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**LNMC MINUTES**

**September 09, 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

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

**Reports – LNMC Executive Director**

Executive Director Morris Sample reported the following items:

* 4th fatality over the weekend. Encourage everyone to take a boater’s safety course. There are four remaining classes available this year.
* Many reports of Chara – it looks similar to Hydrilla, but is actually an algae and will disappear when the water turns cold. It is non-invasive. The grass carp will eat it as well. As of now, there have been no reports of hydrilla. The fish are doing a good job of keeping the hydrilla away.
* Meeting with DEQ was held the end of August. NC State will do another hydrilla survey this fall (November) and another meeting will follow to set future plans.
* More maps are being printed. Reviewing the proofs now and hope to have by the October meeting.
* Lake Norman information brochures are located in the back of the meeting room. They are available for anyone who would like to distribute them.

**REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

**Cornelius Police Department**

Sgt. Figaro with Lake Enforcement reported officers responded to 103 calls for service. Officers issued 13 verbal warnings, 3 written warnings and 4 state citations. Most calls for service were on Saturday between 1:00pm-6:00pm. The average response time was 13 minutes.

**Iredell County Sheriff**

Deputy Church with Lake Patrol with Iredell County reported they have a filled the 4th full-time lake position. 187 hours on the water. Assisted 4 vessels. Removed 7 navigational hazards. 42 boat inspections. 47 vessel stops. 1 felony drug arrest. Assisted with 1 drowning over the weekend.

**Catawba County**

Catawba County Lake Patrol reported 462 man hours. 32 warning citations, 1 citation. Assisted 10 vessels, 70 calls.

**Lincoln County**

Lincoln County – No Report

**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

Sargent Ron Robertson reported Mecklenburg County - 1 boating incident – pontoon vs pwc with minor injuries – charges pending. 6 BWI. Catawba/Lincoln County – 1 boating incident – boat vs house boat. 2 BWI. Iredell County – pontoon struck concrete columns, no injuries. Vessel in mouth of cove at McCrary Creek swimmer drowned – wearing life jacket, but not properly secured. Victim was located the following day. 3 BWI. 8 officers for Don’t Drink, Don’t Drive campaign. 19 boat citations, 30 boat warnings. 2 BWI. Boater Safety Class September 11-12 at 6-9pm at Gander. Duck season coming up October 2-5, November 16-December 2, December 14-January 31. Goose Season October 2-12, November 16-December 7, December 14-February 8. February 1 & 8 – Youth/Veteran Water Fowl Days. Hunting is allowed on the water, only allowed on land with owner permission.

**Charlotte Mecklenburg**

Lake Drill report – scored very high. Evaluator wished they had shot a training video it went so well. Publicly wanted to thank everyone involved.

**Reports – Lake Issues**

**Duke Energy**

Chad Broadway reported lake levels at 97, 1 foot below target. Plan for releasing water as needed . 538 permits YTD. Duke has a new app called Lakeview.

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Steve Riggan reported 19 on patrol missions for August and 38.2 hours on the water.

1. Flotilla 26-04 West Lake Norman is planning an About Boating Safety class on Sept. 21 at the Denver Fire Department.
2. Patrols continue on Lake Norman for both training and safety/observation. Qualification examination to qualify new boat crew members have been conducted recently.

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

Lou Swartz reported Saturday, Sept 14th Sunrise rendezvous. Will drift till sunrise and then have breakfast at Midway Boathouse Grill. October 11-12 is the fall district conference at the Hilton in Charlotte. Friday night will be a Low Country Boil and the movie “A Night to Remember”. Saturday night will be the same meal as the Titanic on the night it sank. Thank you to Morris Sample for speaking at their latest meeting and John Gerke for attending.

**Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.**

No Report

**Island Habitat Program**

Commissioner Billy Wilson reported wrapping up the annual banquet in Raleigh. Recognized two officers who received awards. LNWC presented the largest fundraising check for $13060. Shrimp & Oyster Fest September 28th from 5-10pm. Laketoberfest – Live music and brew fest, October 12th.

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

**Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

Dave Ferguson reported no routine testing in August. Bacteria levels are good with the exception of Lake Davidson and Lake Cornelius with elevated levels. Ramsey Creek Beach twice a week sampling with no issues. Monthly testing at the YMCA – increased to twice a week due to frequent high bacteria levels after big rains. Have a high goose presence. No Hydrilla reports. Water Watchers app. Back on the water September 23rd.

**NC Wildlife Federation**

See comments under Island Habitat Program

**Comments from the Public:**

* Jeff Weir, owner of Freedom Boat Club. Thank you for the marker in Denny Hamlin’s cove. Concern for people running aground at other shallow points in the same area– map provided for reference.

**Committee Reports:**

**ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported the following…

* All bridge buoys are back in place.
* Buoys for I-77 causeway have been ordered.
* Working to add all signs to markers. Some only have one side complete.
* Shoal marker costs $2000
* Priority is keeping lights working and markers in good shape.
* 11 markers reported that are faded and need replacing. Upgrades will be made as money permits.

**Environmental Committee**

Billy Wilson – No Report

**Boater Education/Communication**

John Gerke reported for David Scott. Responses to boating surveys are coming in.

**Charter Boat Committee**

Dennis Eddinger – No Report

**No Wake Buoys**

Michael Hughes reported the No Wake Buoy application process has been reviewed. No decision has been made to amend as of yet.

**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**

* 2020 Election of Officers – Chairman John Gerke nominated Commissioner Billy Wilson as Chairman, Commissioner Michael Hughes as Vice-Chairman and Commissioner Dennis Eddinger as Treasurer. Executive Director Morris Sample recognized Chairman John Gerke for his leadership effort as a commissioner and chairman. Chairman John Gerke will step into the role of Assistance Executive Director. Both acknowledged law enforcement and the tremendous role they play in keeping the lake safe.

**Adjournment**

The next meeting will be October 14, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.