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## **LNMC MINUTES**

**June 14, 2021**  
**Charles Mack Citizens Center**  
 **Mooresville, NC**

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

Michael Hughes	Chairman (Absent)
Dennis Eddinger	Mecklenburg County
David Scott	Catawba County
Rick Howard	Iredell County
Christopher Uzzolina	Lincoln County (Absent)

### **Staff:**

Morris Sample	Executive Director (Absent)
John Gerke	Asst. Ex. Director
Angela Palmer	Administrator

### **Call to Order**

A quorum was declared and the meeting was called to order by Commissioner 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 April 12, 2021 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Eddinger, seconded by Commissioner Howard. Approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

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

Executive Director Morris Sample (presented by Assistant Executive Director John Gerke) reported the following items:

- We have received several comments about small danger buoys that are missing. These small buoys have been placed by various groups over the years and were used to generally mark shallow areas. The Marine Commission does not maintain or replace these buoys but we will consider the area for a pole mounted shoal marker and light. Our criteria for placing a shoal marker generally is traffic in the area, depth of around 5-6 feet at full pond and area has been reported by boating clubs as high damage area. Many of the smaller islands are being eroded below water levels and we will be placing shoal markers where appropriate.
- 700 grass carp were released at Blythe Landing on May 11. In April, 50 tagged grass carp were released and they will be part of a 3 year study to determine the mortality of the grass carp in Lake Norman. This stocking of a total of 750 grass carp will help prevent future outbreaks of hydrilla. We will have a report on the tagging study from the NC Wildlife group in the July or August meeting.

- Please continue to report any strange looking vegetation growing in Lake Norman. Duke Energy aquatic weed group will investigate any reports. You can report to [aquaticplants@duke-energy.com](mailto:aquaticplants@duke-energy.com) or visit our website at [lnmc.org](http://lnmc.org) and click on Useful Links, Duke Energy Lake Services.
- Boating season is getting underway, and the lake traffic will be increasing. We have received several noise complaints for people playing music at high volume. While there is no noise ordinance on most of the lake, please be courteous to everyone on the lake and be aware of your wake.
- Thanks to America's Boating Club (previously the Power Squadron) for their ongoing inspection of all the ATON's on the lake. They recently finished the spring inspection, and we are working on repairing the markers that need attention. There are some that have faded signs and those will be replaced later this year as funding is available.

## **REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

### **Cornelius Police Department**

Sargent Figaro reported officers responded to 48 calls for service during the month of May. These calls for service were on the lake only. The most calls for service were received on Saturday. Calls for service were reported between the hours of 12:00pm-12:00am most often. The average response time to calls for service was 9.1 minutes. Officers self initiated 501 zone checks, 13 Community Involvement

- Boat Crash - Officers responded to a boat crash with injury at the gas docks in front of Hello Sailor. Medic 22 transported the subject to Atrium Huntersville due to the injury of her wrist. Officers were advised the subjects wrist was broken by attempting to stop the boat from crashing into the dock and another boat while trying to dock.
- ATL- Pontoon boat with no one onboard. Vessel was removed from the rocks. Registered owner met us at the dock and took control of the vessel and operated back to his residence across the cove.
- Assist Citizen - Officers made contact with a subject who advised that she and a group of others had been stranded on Pirate Island. Their boat broke down and a company came and towed the boat, however would not take all of the passenger. Officers transported all remaining members of the group from Pirate Island to All Seasons Marina.
- 911 Hand-up - Channel Marker D4. Could hear female in the background and music. Officers were able to make contact with the owner of the phone and everything appeared okay.
- Community involvement - On Sunday 05/30/2021 Officers assisted the Peninsula Yacht Club in their annual Commencement Ceremony. We lead in a small parade of lights with the Cornelius Fire Department. We interacted with community members and engaged in various conversations about boating safety and future boating safety programs.
- Dockside event at South Harbor Marina. Spoke with boaters about boater safety.
- 911 Hang-up Knox Creek / Davidson Creek - Circulated and could not find any boaters in distress.
- Assist Citizen – YMCA ref a boat that is sunk at the end of the dock. Boat is leased through the YMCA. Employees stated that the boat had just been put in the water earlier in the day and found underwater and they contacted 911. They said it appears the drain plugs were reinstalled by the workers who dropped it off.
- Larceny – Subject stated that at around 1600 hours on 5/22/21 two white females on a PWC came onto his dock and stole a purple adult medium PFD.
- ATL Sandbar - Iredell County called requesting our assistance in attempting to locate a subject who rented a white Yamaha boat from Queens Landing and was overdue for return. Circulated the area and was unable to locate.
- Assist LEA – Assisted Wildlife with uncooperative subject at the sandbar • Meet Complainant

