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LNMC MINUTES

May 09, 2022
Charles Mack Center
 Mooresville, NC

Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:

Dennis Eddinger	Chairman
David Scott	Catawba County
Rick Howard	Iredell County
Christopher Uzzolina	Lincoln County (Absent)
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 April 11, 2022 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:

- With the receipt of the state grant funds, the Commission has started to implement the plans for using these funds:
 - PFD's have been distributed to law enforcement to give to boaters who need this equipment.
 - The high intensity lights for channel markers has been placed and lights will be installed over the summer. Lights should be received in next 2 weeks so any light reported out will be replaced with high intensity lighting.
 - Additional supplies of tri-folds and boater education materials are being ordered.
- As lake traffic and recreational use begins to increase, remember that the leading cause of death on the lake is drowning. Many times, the victims did not wear a PFD during water activities. Water temperature is still around 60 deg and this can cause physical impairments for people that are submerged in the cold water.

- Stocking of 750 grass carp is scheduled for the morning of May 12th. Location and time will be available later today. Unconfirmed location and time is Beatties Ford Ramp around 10:00am.

REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT

Cornelius Police Department

Sargent Figaro reported officers responded to 30 calls for service during the month of April. These calls for service were on the lake only. The most calls for service were received on Saturdays. Calls for service were most often reported between the hours of 12:00pm –6:00pm. The average response time to all calls for service was 6.24 minutes. The average response time to citizen generated calls was 7.33 minutes. Officers self-initiated 426 zone checks. There were 12 vessel stops with 3 verbal warnings, 8 written warnings and 1 State Citation issued. 6 vessel safety checks were performed during these stops. Officers conducted 16 Community Involvement

- The lower foot unit of an outboard motor was stolen off boat at a private dock.
- Assisted Iredell County with drowning scene between Marker's 18 and 20.
- Two separate trespassing calls with subjects at our Police Dock.
- Two (call-by-phone) calls with subjects wanting to start boat rental businesses on Lake Norman. Conducted a formal "Media Day" event with several media outlets.
- Three paddleboarders lost as it was getting dark and in distress around R-3. All three placed aboard police boat and taken back to their launch point.
- Conducted MOAT Training, Maritime Operations and Tactics
- Attended the PYC's CNF Youth Safety Seminar
- Attended the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors conference

Iredell County Sheriff

Deputy Church reported responded to 47 calls for service. Conducted 1120 security checks. Trying to be proactive and being seen in and around the marinas. Lake activity is increasing. 20 boat stops with the majority being wake zone violations. Attended over 20 meetings to provide information. Inspected 31 boats and 11 pwc's. 1 drowning near Hagers Creek. The majority of the stops were first time boat owners and did not have much knowledge of the lake and what was needed to be safe.

Catawba County Lake Patrol

Lt. Boger reported they patrol 9:00am – 9:00pm. Discussions about extending hours as needed. 80 hours on the water. Season runs Memorial Weekend to Labor Day weekend, but have begun patrolling. 190 property checks. 50 community meetings. 12 warning citations with the majority being wake violations. New park opening June 18th off of Little Mountain Rd. Accessible by jetski, but not by boat. Boater Education classes have begun and is posted on their Facebook page. All renters are now required to have boater education with Lake Marina and Lake Effects. Participated in Cornelius Lake Training.

Lincoln County Lake Patrol

No Report

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Sargant Ron Robertson reported life jacket loaner board at Pinnacle access and Stumpy Creek access started by an officer last year. Would like to have some youth/child sizes available. Updated list of officers and contact information by county. Vacancy currently in Mecklenburg County. Several new officers around the lake. Two drownings in the past few weeks. April 10th around Governor's Island operating a pwc circling pontoon and went under the pontoon resulting in death of the operator. Male on pontoon boat

rented at Long Island Marina jumped overboard and he did not resurface. No substances involved. Victim was located the following afternoon. Kick off for On the Road/ On the Water will be May 20th at Ramsey Creek at 1:00pm. All are invited. Throughout the summer there will be undisclosed BAT detail. July 1st large detail with multiple agencies involved. Mooresville PD has added Queen's Landing to their detail. 3:00pm the BAT will arrive and will be visible hoping to deter reckless behavior over the July 4th weekend. There will be an additional media event that day. More details to come. New law for 2022, change on striped bass. August 1st minimum size will increase to 20". April 19th and April 21st meeting with Iredell Emergency Communication. Discussed ways to streamline response times on the lake. Staff shortages across the emergency response fields. Reviewed lake response plan. Provided LNMC lake map with grids. 2018 plan needs to be updated and this is in process. Sargent Robertson plans to retire in September 2022.

Reports – Lake Issues

Duke Energy

Chad Broadway - No report. Executive Director Sample reported the lake level is currently 97.4 and Duke will try to maintain at 97.5 for the summer.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggins reported 1 vessel safety check and no on the water hours for 2022. On the water activities are typically conducted from April 1 – October 30 each year.

1. One of the Lake Norman flotillas will conduct Boat America in-person classes at the Denver, NC Fire Dept. on the following dates: June 25, Aug 27, Oct 29. 23 students were in attendance for an April 23 class. A class in the earlier part of April had 2 students.
2. The CG Auxiliary participated in the Law Enforcement training May 4-6, 2022.
3. Activities are ramping up for the boating season including internal training to improve skillsets

Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

No Report

Island Habitat Program & NC Wildlife Federation

Billy Wilson – No Report

Catawba Riverkeepers

Brandon Jones reported will promote the carp stocking but unable to attend. Weekly fecal bacteria monitoring will begin.

Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge

Dave Ferguson – No report

Comments from the Public:

- Dr. Michael Miltich reported settlers named things, the mountains, the lakes, etc. The lake was formed 60 years ago and areas are nameless. Recommended a naming committee to name various areas of the lake. Working on a layered Google Map. Estimated 1 year time to execute.

Committee Reports:

ATON Committee

Executive Director Morris reported the following since last meeting:

- Marker D-10 light out, will be replaced with new lighting.
- Shoal signs that are faded will be replaced.

- Installation of high intensity lights for channel markers will begin soon

Environmental Committee

Executive Morris Sample reported an email will go out as soon as carp stocking location and time are confirmed.

Boater Education/Communication

Commissioner Scott reported materials placed in 20 dealerships. We are currently out of printed materials but an order is being placed tomorrow for additional copies. Information has been added to the Love Where You Lake website pages.

Charter Boat Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina – No Report. Executive Director Sample confirmed that No Peke has now passed their inspection. Commissioner Howard made a motion to approve, Commissioner Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Howard reported that the application has been posted. Expecting 2 applications in the next week or so.

Rafting Committee

Commissioner Maschhaupt – 2 rafting permits presented. One dated for May 7th was approved by email. The additional dates passed unanimously.

Applications

No-Wake Buoy Requests

- None

Rafting Applications

- None

Charter Boat Applications

- None

Variances

- None

PERMITS

- None

FERC Applications

- None

Administrative Matters

- 3rd Quarter Activities Report was issued to the counties.
- Changes to the Charter Boat Ordinance. Concerns about illegal captains on the lake running pontoon boats. Discussion about how to regulate. A rough draft has been created. Discussion about what requires a Captain. Steve Riggins discussed federal regulations and vessels for hire. Federal regulations currently do not apply to Lake Norman. Chairman Eddinger read the proposed Charter Boat Ordinance amended draft to the commission. Commissioner Maschhaupt

made a motion to review and discuss amending the current ordinance, Commissioner Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.

Our next meeting will be June 13, 2022