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**LNMC MINUTES**

**August 12, 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 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 July 12, 2019 meeting, approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

**Reports – LNMC Executive Director**

Executive Director Morris Sample reported the following items:

* 2 fatalities on the water in July and several boating accidents. Encourage everyone to be careful and take the safe boating classes. All classes are listed on the website.
* All hydrilla reported thus far has been chara. Found one hydrilla plant in the back of Ramsey Creek. It appears that the carp stocking is working.
* Copies of the Lake Norman pamphlet is available for anyone who would like one. They are available for groups as well.
* There is a meeting in Raleigh at the end of August to meet with the Senator and DEQ for support on maintaining the grass carp.
* Several calls for the commission to change the no wake laws. This is determined at the state level and not through the commission.
* Updating the website so there may be periods of interruption.

**REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

**Cornelius Police Department**

Lake Enforcement reported officers responded to 99 calls for service. Officers issued 42 verbal warnings, 4 written warnings and 4 state citations. Most calls for service were on Saturday between 1:00pm-6:00pm. The average response time was 7 minutes.

**Iredell County Sheriff**

Lake Patrol with Iredell County reported 3 full time lake employees with one new hire coming on board. 59 vessel stops with no citations and 1 warning. Trying to educate the minors who are being stopped. Responded to a missing person report. Single vessel accident resulting in a broken femur.August 24th Stumpy Creek pre-vessel check.

**Catawba County**

Catawba County Lake Patrol reported 432.5 hours on the water with 99 warning citations issued. 89 citations with 81 being 81 wake violations and there were 61 calls for service.

**Lincoln County**

Lincoln County reported 364 patrol hours with 21 calls for service and 25 enforcement actions.

**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

Sargent Ron Robertson reported the summer started off well with very few incidents. However, July changed. Attended FEMA drill on July 24th at McQuire Nuclear Plant along with other law enforcement. July 19th there was a boating accident with no injuries. July 21st 2 PWC’s collided with 1 fatality. Increased number of stops of minors specifically on PWC’s. 4 BWI in July in Mecklenburg. Highest blood alcohol level was .13. 1 near drowning. August 11th female broke her back after hitting a large wake. 4 BWI in Lincoln with .19 being the highest blood alcohol level. Increased drug use on the water including cocaine and marijuana. Iredell County had an incident between 2 PWC’s with one injured. 1 drowning after jumping from the boat to swim. August 3rd BAT at McCrary Creek with 10 citations and 5 warnings. August 7th accident resulting in an amputation – wake boarder lost his leg below the knee. August 10th gentleman fell between the dock and the boat – EMS arrived on the scene and rescued the man. 4 BWI with the highest blood alcohol being .15 in Iredell.

**Reports – Lake Issues**

**Duke Energy**

Joe Klutzz reported lake level is 97.3. The lake is not intentionally below target July has just been extremely hot with minimal rain. Appreciate how all the lake law enforcement agencies work so well together.

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Steve Riggan reported 17 on patrol missions for July and 73.6 hours on the water.

1. Flotilla 26-04 West Lake Norman conducted an About Boating Safely class on July 27 with 23 students in attendance and passing the course.
2. One CG Auxiliary vessel participated as a civilian vessel in the America’s Boating Club Youth Day on Lake Norman on July 27. An enjoyable time was had by all and the CG Auxiliary appreciated the opportunity to participate.
3. Patrols continue on Lake Norman for both training and safety / observation. A training exercise was conducted with three vessels on August 10 on Lake Norman in the vicinity of Mountain Creek with 3 Auxiliary vessels, one trailering from Lake Wylie. A total of 13 CG Auxiliary members participated.

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

Lou Swartz reported a wonderful day on July 27th celebrating the 20th year of Youth Day on the Lake with 70 participants. Lots of support and already commitments for next year.

**Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.**

No Report

**Island Habitat Program**

Commissioner Billy Wilson reported 300 button bushes ready to be installed in the mid fall. Tickets on sale for the annual Oyster Fest on Saturday, September 28th 5:00pm-10:00pm. Rocky Lynn will be performing. LNWC.org Laketoberfest will be Saturday, October 12th 4:00pm-9:00pm.

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

**Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

Tim Bessier reported the July lake sampling run a few weeks ago. Numbers are within the normal range. Hydrilla located near the Peninsula Yacht Club. Blue Green Algea is uncommon on Lake Norman.

**NC Wildlife Federation**

See comments under Island Habitat Program

**Comments from the Public:**

* Jill Patterson VP of HOA Marina Village. Applying for NO Wake Buoy but has an incomplete application. Trying to locate violation data.
* Ron Motts representing Marina Village. Concerned about lake activity since illegal buoy was removed. Wants to be proactive and reinstall a NO Wake buoy to reduce the potential of accidents and property damage.

**Committee Reports:**

**ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported the following…

* America’s Boating Club surveyed all of our ATONS. Working through the list they provided.
* Added 4 new shoal markers where the islands have eroded away. 2 at T5, 1 at Marker 6 and 1 at Carlowe Rd. These only have one sign.
* All lights that were out have been replaced except a buoy at the 150 bridge.
* Slanton Bridge has been reduced to one buoy on each side.
* Replacing a few at the I77 causeway
* Marker S3 has a missing sign.

**Environmental Committee**

Billy Wilson – No Report

**Boater Education/Communication**

David Scott reported the dealer survey is ready to be mailed. Opportunities still available for Boater Education. The website is being updated.

**Charter Boat Committee**

Dennis Eddinger – No Report

**No Wake Buoys**

Michael Hughes – No Report

**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**

* 2019-2020 Budget passed in January. The state needed specific language. This is in your packet for your records. Transfers within a category can be moved among other line items by the Executive Director. Contractual changes must be approved by the commission. Utilizing reserve funds must also be approved by the commission. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve, Commissioner Eddinger seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
* 4th Quarter Financial Reports were presented.
* Duke Energy is planning an upgrade to the Hagers Creek Access Area including restrooms, additional parking, a walkway to a fishing pier and a walking trail.

**Adjournment**

The next meeting will be September 9, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.