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**LNMC MINUTES**

**February 10, 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. Commission Hughes made a motion to add a discussion of the Wake Surfing Group to the agenda under Administrative Matters. Commission Scott seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Minutes**

After a review of the minutes from the January 13, 2020 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:

* Thanked commissioners for assisting with the boat show.
* Thanks to Duke Energy for managing the lake levels during the most recent rain event.
* High lake levels bring concerns for increased debris over the next few weeks. If it is a structure, then there are protocols for removing. Natural woody debris is not removed
* The commission is looking to put together a Wake Surfing Group to discuss issues on the lake.
* Encourage all to take a safe boating class.
* The new website will be presented following the meeting.
* Thoughts and prayers with Commission Eddinger on the death of his twin brother.

**REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

**Cornelius Police Department**

Officer Figaro reported a good January. Responded to 18 calls for service and completed 700 zone checks. 8 calls for lake service. Met with Catawba and Iredell County over boat training in 2020. Moat training completed. A vessel found adrift on Peninsula Shores, Tow Boat retrieved and the owner was notified. Jet ski found adrift near Blythe Landing and was secured to Windalier docks and the owner notified.

**Iredell County Sheriff**

Deputy Church with Lake Patrol with Iredell County reported increased lake patrol staff. Stats presented for 2018 to 2019 comparison. Civil disturbances increased 122%. Drownings went from 3-5. Stopping more people, but trying to educate rather than ticket. Repeat offenders will be in violation. Going door to door promoting the lake program. 30 hours on the water. Took part in the Polar Plunge on January 1st. January 3rd vehicle accident where truck and boat resulted in the water due to steep ramp. Deputy Finch met with Operation North State. Planning meeting last Thursday, Event scheduled for April 16th. July Carolina Wake Surf Open.

**Catawba County**

Catawba County Lake Patrol – No report

**Lincoln County**

Lincoln County Lake Patrol – No Report

**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

Ron Robertson reported its been quiet and rain keeping most off of the water. Duck and Goose season ended last Saturday. Only 1 complaint of a hunter hunting on an island. This is considered lawful activity. Multiple reports of abandoned boats drifting free, generally due to the weather. Each is taken into consideration and investigated. Increased debris in the water and access areas blocked. The northern end is difficult to navigate, especially when dark. February 17-21 several officers across the state will attend Level 1 Boating Accident Investigator School. Advanced courses available in the future. February 29th the Lake Norman Delta Waterfowl will have annual banquet. Information available on their website. Strong voice for the hunters on the lake. Early to mid March meeting at CPCC between Duke Energy Lake Services and Law Enforcement. Discussions about any issues that have arose on any public waters over the previous year. March 16-29 intern will be working as part of a 10 week rotation. Life Jacket loaner program in contact with Duke and meeting scheduled for March 2nd to place display at Pinnacle access area. Hope to use the honor system. July 24-25th professional wake surf competition. July 23rd opportunity to meet some of the pros during practice.

**Reports – Lake Issues**

**Duke Energy**

Joe Klutz reported a little on aquatic weeds. Will provide a link to be posted on the website regarding the survey. The numbers were great following a thorough survey. Approved on January 27th installation of 5 osprey platforms at existing markers. Approved work protecting the rookery to stabilize the shoreline. This has been in process for several years and work will begin soon. Working with the upcoming pro wake competition. Lake levels are above target. Preparing for additional rain over the next couple of days. Lake level at 99.5 as of today. NC Marine Patrol at the boat show.

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Steve Riggins reported 13 vessel safety checks.

* CG Auxiliary conducted a boating safety booth at the Mid-Atlantic Boat Show in Charlotte Feb. 7-9, 2020. Booth visitors count will be available at the March LNMC meeting.
* Training plans and preparations are underway for the boating season.

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

Steve Stewart reported 2 brochures available for review, including a calendar for the year. Boating courses and calendar of events are also available on their website. Successful boat show turn out. Received 20 ABC class registrations which is up from previous years and 30 vessel safety checks. Also, increased membership. More detailed report coming in March.

**Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.**

No Report

**Island Habitat Program & NC Wildlife Federation**

Chairman Billy Wilson reported moving forward with the Heron Island project. High lake levels are actually an advantage in allowing work to begin. Riprap is currently being staged. Button bushes and silky dogwood being planted. May have excess. If so will ask for volunteers to assist in planting elsewhere on the lake. Osprey platforms have been approved and are going in by the existing ATONS. One going in at the heron rookery in an effort to draw the osprey off of the heron rookery. Both the osprey cam and the heron cam will be going back on-line. Average return date is March 8th.

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

**Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

Dave Ferguson reported the lake is muddy. Conducted January routine monitoring and conditions were great. More detailed presentation in March. Recommended consulting with Lake Wylie regarding wake surfing.

**Comments from the Public:**

* None

**Committee Reports:**

**ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported the following needs repair…

* Replace light at Marker 13
* Bridge buoy at Williamson Rd damaged.
  + Suspect buoys are lost/mis-located during the recent weather event. Please report anything you see to lnmc@lnmc.org

**Environmental Committee**

Morris Sample reported attending the aquatic week meeting in Raleigh. Requested 500 grass carp this season to maintain hydrilla control. Also wanting to conduct age study to determine how long they last. Please report any hydrilla to lnmc@lnmc.org

**Boater Education/Communication**

Dave Scott

* Website has been updated. Demo following meeting. Consolidated list of classes.

**Charter Boat Committee**

Morris Sample reported for Commissioner Eddinger. Meeting scheduled for March 24th

**No Wake Buoys**

Michael Hughes – No report

**Rafting Committee**

Chairman Billy Wilson reported Commissioner Howard will be heading this committee.

**Applications**

**No-Wake Buoy Requests** - None

**Rafting Applications** - None

**Charter Boat Applications** - None

**Variances**

None

**PERMITS**

None

**FERC Applications**

None

**Administrative Matters**

Wake Surfing Group – the lake is intended for recreational use. Looking to work together to address all concerns and keep the lake safe. The Wake Surfing Study Committee is being established by the Lake Norman Marine Commission to review wake surfing activity on Lake Norman and determine if guidelines and/or ordinances should be introduced on the lake. The Committee is charged to gather information, including input from all interested parties, and evaluate the impact on the shoreline, personal property, and personal safety, relating to wake surfing recreation with the ultimate goal of making a recommendation to the LNMC as to the potential introduction of guidelines or ordinances. Commissioner Hughes made a motion to approve this committee, seconded by Commissioner Howard. Passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

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