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## **LNMC MINUTES**

**November 8, 2021  
Charles Mack  
Mooresville, NC**

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

Dennis Eddinger	Chairman
David Scott	Catawba County
Rick Howard	Iredell County
Christopher Uzzolina	Lincoln County
Robby Maschhaupt	Mecklenburg 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 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 11, 2021 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Howard. Approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

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

Executive Director Morris Sample reported the following items:

- The current lake level is 96.7 ft and will continue to decrease over the next couple of months, target level is 94 ft on Feb 1st. Please be aware that as we move into winter months, some areas that were navigable in the summer may be dangerous at the lower lake level. Please be aware that shoal markers do not cover all the areas that should be avoided at lower lake levels.
- As we begin to have colder temperatures, the lake water temperature will decrease significantly with current surface temperatures in the mid-60's. Survival in colder temperature below mid-50's is difficult without cold weather survival gear. Hypothermia is a real danger to anyone that is submerged in this colder water for any length of time. Anyone on the water in winter months should be accompanied by another boater.
- Our plan is for future meetings to be in person pending any changes to COVID restrictions at Charles Mack. Although we normally don't meet in Dec, we will have a scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2021.

**REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT****Cornelius Police Department**

Sargent Figaro reported Officers responded to 21 calls for service during the month of September with 5 Problem Solving activities. These calls for service were on the lake only. The most calls for service were received on Saturday. Calls for service were most often reported between the hours of **12:00pm-06:00pm**. Lake officers conducted 11 vessel stops, 4 written warnings as well as 7 citations. The average response time to calls for service was **8.04 minutes**. Officers self initiated 412 zone checks.

- Drowning near marker D6 off of Island Forest Dr. The Captain of vessel "Girl Trouble" observed an operator had fallen off a jet ski and was attempting to swim back to the jet ski. The operator was seen taking off his life jacket, before submerging and not coming back up. The jet operator's body as recovered approx. 3 hours later.

**Iredell County Sheriff**

Deputy Church with Iredell County Lake Patrol reported 48 calls for service. 796 security checks. 1 larceny. 25 traffic stops with verbal warnings and 1 written warning. 17 vessel inspections. 4 vessel assists. Participated in community events during the Halloween season.

**Catawba County Lake Patrol**

No Report

**Lincoln County Lake Patrol**

No Report

**N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

No Report

**Reports – Lake Issues****Duke Energy**

Chad Broadway introduced Tammy Styer as the Duke licensing resource. Current level 96.5. Target will be lowering until early February.

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Executive Director Sample reported for Steve Riggins. 159.53 on the water hours for this boating season

1. USCG Auxiliary on-water activities were suspended by the USCG nationwide in October.

Uncertainty if any

**Lake Norman – America's Boating Club**

No Report

**Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.**

No Report

**Island Habitat Program & NC Wildlife Federation**

Billy Wilson reported volunteers completed island clean up at the conclusion of the boating season.

Laketober Fest was held in October and was a great success with 7,000+ attendees and raised \$13,000

on alcohol sales. Hager's Creek rock reef is almost completely installed and is properly marked. Very pleased with the outcome and the safety of the project.

### **Catawba Riverkeepers**

Michael Lindsey – No Report

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

Executive Director Sample reported for Dave Ferguson. Last monitoring occurred September 7<sup>th</sup>. Data looks great. They will be sampling again in the coming weeks.

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

- None

## **Committee Reports:**

### **ATON Committee**

Morris Sample reported the following since last meeting:

- Marker 21 - Light Out
- Marker R5- Sign missing
- Shoal 375 North of S3, marker knocked down
- Shoal 376, near Skipper's Landing, marker knocked down
- Signs that are faded will be replaced as funding is available.
- We have reports that some of the newer lights are not very bright at night so we are evaluating other lighting options to increase visibility at night.

### **Environmental Committee**

Brett Hartis reported for Duke Energy. A lake wide survey was conducted in the fall and showed NO hydrilla. Eel grass was found in the Ramsey Creek area. The carp are working on the eel grass and there has been a reduction. A small patch of Hydrilla was found north of Hwy 150. This will be watched to make sure it stays contained. Monitoring Lymbia a bacteria that is surrounding lakes.

### **Boater Education/Communication**

Commissioner Scott reported there will be an education committee meeting the first week of December.

### **Charter Boat Committee**

Commissioner Uzzolina reported Steve Riggins will be the new inspector.

### **No Wake Buoys**

Commissioner Howard turned reporting over to Billy Wilson. A draft was presented at the September meeting. Originally recommended hiring an outside contractor to research buoy applications and make an objective assessment to help relieve demand on local law enforcement. NC Wildlife assumed the responsibility to remove unauthorized/illegal buoys which opened up the conversation to have NC Wildlife more involved. They are open to and welcome the opportunity to be more involved with the buoy application process. LNMC would accept the application and review it for accuracy and completeness. It would then be submitted to NC Wildlife for its input. Once reviewed it would be returned to the LNMC for approval/rejection based on the recommendation(s) of the NC Wildlife. Attorney Chris Clark recommended repealing the current ordinance and just having a procedure in place for obtaining a No Wake Buoy. NC Wildlife will not charge to assist in buoy management. The application is the one being

used all over NC. The application fee would be \$250. Plan to have a process ready for a public hearing and a vote at the December meeting.

### **Rafting Committee**

Commissioner Maschhaupt - No report

### **Applications**

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

- None

#### **Rafting Applications**

- None

#### **Charter Boat Applications**

- None

### **Variances**

- None

### **PERMITS**

- None

### **FERC Applications**

- None

### **Administrative Matters**

- First quarter report went out to all of the counties.
- Draft budget for 2022-2023 – Chairman Eddinger requested this be tabled until after the executive meeting.
- Commissioner Uzzolina made a motion and Commissioner Howard seconded having an executive meeting to discuss staff terms and compensation.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Our next meeting will be December 13, 2021