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LNMC MINUTES

February 08, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
(this meeting has been recorded and is posted at lnmc.org)

Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:

Michael Hughes	Chairman
Dennis Eddinger	Mecklenburg County
David Scott	Catawba County
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 Michael Hughes 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 January 11, 2021 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Howard, 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:

- With lake levels at lowest of the year, there are many places not marked with shoal markers that may be too shallow to navigate. Please exercise caution when navigating in unfamiliar areas or near the shoreline. Shallow areas at this level may not be marked with shoal markers. Our basic criteria for shoal warning signs are areas less than 6 feet at full pond in high traffic areas or reports of boat groundings.
- Received final report on the fall survey of the lake for aquatic vegetation. Only two small sprigs of hydrilla were found in the Ramsey Creek area which indicates that the previous stocking of sterile grass carp were successful in removing the infestation we had in summer of 2019. Current plans are for stocking 750 fish this spring along with 50 fish that are tagged with acoustic transmitters.
- LNMC meetings will continue to be on zoom until further notice. The restriction on meeting attendance will have to be removed before we go back to in person meeting.

- Company that conducted our government audit has informed LNMC that they no longer will conduct those audits. We have requested quotes from two organizations that are qualified to perform government audits and will be considering these quotes in Executive Session at the March meeting.

REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT

Cornelius Police Department

Officer Figaro reported Officers responded to and initiated 16 calls for service, completed 567 zone checks and 55 Crime Prevention Activities during the month of January. These calls for service are on the lake only. The most calls for service were received on Monday. Calls for service were reported between the hours of **12:00pm-6:00pm** most often. The average response time to calls for service was **7.2 minutes** while the average en-route time was **1.7 minutes**.

- Call by Phone - Spoke to a subject who had questions about duck hunting
- Assist Citizen - Caller advised that his friend got on an inflatable raft without a paddle and she is now stuck out in the middle of the water near Jetton Park. He can see her from where he is in the park. Female was picked up and transported to Jetton Park.
- 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.
- Assist Citizen – Caller reported one person in a canoe one person in the water possibly in distress at the island off of Shearwater Point Dr. Officers arrived and was unable to locate anyone in distress. The complainant later called and stated the person that was in the water was picked up by a motorized vessel and taken towards Mooresville.

Iredell County Sheriff

Lake Patrol with Iredell County – Deputy Church reported no numbers for January yet. January 21st elderly gentlemen fell between the boat and the dock while cleaning. Deputies responded and he was fine. January 23rd a float plane flipped into the lake. He was assisted by other boaters and was okay. The plane was retrieved. Recently went before the commissioners to move money to purchase a lake patrol boat.

Catawba County

Catawba County Lake Patrol – No report

Lincoln County

Lincoln County Lake Patrol – Officer Calhoun no report

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Ron Robertson – Reported currently working with out of state officers. Just concluded hunting season. License sales are the best on record as people have enjoyed the outdoors during the pandemic. Duck season resulted in numerous complaints, but most were not legitimate. Multiple instances reported with no violations but opportunities to educate hunters and residents. January 13th teenagers hunting in a cove and shot after legal shooting time. Confrontation with a resident. The only violation was no hunting license. Contacted parents. Life Jacket Loaner Program at Pinnacle and Stumpy Creek. Expanded program with 48 new life jackets for this coming season.

Duke Energy

Chad Broadway reported low target level was hit last week. The lake will start to fill back in between now and May.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggins sent the following report via email - No activity statistics to report. The CG Auxiliary can begin resuming limited activities with prior permission in these mission areas if consistent with state and local regulations:

- Public Education (in-person and virtual)
- Program Visitor (one-on-one visits to marine businesses)
- Vessel Safety Checks (one-on-one, no mass events)
- On-water patrols only by special permission/special request

One of the Lake Norman flotillas is working on plans to offer a virtual public education class this spring (which can/will include Lake Norman-specific information). We will be able to provide more specifics on our ability to operate at the March LNMC meeting.

Lake Norman – America’s Boating Club

Lou Schwartz reported tomorrow is the change of watch. All officers are staying on for 2021. Investigating doing Zoom ABC classes. It has been done in Florida.

Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

No Report

Island Habitat Program & NC Wildlife Federation

Billy Wilson reported on the project entailing collecting Christmas trees to enhance fish habitats. 160 trees were collected. Deployment of the trees will be scheduled in the near future. Thanks to all partners involved. Mooresville Environmental Protection Agency is looking to a project where trees will be donated for trash collected. Details being worked out now.

Catawba Riverkeepers

Michael Lindsey – No Report

Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge

Mecklenburg County Water Quality – No Report

Comments from the Public:

- Senator Alexander reported a desire to help any way he can. Senator Sawyer is the main point of contact for the lake. Inquired about the plan for the beach with Duke Energy. According to Patrick McKinrey amendments can be proposed to FERC and they will be considered. Commissioner Uzzolina requested the information be forwarded to the commission.
- Jill Patterson – appreciate the work on the No Wake Buoy Committee. Interested in a roster of the members of this committee and a posting of the minutes from these meetings. Part of HOA with pending buoy application. Still feels this buoy is very much needed due to multiple violations.

Committee Reports:

ATON Committee

Morris Sample reported the following since last meeting:

- Marker D7, Light Out

- Marker M3, Light Out
- Marker 18A, Light Out
- Marker 18B, 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
- No Wake Bridge buoys at Buffalo Shoals bridge are missing and will be replaced. Will be replaced with poles with No Wake sign and lights as alternative to buoys.

This work is scheduled to be completed in the next two weeks.

Environmental Committee

Morris Sample reported the Aquatic Weed Counsel is meeting this week. This is where the fish stocking will be specified. Anticipating 750 fish in late spring.

Boater Education/Communication

Commissioner Scott reported the next meeting is Tuesday, February 16th. Dealer Survey is being sent out again. Also working on Public Service notifications. Would like to get messages out before boating season begins.

Charter Boat Committee

Commissioner Eddinger reported that all permit applications have been mailed out. Awaiting inspection calls. A zoom meeting is scheduled for March 25th

No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Howard reported making progress. The 5th meeting was held February 4th. The focus is currently on the ordinance. Billy Wilson thanked the committee members and the many hours they have dedicated. Feel confident in the recommendations that the committee has. The committee is very diverse and representative of Lake Norman. 38 residential buoys have been approved since the late 1990's. The committee recommends that future applications be from commercial facilities, government agencies or law enforcement. It is also recommended that all illegal buoys be removed. No questions were posed by the commission. Chairman Hughes recommended the committee bring the revised ordinance and application to be presented to the commission at the March meeting.

Rafting Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina – No Report

Applications

No-Wake Buoy Requests

- None

Rafting Applications

- None

Charter Boat Applications

- None

Variances

- None

PERMITS

- None

- None

Administrative Matters

- Q2 2020-2021 Financial Reports – everything is tracking on budget. Any recommended modifications will be recommended following Q3.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.

Our next meeting will be March 8, 2021