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LNMC MINUTES

November 09, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
(this meeting has been recorded and is posted at lnmc.org)

Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:

Michael Hughes	Chairman (Absent)
Dennis Eddinger	Mecklenburg County
David Scott	Catawba County (Absent)
Rick Howard	Iredell County
Christopher Uzzolina	Lincoln 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 Commissioner Dennis Eddinger 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 October 12, 2020 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Uzzolina. Approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

Reports – LNMC Executive Director

Executive Director Morris Sample reported the following items:

- Catawba Wateree Water Management Group meeting was last week to update all the stakeholders on the plan to update the water resource study that was completed several years ago. Initial emphasis was on the quantity of water available but now there is some shift toward the quality of water available. Survey of the participants said that water quality was high importance, followed by control of Inter-basin Transfers and plan to recover water sent to other areas. They will develop an update to original plan over the next year and present that to all the stakeholders.
- With time change, seeing more PWC's out too late. Last evening sunset was 5:23pm. I was on lake around 6pm and saw 4 PWC's still on the water. Please let everyone know that sunset is the official time stated by weather service and today was 5:21pm.
- Another mention of danger of colder water as the lake temperatures drop. Please be aware that getting in water below 70 deg can cause problems after only 20-30 minutes.

- As lake level decreases this winter, please be aware that some areas will become impassible due to water depth that were OK at higher levels.

REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT

Cornelius Police Department

Officer Figaro report - Officers responded to and initiated 34 calls for service, completed 394 zone checks and 49 Problem Solving Activities during the month of October. These calls for service are on the lake only. The most calls for service were received on Friday and Saturday. Calls for service were reported between the hours of 12:00pm-6:00pm most often. The average response time to calls for service was 11.8 minutes while the average enroute time was 4.0 minutes.

- Community Involvement - Officers assisted in the Calvin Newman Youth Boating Fund PWC Safety Seminar presented by the USCG and Cornelius PD Lake Patrol for boaters at Peninsula Yacht Club •
- Assist Citizen - While on routine patrol officers saw a vessel between the islands at the sandbar without any lights on. Found the vessel was experiencing some type of malfunction in the lighting system. Officers escorted the vessel to holiday marina to ensure the safety of the passengers. •
- Assist Citizen - Caller stated he was boating on Lake Norman in the area of Crown Lake Harbor with his fiancé. The fiancé took off her jewelry and placed it on a towel on the boat and got into the lake. When she got back on the boat she grabbed the towel and the jewelry flew into the air and fell overboard. Caller needed to report it for insurance purposes.
- Damage to Property 1 Lost Property 1 Littering 1 2 • Damage to Property - Upon arrival, officers spoke with the owner who was standing beside his docked vessel when an unknown object impacted the Starboard windshield breaking same. As officers were speaking to the owner, a young male approached and advised he was throwing rocks in the rock quarry and he accidentally struck the vessel. The suspect stated he would pay to have the window replaced. The owner agreed.
- Assist Medic - Medic assist in reference to a drowning subject near Harbor Light Blvd. The subject was skiing and fell lifeless in the water. Fire and Police transported the subject to the Peninsula Yacht Club where medic was standing by. Medic transported the subject to CMC Huntersville where he was pronounced dead. It appeared the subject suffered a cardiac incident while skiing.

Iredell County Sheriff

Lake Patrol with Iredell County – Deputy Church reported 41 traffic stops. Security checks around the lake. Conducted 3 investigations. 5 calls were alcohol related and 4 calls were drug related. \$2500 worth of items were stolen from a boat. Awaiting report. Present for Special Olympics Bass Tournament this past weekend.

Catawba County

Catawba County Lake Patrol – No report

Lincoln County

Lincoln County Lake Patrol – Officer Calhoun reported they are off the water for the year with nothing new to report.

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

No Report

Reports – Lake Issues

Duke Energy

Chad Broadway reported the lake level is at 97.1. A little above 96.7 target. Actively in winter draw down which will continue through early February. Expecting substantial amount of rain, so please be aware of rises. Lake use permitting is still going strong.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggins reported due to COVID-19 there has been no activity on the lake or around the lake.

Lake Norman – America's Boating Club

No Report

Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

No Report

Island Habitat Program & NC Wildlife Federation

Billy Wilson reported nothing going on with the islands except island adopters cleaning up. Tree planting at Stutts Marina this Saturday, November 14th – A dozen maple trees being planted. Volunteers needed – Inwc.org. Heron Island Restoration Project is about 2/3 completed. The remainder will be completed this winter. Rock Reefs at the Hager's Creek fishing pier will be installed in the coming months. Great wildlife experience due to the success of the Heron Rookery earth came. 2 Red Wolf cams will be installed on the coast of NC. Follow at ncwf.org

Catawba Riverkeepers

Michael Lindsey shared a presentation. Asking the marine commission for \$500 to support the swim guide program. Test weekly for E.coli from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Currently test 13 locations and looking to test more. Any issues are usually due to storm water run off. Commissioner Howard recommended testing near packaging plants.

Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge

Mecklenburg County Water Quality

Dave Ferguson reported routine monitoring in September and the next one will be in November. The only month missed due to COVID-19 was in March. Resumed in April. Water clarity was good and numbers were good at last reporting. Lake Cornelius does give a few problems in the YMCA cove. Trying to control the geese, which contribute to the problem.

Comments from the Public:

- Brian Bridgford – wanted to let everyone know that the Education Committee met and had a productive meeting. Ready to launch by Spring 2021

Committee Reports:

ATON Committee

Morris Sample reported the following since last meeting:

- Marker D7, Light out
- No Wake Bridge buoy to be added at I-77 bridge east of Williamson Rd. Bridge
- No Wake Bridge buoy to be replaced at railroad bridge leading to Lake Norman Marina
- No Wake Bridge buoy to be replaced at Hwy 150 bridge at Mountain Creek Marina
- Marker 3, 7, M1, & 18B Osprey nest has been removed and lights repaired. – Billy Wilson reported that they are going to try and install an excluder device to direct the osprey to the platform and away from the ATON. Chairman Sample requested a write up for official approval in the January meeting.

Environmental Committee

Morris Sample reported the NC State survey was completed and awaiting final report. Preliminary report shows no hydrilla. Will be working with DEQ with what will be done in the spring of 2021. Agreed to participate in stocking of approximately 750 grass carp.

Boater Education/Communication

John Gerke reported on behalf of Commissioner Scott. Attended by 12 people. Setting priorities – reducing deaths and improving boater safety. Ideas about methods to use. 4 subgroups were set up.

(Law Enforcement, Marinas, dealers and commercial rental operations, Consolidation of communication, and Social Media). Looking at statistics to establish a baseline. The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2020.

Charter Boat Committee

Commissioner Eddinger – People inquiring about houseboat rentals. Doing research now to gain more information to be included in the Charter Boat meeting in the spring.

No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Howard – First meeting of the Buoy committee. 12-15 in attendance with a lot of input. Next meeting is November 19th. Deferred to Billy Wilson for further comment. Reported it was a very productive meeting. Reviewed the history and looked at where we're headed. Confident in the group of people in the group and dealing with the task at hand. The current ordinance and application will be reviewed with hopefully a new process in place by the 2021 boating season.

Rafting Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina – No Report

Applications

No-Wake Buoy Requests

- None

Rafting Applications

- None

Charter Boat Applications

- None

Variances

- None

PERMITS

- None

FERC Applications

- None

Administrative Matters

- 20-21Q1 Activity Report sent to counties
- 20-21Q1 Financial Reports
- Presentation of the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget – formal approval will be done in January 2021

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

There is no meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 11, 2021