on Lake Norman for both training and safety / observation. We will have one vessel out night of July 6 for fireworks patrol at Queens Landing and other venues if needed.

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

Steve Stuart reported the Lake Norman survey is nearing completion. The Seafarer Lunch Bunch Cruise is the last Wednesday of every month. Blessing of the Fleet is July 13th. Youth Day Lake Norman is July 27th. Over 100 children participated last year. Information sheet provided to commissioners. Planning a cruise for Shoals Dam.

**Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.**

No Report

**Island Habitat Program**

Commissioner Billy Wilson reported Symphony in the Park has been completed. Thanks to Town of Cornelius. Proceeds go back to the Lake Norman area. Upcoming fundraiser, Saturday, September 28th Oyster Festival at Langtree. Laketoberfest will be held October 12th at Bailey Road Park. Great success with the osprey cam installed last year. This year a fledgling has launched. Heron Island has a nature cam that was implemented this year. Unintentionally it also features an osprey pair. Applying to install an official osprey platform to deter this from happening in the future.

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

**Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

Dave Ferguson reported June is not a full blown sampling month. The data looks great even after excessive rain. A little elevated by the YMCA area, but typical this time of year with the increased activity. Will be out in July and will also be looking for hydrilla. Continued sampling at Ramsey Creek beach twice per week with a 24 hour lab turn around. Numbers look great.

**NC Wildlife Federation**

See comments under Island Habitat Program

**Comments from the Public:**

* Alan Deal w/ Lake Norman Sailing Club. Over 100 non-motorized boats. The area is being battered at the entrance to the cove. Officers have been present and monitoring. Asking to start the process for a no wake zone to protect the property.
* Jill Patterson Vice President for Marina Village Association. Community access lot between Stutts Marina and D9 Marker. Non-permitted buoy was pulled in 2018 and increased no wake violations. Submitting application to begin review process. Includes pictures.
* Jeff Quirk – passed his time

**Committee Reports:**

**ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported the following…

* Flood event took out bridge buoys
* America’s Boating Club did complete inventory
* BL2 and Marker 24 lights out
* Marker 7 has an osprey nest. Can’t address until the birds leave in the fall. Hope to add a nesting platform beside the ATON
* I77 buoys
* No Wake at Governor’s Island bridge needs to be replaced. The buoy has been ordered.
* Marker D4 shoal marker broken. Currently marked with a light and large buoy until it can be repaired.
* 2 new rock hazards to be marked near T5 and Carlow Rd in Cornelius
* If you suspect hydrilla please report it at lnmc@lnmc.org

**Environmental Committee**

Billy Wilson reported other weeds besides hydrilla. None are invasive and represent healthy water.

**Boater Education/Communication**

David Scott reported tweaking questionnaire to send to boat dealers. Classes have been updated on the website. Looking to completely redo the website.

**Charter Boat Committee**

Dennis Eddinger – No Report

**No Wake Buoys**

Michael Hughes reported a meeting of the buoy committee in June. Reviewed the current process and discussed streamlining the application.

**Rafting Committee**

Michael Hughes – No Report

**Applications**

**No-Wake Buoy Requests**

* Herrault application was a tie vote and has been requested to be reviewed again. Chairman made a motion to approve reconsidering the application. Commissioner Scott seconded. Tie vote. It will remain as it is.

**Rafting Applications**

* PYC Rafting event July 27th. Same event as years past. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve. Commissioner Scott seconded. The application was approved unanimously.

**Charter Boat Applications**

**Variances**

None

**PERMITS**

None

**FERC Applications**

None

**Administrative Matters**

* End of year expenses resulted in budget line item changes but remained within the overall budget guidelines. The commission has been officially notified of these changes.
* Meeting with the NC State Treasurers Department. There will be a few minor financial changes to be in compliance. There is formal legal wording to approve the annual budget. Awaiting this verbiage from the state. Once received the 2019-2020 budget will be formally approved.

**Adjournment**

The next meeting will be August 12, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm