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LNMC MINUTES

**July 12, 2021
Charles Mack Citizens Center
 Mooresville, NC**

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 Chairman 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 June 14, 2021 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Eddinger, 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:

- 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 or visit our website at 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.
- We continue to see fatalities due to people not wearing PFD's when engaged in water sports. Please require anyone you are with to always wear a PFD when being pulled on tube, water skis, etc.

REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT

Cornelius Police Department

Sargent Figaro reported officers responded to 51 calls for service during the month of June. 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-06:00pm most often. The average response time to calls for service was 7.9 minutes. Officers self-initiated 436 zone checks, 41 Crime Prevention Activities.

- Boat Crash - Crash between 2 pontoons at Kings Point Marina Both vessels had multiple passengers onboard, no injuries were reported, only property damage. Wildlife responded.
- Complainant was on a pontoon boat and ran out of gas approximately 100 yards from Safeharbor Marina which was his destination. We towed the boat back to Safe Harbor's dock near the gas docks without incident.
- Caller stated that there is a person that is near a paddle boat at the end of Country Club Ln. She can see a head in the water for approx. 35 minutes. Upon arrival there was no emergency, subject was just swimming.
- Lake Patrol was dispatch to a boat fire at Safe Harbor. The caller advised the boat was actively burning and there were people injured. Upon arrival the Sea Ray curser was fully engulfed with 10 foot flames coming from the cockpit area. Subject were now on land and had minor injuries, scratches and singed hair. Cornelius Fire came by land and put the fire out. After fueling the boat, The complainant turned on the blower. then started the boat without incident. The lines were cleared When the boat was put in reverse they heard a "pop" and felt an explosion from the motor compartment.
- 911 hang up came in from Catawba County plotting in the water off of Senlac Ln Checked the coves on each side of Senlac Ln. No one appeared to be in distress.
- Officers were notified of a boat leaking fuel while docked at G-dock at Safe Harbor King's Point Marina. Officers assisted with scene security as Fire put out a containment boom.
- Officers assisted ICSO who were out with a disabled vessel near CM D7. We transported 2 adult subjects, a small child, and a dog back to Blythe Landing.
- Damage to property at Waterstreet Seaport on D dock. Caller stated someone removed the gas cap on the port side engine and poured sand into the fuel cell causing approximately 2,000.00 dollars of Damages.
- Cardiac arrest off of 20947 Island Forest Dr. Subject had heart attack while swimming and became unresponsive in the water. Corporal Dietrich swam to the victim and brought him to shore. Fire/Medic performed CPR before transporting to hospital with pulse, but later died.
- CMPD advised of a vessel was actively sinking near the island across from the helipad and subjects we're in the water. Officers located the vessel near the Research buoy in Ramsey Creek. Upon arrival, there was one adult male in the water approximately 20 feet behind the vessel, two small children and a dog were located on the nose of the vessel which was still above water and one adult male standing midship in knee deep water. All parties were safely boarded on Marine 4.
- Attended the Lake Norman Marine Commission Marine Commission meeting
- Cleared several dock billets from navigational waters
- Complainant reported a subject on their vessel was swimming close by and began to struggle then went under. Officers responded to the area of marker D3 to find Wildlife, Iredell and multiple fire services. Wildlife took control of the investigation and Cornelius Fire took control of the scene. Cornelius Police worked with Wildlife and ICSO to keep the scene secured while fireboats conducted scans of the lake bed. At around 0000hrs, the search was called off for the day. Victim was recovered 2 days later.

Iredell County Sheriff

Deputy Jones with Iredell County reported 911 calls from phones bouncing in cup holders. 353 hours on the water. Boatlift and jetport stolen. Rental boats running out of gas. Many calls by the 150 bridge seems to be getting better. Operating without navigational lights at night. Many calls about homeowners renting boats.

Catawba County

Catawba County Lake Patrol – No report

Lincoln County

Lincoln County Lake Patrol – No report

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Officer Lawrence reported Cornelius PD covered several calls. June 19th man launched boat and the boat exploded. June 21st family of 4 boating and the center glass slammed shut and resulted in 22 stitches for a 6 year old. Tuber drowned while trying to swim back to the boat. June 25th 2 boats collided at the marina. June 27th boat struck large section of riprap. Driver was impaired. July 4th man's foot cut by boat prop, lengthy recovery ahead. Operation Dry Water kick-off was July 2nd with media outlets present. 13 boating citations, 2 impaired boaters. 1 possession of marijuana. Utilized the plane over the weekend with 14 wildlife officers present. 73 boating citations. 1 drug impairment and 6 alcohol impairment.

