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**LNMC MINUTES**

**October 14, 2019**

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

**Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:**

Billy Wilson Chairman

Rick Howard Iredell County

Michael Hughes Lincoln County (Absent)

Dennis Eddinger Mecklenburg County

David Scott Catawba County

**Staff:**

Morris Sample Executive Director

John Gerke Asst. Ex. Director

Angela Palmer Administrator (Absent)

**Call to Order**

A quorum was declared and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Billy Wilson at 7:01 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 September 9, 2019 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Eddinger, seconded by Commissioner Scott. Approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

**Reports – LNMC Executive Director**

Executive Director Morris Sample reported the following items:

* Welcomed Rick Howard as the new LNMC Commissioner from Iredell County.
* Lower lake levels means we have more shallow areas that may not be marked with shoal Markers. The Marine Commission practice is to mark shoals that are less than 8 feet at full pond in higher traffic areas.
* Surveys for hydrilla was completed last week by NC State. While we have not received their final report, little hydrilla was found in the Ramsey Creek area. The stocking of grass carp in 2018 and 2019 has been very effective in controlling the hydrilla growth.
* Recent article on finding snakehead fish in pond in Gwinnett County, GA. This is the first example of the fish in Georgia. Please notify NC Wildlife if you see anything that resembles a snakehead fish since they are extremely invasive.
* Continuing concerns with large wakes primarily from wake boats has been identified nationwide. NC Wildlife is looking into forming a study group on this issue. Asst. Ex. Dir. Gerke will be our representative with NC Wildlife. We are also developing a list of other lake groups in order to share ideas and experiences on dealing with the issue.
* The November LNMC meeting will be the third Monday in November (Nov 18th) due to the Charles Mack Center being closed on Veterans Day.

**REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

**Cornelius Police Department**

Officer Rowe with Lake Enforcement reported officers responded to 44 calls for service. Officers issued 11 verbal warnings, three written warnings and four state citations. Most calls for service were on Sunday between 1:00pm-6:00pm. The average response time was 12 minutes.

**Iredell County Sheriff**

Deputy with Lake Patrol with Iredell County reported they had 268 hours on the water. Assisted 12 vessels. Removed ten navigational hazards. 36 vessel stops. two PWCs were stolen.

**Catawba County**

Catawba County Lake Patrol reported 435 man hours on the lake, land, and training. 48 warning citations, 31 vessel inspections, 29 PWC inspections, 40 wake violations, four equipment violations, six vessels assisted, nine navigational hazards removed, and 16 calls for service. Assisted Iredell County with missing swimmer, drowning. New boat was added to the fleet for areas with low bridges. It is a 20 foot Carolina Skiff.

**Lincoln County**

Present – No Report

**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

Officer Lee reported two Boater Safety Classes in Sep., a meeting on Oct 1 regarding Forensic testing, Duck season October 2-5, Fishing with a Mission on Oct 20 for individuals with special needs, Advanced boating accident investigation class on Oct 28 – Nov 1, and two more boating safety classes on Nov 18, and 19.

**Reports – Lake Issues**

**Duke Energy**

Joe Klutz reported lake levels at 95.5, 2 feet below target. Duke has a new app called Lakeview. They have received several mosquito complaints. Reminded attendees that mosquitos generally do not breed in the lake and can be found due to casual water on properties. Showed a High Water Safety brochure that has been prepared.

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Scott reported for the year there were 77 on patrol missions for August and 222 hours on the water, 16 Watches, 279 safety checks, and 6 boating safety courses.

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

Lou Swartz reported Nov 9 will be the leaf peeping cruise, Nov 9 will be the Change of Watch, at the District Fall Conference the emphasis was on how to get new members, the local chapter has 77 members, in 2019 they held boating safety classes for 82 students, Nationwide there were 608 classes for 5,686 students, in January they will have the recertification for their instructors (required every 3 years.

**Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.**

No Report

**Island Habitat Program & NC Wildlife Federation**

Chairman Billy Wilson reported that five more osprey nesting platforms will be installed next to ATONs to try to get the nests off of the ATONs. Twelve of these nesting platforms were installed in 2019 with great success. They will be working on shoreline stabilization for Heron Island. Expect to schedule the planting of 300 button bushes in the next few weeks. Shrimp & Oyster Fest September 28th was successful with another sell out. Laketoberfest was successful with 8,000 attendees, 16 breweries, and one vineyard and approximately $20,000 raised

**River Keepers**

Brandon Jones reported that starting next summer, they will be doing more water testing along the Catawba river chain of lakes. River Keepers will be looking at hiring interns next summer. They are working on creating a floating classroom by 2022.

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

**Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

No report

**Comments from the Public:**

* Kevin Shea from Mooresville – Reported that they are working on a Lighted Boat Parade on the north side of the 150 bridge for the holidays to benefit Barium Springs Home. It will start at Apps & Taps at 5:30 PM cruising north and returning by 7:00 PM
* Wayne Greider from Sherrills Ford - Expressed concern over the Wake Boats due their destructive wakes and lack of concern for others.
* Francis Horton from Iredell and Dave Taylor from Catawba – Talked about the excessive noise from some of the large “go fast” boats running up and down the lake with no mufflers.

**Committee Reports:**

**ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported the following.

* Cautioned people to be aware that at the Cornelius Road Bridge, the state did not get one of the old bridge pilings removed. He is contacting the DOT to correct the situation
* Will be installing a buoy at the Cornelius Road Bridge
* Report that a light is out at the M1 marker in Mountain Creek

**Environmental Committee**

Billy Wilson

* Good news on the elimination of hydrilla

**Boater Education/Communication**

Dave Scott

* Keep information coming on boater education classes so that they may be posted to the LNMC web site
* A new web site is being developed and hope it will be up in the next month
* Slowly getting responses back from the dealer survey

**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** - None

**Rafting Applications** - None

**Charter Boat Applications** - None

**Variances**

None

**PERMITS**

None

**FERC Applications**

None

**Administrative Matters**

* The 2019-2020 Q1 Financials were presented to the Commissioners
* Reminder that the next meeting is the third Monday in November (Nov 18th)...

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Howard and seconded by Commissioner Eddinger. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.