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**LNMC MINUTES**

**January 13, 2020**

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

**Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:**

Billy Wilson Chairman

Michael Hughes Lincoln County

Dennis Eddinger Mecklenburg County (Absent)

David Scott Catawba County

Rick Howard Iredell County

**Staff:**

Morris Sample Executive Director

John Gerke Asst. Ex. Director

Angela Palmer Administrator

**Call to Order**

A quorum was declared and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Billy Wilson 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 November 18, 2019 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Michael Hughes, seconded by Commissioner David Scott. Approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

**Reports – LNMC Executive Director**

Executive Director Morris Sample reported the following items:

* New updated website for LNMC is now online. Same address [www.lnmc.org](http://www.lnmc.org). New website offers better organization and has an events calendar that we would like to use to list any boater education classes nor other public lake events. Please send email to lnmc@lnmc.org to suggest a calendar entry. We want this website to be a one stop reference for everyone about Lake Norman.
* Please remember that lake temperatures are still very dangerous. This past week was anniversary of loss of 3 lives on Lake Norman in 1980. If you fall in water at 50 degrees, even with a life preserver, you only have minutes to get out or become incapacitated. Warmer air temperatures fool you into thinking that water temperature is higher.
* NC State issued official results of fall survey for hydrilla. Only found one small indication of hydrilla so the fish stocking over last two years has eliminated the hydrilla that was rampant in Ramsey Creek. We still have the tuber banks to deal with and fish population available should control that over the next several years. We will be working with DEQ and NC Wildlife to determine appropriate number of fish to stock for this spring. Stocking will be much smaller since many fish are still available.
* Marine Commission will again have a booth at the boat show Feb 7-9. Lake Norman Maps will be available for $10.

**REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

**Cornelius Police Department**

Officer Tadlock reported 289 calls for service, 8 were lake unit activity. Most calls were received on Friday between 1:00pm-6:00pm. The average response time was 3 minutes. December Highlights: Moat Training Completed. Juvenile Raise the Age Training completed by more than half of squad. Skills training conducted on each squad – with Navigation, maneuvering in tight areas, and electronics/basic motor knowledge. Christmas Light Parade. PYC Light Parade

**Iredell County Sheriff**

Deputy Church with Lake Patrol with Iredell County reported slower months. Getting to know people out and about. Recovered both PWC’s that were stolen back in October. Supported a couple boat parades. Huge turnout at the park off of Perth Rd. Will plan for more traffic control this year. One incident of a female who had an accident at Stumpy Creek and was rescued by a good Samaritan fisherman and transported to the hospital. Look Out Shoals single vehicle accident and highway patrol investigated and Iredell County assisted. Otherwise an uneventful season.

**Catawba County**

Catawba County Lake Patrol – No report

**Lincoln County**

Present – No Report

**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

Ron Robertson reported October 28-Nov 1 Officer Brandon Line attended advanced school in Florida for boating accident analysis. February 17-21 a senior officer will be attending the basic school in Charlotte. Provided a current contact list of every officer on and around Lake Norman. Hunter harassment complaint received regarding hunter on one of the islands being harassed by a boater. In Iredell County there is a session law that states that it is a misdemeanor to hunt on 3rd party land without written permission. Duke doesn’t require it, but the “harasser” felt it necessary. Both parties would have had to be charged, so no charges were filed. Duke hunting activity has been slow due to warm weather and excessive rain. 1 hunting license citation, 2 boat citations and 7 warnings. 0 complaints about hunters. Duke hunters are moving inland.

**Reports – Lake Issues**

**Duke Energy**

Chad Broadway reported lake levels at 96.7 a little over 1’ above target. Reporting significant rainfall over the next few days and therefore rising lake levels. Fish attractors from a grant are going in around the lake. Discussing protocols for placement.

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Steve Riggins reported 10 hours on the water.

* A public education ABC class was held at the Denver Fire Dept in November 2019 with 9 students enrolled and all graduated.
* CG Auxiliary Patrol Season ended November 30, 2019 and resumes April 1, 2020.
* CG Auxiliary will have a boating safety booth at the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show in Charlotte Feb 7-9.
* Division 26 Change of Watch is January 18th with other CG Auxiliary and Coast Guard dignitaries present.

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

Lou Swartz reported tomorrow will be the annual meeting consisting of reports from officers and the election of new officers. Steve Stewart will be the new commander effective January 14th. Steve thanked many organizations for their daily efforts in making the lake safer. Refer to the website calendar. Will have a booth at the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show with a simulator and invited all to attend.

**Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.**

No Report

**Island Habitat Program & NC Wildlife Federation**

Chairman Billy Wilson reported moving forward with the Heron Island project.

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

**Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

Dave Ferguson sent report via email stating no testing for December. Testing will resume this Thursday, January 16th.

**Catawba River Keepers**

Brandon Jones reported coal ash being excavated from Marshall Steam Station. Will take approximately 15 years. Requested sponsors.

**Comments from the Public:**

* None

**Committee Reports:**

**ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported the following needs repair…

* Bridge buoy at Williamson Rd damaged.
* Slanting Bridge buoys out of place/missing

America’s Boating Club has agreed to survey again this year. The website will be updated tomorrow.

Please let us know if you see a No Wake buoy that is out of place. Please report any ATON issues to lnmc@lnmc.org .

**Environmental Committee**

Billy Wilson – No Report

**Boater Education/Communication**

Dave Scott

* Website has been updated. Please send any feedback to lnmc@lnmc.org
* Follow up on dealer survey will be coming soon

**Charter Boat Committee**

Dennis Eddinger

* Applications will go out soon. Meeting scheduled for March 24th.

**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**

* 2nd Quarter Reports were sent to the counties.
* 2020-2021 Draft Budget – done in advanced because it needs to go to the counties before February. Same county support requested as last year. This includes monies for 500 fish for hydrilla control and an increase for navigational aids maintenance. Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve, seconded by Commission Hughes, passed unanimously.
* 2nd Quarter financial reports submitted.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Howard and seconded by Commissioner Hughes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.