Peninsula Point Dr - Met with the owner of the vessel in regards to missing speakers on his boat. He advised that there was recent service work done on the boat and they might have been removed during that time. The caller allowed the me to search the vessel and the speakers were located under the passenger seat.

- Attempted Larceny Nantz Rd – Vessel owner said overnight it appeared as if someone had attempted to take his red 2019 Centurion RI 237 from his dock. Evidence pointing to the attempted larceny being someone (teenagers) he may know stems from him always leaving the key on the boat and his daughter's friends knowing this information. It appeared that the suspect(s) had lowered the boat in the water and pushed it away from the dock, however, they were unable to get the boat started due to not knowing how to turn the batteries on.
- Overdose - Officers spoke with the driver of a vessel that was rented. He and a group went out on for the day and anchored to swim near Peninsula Cove/ Springwinds Dr. The operator noticed one of the subjects started acting strange. The operator pulled the subject out of the water, called 911 and drove the boat to Ramsey Creek docks. Medic administered Narcan and transported the subject to the hospital.
- Attended the Lake Norman Marine Commission Marine Commission meeting
- Cleared several dock billets from navigational waters

### **Iredell County Sheriff**

Deputy Finch with Iredell County reported 2 impaired drivers, 800 security checks, 125 hours on the water, 180 property checks. A few calls from Apps & Taps. Missing child call under the Perth bridge. Found with others at a party. A few bow fishing calls. Getting busy. Conducted safety checks at the launches. Another one 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Almost fully back up and running pending final boat repairs. Problems with AirBNB's over capacity and boat and personal watercraft included in rental as amenity included. There is a lack of knowledge of the lake. 1 citation in May and 5 warnings. June is going to be higher.

### **Catawba County**

Catawba County Lake Patrol – No report

### **Lincoln County**

Lincoln County Lake Patrol – No report

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

Ron Robertson reported the AirBNB issue is a regular occurring thing. It is in question whether the boat/jetskis are a part of the rental agreement but no way to prove otherwise if the keys are in the rented house. Memorial Day weekend "Don't Drink, Don't Drive" – not a lot of activity on the lake because of weather. 70 vessels checked, 216 boaters, 5 BWI arrests. 2 boating incidents – 1 Mecklenburg County (broken wrist) while docking, 1 Catawba County (broken femur) when thrown from PWC. Aircraft detail on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Focus on Careless and Wreckless Operation. Wrote 21 citations. Operator inattention the #1 cause of accidents. 4 fatal accidents on Lake Norman in 2020 and all involved alcohol. 29 fatalities state wide and only 11 had life jackets. 13% increase in vessel registration in 2020. So far in 2021 there has been a 10% increase. July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend – Operation Dry Water. Kick off July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Hagers Creek – Lake Norman Marine Commission invited to attend.

## **Reports – Lake Issues**

### **Duke Energy**

Chad Broadway – No Report

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

Steve Riggins reported...

