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## **LNMC MINUTES**

**July 13, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**(this meeting has been recorded and is posted at [lnmc.org](http://lnmc.org))**

### **Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:**

Billy Wilson	Chairman
Michael Hughes	Lincoln County
Dennis Eddinger	Mecklenburg County
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 Wilson at 7:05 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 June 08, 2020 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Eddinger, seconded by Commissioner Hughes. Approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

### **Reports – LNMC Executive Director**

Executive Director Morris Sample reported the following items:

- Lake traffic has been relatively heavy so far this year. It is anticipated that due to other travel restrictions, we may see heavy traffic on the lake during the weekends. July 4<sup>th</sup> was very heavy so just be cautious on the weekends and please be considerate of all others on the lake.
- NC Wildlife has installed acoustic receivers on 32 of the ATON's on the lake. These are attached with a wire cable from just above the water line on the poles. Please do not disturb this installation. The receivers will be used to track tagged hybrid bass and next year grass carp to determine range of fish movement and mortality.
- NC Wildlife, Duke Energy, Charlotte Water, LNMC and DEQ released 750 sterile grass carp into Lake Norman on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Ramsey Creek Park. This release is our ongoing effort to control hydrilla. We have received some reports of hydrilla but so far it's all turned out to be Chara. This is an algae growth that grows in long strings from the bottom and can look like hydrilla in the water. If you pull Chara up it will be slimy and dry up to nothing. If anyone observes weed growth in the lake please notify us at [lnmc@lnmc.org](mailto:lnmc@lnmc.org). Good to include pictures and exact location.
- We continue to receive complaints about wakes from wake surfing activity. LNMC has formed a study committee to evaluate the issue to determine if additional controls in form of LNMC Ordinance is appropriate. This group will have it's first outdoor meeting later this week. Hopefully, we can have some consistent recommendations later this year that can be used for ordinance and presented to state legislatures.
- As I will report later, America's Boating Club of Lake Norman, formerly known as the Sail & Power Squadron has completed most of the inspection of the ATONs, Shoal markers and bridge no

wake buoys. A number of signs have faded and will be replaced as funds allow. Please continue to report any nonfunctioning lights or missing markers to [lnmc@lnmc.org](mailto:lnmc@lnmc.org). A big thank you to this group for helping keep our lake markers in good shape.

## **REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

### **Cornelius Police Department**

CPD reported 49 calls for service, 421 zone checks and conducted 11 lake enforcement activities. Most calls were Saturday between 12:00pm-6:00pm. Average report time 8.3 minutes

- Caller stated her friend was on a red white and blue kayak that turned over. The caller left to get help and when she returned the friend is missing. The friend was at the dock when officers arrived.
- Officers got a call of a burgundy pontoon boat with 10 people on board that appeared to be sinking. When officers arrived, the vessel was on a trailer at and everyone was accounted for.
- We received an attempt to locate call from The Peninsula Yacht Club. The caller stated they rented a 2-person kayak and it was supposed to be returned at 6pm but wasn't. Officers searched the area around P-1 and did not locate the kayak. We attempted to contact the renter via telephone as well as going to the residence, however, he could not be located. We put a second boat in the water and requested Cornelius Fire to assist in search. Before the fire department deployed their boat, the complainant called and said that he was able to reach the renter, and all was fine.
- Report of a john boat against the rocks along the causeway at I-77 near North Harbor Club. The caller stated there was no one with the boat and was afraid someone had fallen out and was in the water. When officers arrived, they found the boat had been secured to the rocks and there was no signs anyone had been on the boat.
- Report of two males walking on the peninsula where there is a deer refuge at the islands near John Connors Rd. and were shooting. Complainant thinks that they are hunting. When officers arrived, the caller stated he thought it was two juveniles with BB guns. A second person there stated the subjects left the area before officers arrived.
- Caller stated there were 6 boats and 2 jet skis tied together in the cove near the end of Torrence Chapel having a loud party and he believes there were people drinking who were underage. Officers circulated many coves at the end of Torrence Chapel and unable to locate six vessels tied together or underage consumption.
- Subject stated someone vandalized his 1982 Chris Craft by busting the starboard windshield. Upon investigating it was determined the canned air horn exploded and caused the damage.
- The caller observed a subject flip out of his kayak. The caller rescued the subject and found him to be extremely intoxicated

### **Iredell County Sheriff**

Lake Patrol with Iredell County – No report

### **Catawba County**

Catawba County Lake Patrol – No report

### **Lincoln County**

Lincoln County Lake Patrol – No Report

### **N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

Ron Robertson reported extremely busy and it's busier than it's ever been. On Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> in Iredell County a pwc moving at 40 mph struck the concrete pylon at the Hwy 70 bridge and only broke her wrist. On Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> a fatality involving a rental pontoon at Goat Island. The vessel was not anchored or underway. A passenger jumped off and did not resurface. A second passenger tried to assist and had to be rescued. The first passenger's body was not located until June 20<sup>th</sup>. Alcohol/Drugs were involved. On Tuesday June 23<sup>rd</sup> responded to a shooting incident involving a rental pontoon. A feud resulted in the firing of a handgun. Alcohol/Drugs were a contributing factor. On Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup> a rental boat struck a wakeboard boat and the operator's tooth was knocked out. The driver of the pontoon was arrested for BWI and is a current pending case. On Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> the "batmobile" was set up. 3 boat warnings 3 boat citations 3 marijuana charges 3 BWI. Another drowning from a rental boat where alcohol/drugs were involved. On Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> pwc hit a large wake and was thrown off. Resulted in a back injury and he was treated and released. July 3-5<sup>th</sup> Operation Dry Water – 33 vessels were contacted, 8 BWI (.19) 2

boats sank on July 4<sup>th</sup>. No injuries. Hit and run on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>. Old pontoon struck wakeboard boat and left 2' diameter hole. Under investigation.

