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LNMC MINUTES

March 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 (Absent)
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 February 8, 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 down 4 feet, 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.
- Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group with DEQ, and NC Wildlife identified a potential future problem for the Lake. Lymbia, an evasive bacteria growth has been identified in the Southeast. This is difficult to control and can be toxic to fish and swimmers. Please report any sightings of aquatic vegetation to Duke or Marine Commission.
- 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. Anticipate it will be late summer or fall before in person meetings for large groups will be resumed.

Cornelius Police Department

Officer Allen reported officers responded to and initiated 5 calls for service, completed 404 zone checks and 40 Crime Prevention Activities during the month of February. 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 6:00pm-12:00am most often. The average response time to calls for service was 12.8 minutes while the average enroute time was 1.6 minutes.

- Attempt to Locate - Channel Marker 6. Fisherman called about a sailboat with no lights near CM6. The vessel was found unoccupied and stuck aground. Iredell County was then notified. An Iredell Lake Patrol officer met us at a nearby dock and gave us white glow sticks to use as a substitute for an anchor light for the vessel. Owner of the vessel was contacted and stated they lived nearby and has plans on having same removed.
- Assist Citizen- Fisherman became lost while enroute back to Blythe Landing due to low visibility from intense fog. He beached his vessel near the end of Belle Island. I helped same by pushing vessel into deeper water and navigating his way back to Blythe.
- Assist Law Enforcement Agency – We received a call for assistance from Iredell County in reference to a boat fire on Yacht Rd in Mooresville. We were canceled while enroute.
- Community Involvement - Met with other Law Enforcement Agencies to discuss the yearly joint maritime training.
- United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Safety Exams for all Cornelius Police vessels.
- Community Involvement - Spoke to members of Freedom Boat Club about boat safety
- Attempt to Locate – Employee with Lancaster Custom Dock & Lift Systems became lost on the lake due to extreme fog. The lost boater was found at Playground Island in Lincoln County. He was transported to Beaty's Ford Park in Denver. The manger from Lancaster Dock & Lift met us there and took the employee home.
- Attended the Lake Norman Marine Commission Education Committee meeting • Attended the Lake Norman Marine Commission Buoy Commission meeting
- Attended the Lake Norman Marine Commission Marine Commission meeting
- Attempt to Locate - Caller stated that a green laser light was shining directly into his residence from a boat at Holiday Marina. Officers found the boat in question on E dock and spoke with owner. The owner of the vessel had his disco lights on, and it was omitting a green laser lights. The disco ball was turned off.

Iredell County Sheriff

Lake Patrol with Iredell County – No report

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 continued staffing issues. Feb 20th complaint that a man had pushed a 30x30 boat dock blocking boat ramp. Plan to remove from the ramp but at a later date. Tournament scheduled to use the ramp and requested the dock be moved and it wasn't. However, it is a violation to block a public ramp. Otherwise the lake has been quiet. Zebra mussel report. Very invasive and can clog pipes, damage boats, and harm the current environment. (See information sheet at www.lnmc.org)

Reports – Lake Issues

Duke Energy

Chad Broadway reported lake levels a little above target. We have entered the moratorium for lake excavation which runs from March 1st – July 1st.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggins sent the following report via email - USCG Auxiliary activities continue to resume in a controlled manner. A live virtual About Boating Safely class will be offered via Zoom by one of the LKN CG Auxiliary flotillas in three sessions: Tuesday April 20, 2021 7-9pm, Thursday April 22 7-9pm, and Saturday April 24 9am-1pm (including an on-line test). The schedule and signup / contact information was emailed to the LNMC@LNMC.org email box. Lake Norman specific information can/will be included in the course material. On-the-water routine patrols by the CG Auxiliary are not yet authorized. A plan is being assembled by USCG personnel for a return to operations for the CG Auxiliary due to many members being inactive on patrols for over a year due to COVID-19 restrictions. The CG Auxiliary is seeking approval to participate in on-water training activities with LKN Law Enforcement training the week of March 29, 2021. At present, the request has been verbally denied; however, discussions are continuing. The CGAUX may be able to participate in the Friday activities. Other public-facing programs such as Vessel Safety Checks can resume on a limited basis with approval with no mass events authorized at this time.

Lake Norman – America’s Boating Club

Rick Todd reported they are still paused due to Covid-19

Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

No Report

Island Habitat Program & NC Wildlife Federation

Billy Wilson reported a long weekend on the water with several projects. Upgrading the Osprey Cam. It should be back online later this week. View at Inwc.org. The Christmas Tree Project in partnership with the Shriners Club was completed on Saturday. 100+ trees were deployed. Collected \$3600 for the Shriner’s Hospital. Platforms being added to channel markers.

Catawba Riverkeepers

Michael Lindsey reported planning swim guide program beginning the Thursday before Memorial Day and run through Labor Day. This checks water quality for swimming. Ordering floating classroom expected to launch the first of June and be ready by the first of July for class. The target is 25-30 students. This summer will focus on 3rd – 8th grade.

Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge

Mecklenburg County Water Quality – Dave Ferguson reported routine lake monitoring for January was conducted on 2/6/21 due to weather delays. Average water temp on the day of sampling was 51.4 F and the lake lever was 95.5’ (target 94.1’). Average water clarity was 6.2’.

Comments from the Public:

- Mecklenburg County Commissioner Elaine Powell – just introduced herself. In the field with Charlotte Water this morning.

Committee Reports:**ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported the following since last meeting:

- Marker R5, Light Out
- Shoal marker by Peninsula
- 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.

Environmental Committee

Morris Sample reported meeting in regards to tagging the carp. 33 acoustic receivers were installed and it will track the fish that were tagged with transmitters. If it disappears from the acoustic transmitter then it can be tracked with the radio transmitter. Anticipate report in July for the fish that will be released in April. This research will give us survivability of carp once the hydrilla is gone. This is a 3 year program. 750 fish to be released with 50 of them tagged.

Boater Education/Communication

Commissioner Scott reported a meeting was held on 2/16/21 with 9 in attendance. Next meeting 3/9/21. Current boater education is virtual. There is one in person class being offered in Rock Hill, SC.

Charter Boat Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina – No Report – awaiting applications. Meeting scheduled for March 25th.

No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Howard reported appreciation of patience in reviewing the buoy ordinance and determine the best ordinance and application process for everyone. Billy Wilson agreed and added this committee has been in existence since the 90's. In the fall of 2020 the committee was asked to review the current ordinance and application. Going forward the commission will accept applications from government entities, commercial entities and law enforcement. Continued conversations with law enforcement. Plan to present the draft ordinance and draft application during the April meeting. Want to make progress in a process for removing illegal buoys.

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

- Closed session following this meeting to choose vendor for annual audit. Chairman Hughes made a motion to proceed with closed session. Commissioner Uzzolina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Following the closed session it was passed unanimously to retain the services of Belinda Johnson, CPA to perform the annual audit of the commission.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Our next meeting will be April 12, 2021