Reports – Lake Issues**Duke Energy**

Joe Klutzz reported calls regarding algae and charra. Respond promptly to inquiries. NO hydrilla to report. Lake level is 97.1. Target is 98. Maintaining below target while work is being done. With rainfall trend back to 97.5. Thank all law enforcement. Excessive amounts of floats being retrieved. Asking people to secure until they can be removed. Permitting is still at a high volume.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggins reported...

1. The USCG Auxiliary has mostly returned to normal operations, including on-water patrols, Vessel Safety Checks (including mass events), in-person meetings, and in-person public events, including in-classroom public education classes.
2. The USCG Auxiliary participated in the Lake Norman Lake safety day June 26, performing vessel safety checks at several boat ramps around Lake Norman

Upcoming Events and Items of Note:

1. Lake Norman West Flotilla will hold a one-day in-person/in classroom 8 hour Boat America class at Denver Fire Department in Denver on July 17, 2021.
2. Regular USCG Auxiliary on-water safety and training patrols have resumed and are continuing to assist the public and provide internal training for USCG Auxiliary members.
3. By the August LNMC meeting, statistical data for CG Auxiliary activities should be available.

Lake Norman – America's Boating Club

No Report

Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

No Report

Island Habitat Program & NC Wildlife Federation

Billy Wilson reported osprey cam has received over 1 million views this year. In the process of establishing a camera in Columbia, NC to help protect the red wolf that is endangered. The approved fishing reef will be installed following Duke Energy's approval. Should begin late summer. Symphony in the Park was held the 3rd weekend in June and was a success with over 6000 people in attendance.

Catawba Riverkeepers

Michael Lindsey's report presented by Morris Sample – River Fest 21, August 7th in Belmont.

Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge

Mecklenburg County Water Quality – Dave Ferguson's report presented by Morris Sample. Ramsey Creek Park beach has had excellent numbers. The YMCA swim area has slightly higher values due to heavy rain. Swim advisory June 29th – released July 2nd. Swim Advisory at Paradise Cove in Cornelius. 3rd incident in 3 weeks. Considering fines.

Comments from the Public:

- Joe Klutzz – Commissioner Scott and the Boater Education Committee have done an excellent job. Believe in education and enforcement in regards to No Wake Buoy's. Recommended handing this task back to Wildlife Resources. Shared examples from Wildlife and Lake Wylie. To date there have been no reported injuries or death due to wakes. If you limit cove activity, it pushes these activities out into main waters which could be extremely dangerous.

Committee Reports:**ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported the following since last meeting:

- Marker D7- One side sign missing
- Shoal Marker (NW of Marker 2) light out
- Signs that are faded will be replaced as funding is available.

Environmental Committee

Morris Sample reported no hydrilla issues this year. 700 grass carp released. Installed 32 receivers around the lake. Reported thousands of data points. Hope to have a full report in the coming months.

Boater Education/Communication

Commissioner Scott reported the website is growing by 30%. 6 meeting since November 2020. (2) trifold pamphlets. Currently in production. "Love Where You Lake" new brand. Business Cards with QR code that takes you to a website page with a safety message. Distributing to waterfront restaurants and law enforcement. 60% complete.

Charter Boat Committee

Commissioner Eddinger reported quiet right now.

No Wake Buoys

Chairman Hughes made a motion to reinstate the moratorium and no applications be approved until the new buoy ordinance is established. Commissioner Uzzolina seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Howard reported the draft of the Buoy Regulation and No Wake Buoy Permit have been completed. Buoy Committee Chairman, Billy Wilson covered the following main points of the draft regulation:

- 1) Application fee increased and would be used to fund the independent contractor
- 2) Application reviewed by the buoy committee and needs analysis performed by independent contractor
- 3) Needs analysis returned to the commission with the recommendation on approval from the buoy committee
- 4) Commission will review the analysis and decide on approval within 60 days

Chairman Hughes complimented the Buoy Committee for their work and asked them to complete preparation of the revision to the Buoy Regulation and No Wake Buoy Application to be presented at a future public hearing and Commission will act on it following the public hearing.

Rafting Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina reported no new rafting applications.

Applications**No-Wake Buoy Requests**

- None

Rafting Applications

- None

Charter Boat Applications

- None

Variances

- None

PERMITS

FERC Applications

- Application from Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company to repair shoreline erosion on pipeline crossing on southern end of Lake Norman – Chairman Hughes made a motion to approve, Commissioner Eddinger 2nd – passed unanimously
- Waterside Docks & Piers – Construction of commercial marina – Chairman Hughes made a motion to approve, Commissioner Scott 2nd – passed unanimously

Administrative Matters

- None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Our next meeting will be August 9, 2021