There have been 4 drownings, all involved rental boats, all involved drugs/alcohol and none were wearing life jackets.

## **Reports – Lake Issues**

### **Duke Energy**

Chad Broadway reported June was the busiest permitting month in years if not ever. Applications turn around time is delayed. Lake Level is 97.5 to accommodate maintenance on Mt. Island Lake.

### **Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Steve Riggins reported:

- On water activities are typically conducted on Lake Norman from April 1 – October 30.
- Activities in the CG Auxiliary in the 5<sup>th</sup> Southern District were authorized to resume in early July. The 5<sup>th</sup> Southern District includes North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland. Plans are being made on what activities to resume and how to resume. Group events such as in-person Public Education classes are unlikely to start locally due to size restrictions on gatherings. On-water activities may resume on a limited basis. All activities require additional advance approval by Coast Guard authorities.
- A new computer system to track CG Auxiliary activity is now installed and training is continuing. An updated statistical report should be available for next month's meeting.

### **Lake Norman – America's Boating Club**

Executive Director Sample reported on behalf of the America's Boating Club. Their activities have been put on hold due to COVID-19. They did complete the ATON inspections for the Lake Norman Marine Commission. They plan on keeping a running inspection.

### **Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.**

No Report

### **Island Habitat Program & NC Wildlife Federation**

Chairman Billy Wilson reported they were hard at work yesterday working with the Carolina Raptor Center to rehome a fledgling. Decided the nest located at the Heron Rookery was the best option. The parents took him in. Closely monitoring the situation. Can be observed on the webcam. The Oyster Fest has been cancelled. Laktoberfest is still pending.

### **Catawba Riverkeepers**

Michael Lindsey reported there is a swim guide program. 88 samples resulting in 4 ecoli alerts – 3 near the YMCA, 1 near the state park. 23 alerts across the 6 lakes. The last 2 weeks have looked great. No new pollution reports. Planning a major river sweep on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. 3 planned sites – Lake Norman State Park, Ramsey Creek, Inland Sea Marina. There will be a Captain/Host located at each site. Will begin publicizing in the upcoming weeks.

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

### **Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

No Report

### **Comments from the Public:**

- Geno Price – 3935 Burt St Sherrills Ford – inquiry on regulation for wake surf boats. Would like to know what's being discussed.

### **Committee Reports:**

**ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported the Following repairs are in progress, should be completed in next few weeks:

- Marker 22 - Light out
- Marker 23 - Light out
- Marker 25 - Light out
- Marker M6 - Light out
- No Wake Bridge buoy to be added at I-77 bridge east of Williamson Rd. Bridge
- Marker 3, 7 & M1 lights not visible due to Osprey nest, will be repaired in the fall after Ospreys leave.
- 17 markers are faded and need replacement as budget allows.

Repairs recently completed:

- Both Hwy 150 Bridge no wake buoys have been replaced.
- Marker 6 replaced
- Shoal Marker near 1A replaced
- Light replaced 18B
- New Markers 17C & 17D have been installed

Power Squadron, America's Boating Club has surveyed all the ATONS, shoal markers and bridge buoys to determine any needed repairs. We greatly appreciate their work on this project. Please report any items needing repairs to [lnmc@lnmc.org](mailto:lnmc@lnmc.org).

**Environmental Committee**

Morris Sample – see previous comments under Executive Director report

**Boater Education/Communication**

Dave Scott – Education is on hold. The website continues to show increased usage. 20% increase over the past 4 weeks. Spending time on the laws and regulations pages.

**Charter Boat Committee**

Commissioner Eddinger reported the last charter boat has paid his permit and inspection fees. Everyone is up and running.

**No Wake Buoys**

Commissioner Michael Hughes – No report

**Rafting Committee**

Chairman Rick Howard – No Report

**Applications****No-Wake Buoy Requests**

- Tom Onsrud – Executive Director Sample shared a picture with the proposed location of the buoy. Appreciate the proposed location, but doesn't think it's enough. It's a very short cove. Asking commissioners to consider moving the buoy out between the 2 points.
- This will be reviewed and placed on the August agenda for approval.

**Rafting Applications** - None

**Charter Boat Applications** - None

**Variances**

None

**PERMITS**

None

**FERC Applications**

- Not a formal application, but notified of communication cable going in at Slanting Bridge Road

**Administrative Matters**

- At year end (June 30<sup>th</sup>) \$52983.79 cash balance + Inventory \$6305.50 = Net Assets of \$59289.29 resulting in an Increase of \$5983.39 over last year.
- Lower expenses in the hydrilla area

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.