1. The USCG Auxiliary is gradually returning to normal operations, including on-water patrols, Vessel Safety Checks (including mass events), in-person meetings, and limited in-person public events.
2. The USCG Auxiliary participated in Operation Safe Lakes, sponsored by the Mecklenburg County ABC Marine Enforcement unit. Participation consisted of attendance at the pre-event / media

briefing, and a short on-water patrol with a USCG Auxiliary vessel in Knox Creek near Hello Sailor for assistance standby.

3. The USCG Auxiliary along with Iredell Co. Sherriff Lake Enforcement provided perimeter patrol for the Lake Norman Yacht Club 2021 Sunfish National Championship sailboat races held June 10-13 near marker D7. Over 200 Sunfish type sailboats were registered from across the country for the competition.

#### **Upcoming Events and Items of Note:**

1. The USCG Auxiliary and the Sea Scouts ship based in Denver, NC will conduct joint training this summer to assist the Sea Scouts with their qualifications. A partnership between the USCG Auxiliary and Sea Scouts nationally was formed in 2018 with one of the Lake Norman USCG Auxiliary flotillas the first in the nation to sponsor a Sea Scout ship.
2. The USCG Auxiliary will participate in the rescheduled June 26 Lake Safety Day, conducting Vessel Safety Checks at three Lake Norman Boat ramps for as much of the day as can be covered based on personnel availability.
3. Regular USCG Auxiliary on-water safety and training patrols are resuming in June to assist the public and provide internal training for USCG Auxiliary members.

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

#### **Catawba Riverkeepers**

Michael Lindsey reported supply chain issues with the floating classroom delaying the launch. Expecting to be on the lake late summer or early fall.

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

**Mecklenburg County Water Quality** – Dave Ferguson reported routine lake monitoring on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The lake looked great during sampling. Lake Cornelius showed an impaired ecological issue.

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

- No Comments

#### **Committee Reports:**

#### **ATON Committee**

Morris Sample (presented by John Gerke) reported the following since last meeting:

- Marker P2, Sign damage
- Marker R5, Sign damage
- Shoal Marker south of PYC, on east shore, Light replaced
- Shoal Marker north of T5, marker nearest shore, Light Replaced
- Shoal Marker, Near D2, Sign Replaced
- No Wake Bridge Buoy on West Side of Governor’s Island Bridge replaced
- No Wake Bridge buoy at I-77 bridge east of Williamson Rd. Bridge added
- No Wake Bridge buoy Hwy 150 bridge at Mountain Creek Marina replaced
- No Wake Bridge buoys at Buffalo Shoals bridge replaced and double anchored to prevent moving in high water flow.

John Gerke reported 700 grass carp were put in.

### **Boater Education/Communication**

Commissioner Scott reported moving forward with the concept of a themed delivery using social media – “Love Where You Lake”. Determining where to distribute. Page added to the website as a landing for this movement. Want to introduce before the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Website use up 45% over last year.

### **Charter Boat Committee**

Commissioner Eddinger reported everything is up and running.

### **No Wake Buoys**

Commissioner Howard reported the committee has not met in the past month. Hope to have something at the July meeting. No applications are currently pending. Complex process that will require funding. Looking at grant money, etc.

### **Rafting Committee**

Commissioner Uzzolina – No Report

## **Applications**

### **No-Wake Buoy Requests**

- None

### **Rafting Applications**

- None

### **Charter Boat Applications**

- None

## **Variances**

- None

## **PERMITS**

- Dock Permit for Lincoln County – Approved unanimously

## **FERC Applications**

- Duke Energy presented the following lease renewals
  - Lake Norman Motel
  - Davidson College
  - Beatties Ford Access
- Commissioner Howard had a few concerns about the wording for approval for something that was never approved by the Lake Norman Marine Commission. Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve, Commissioner Eddinger seconded. Commissioner Howard abstained. The motion passed. Assistant Executive Director John Gerke pointed out there were no navigational hinderances.

## **Administrative Matters**

- Suggested reallocations to the budget for year end. The adjusted budget passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Our next meeting will be July12, 2021