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LNMC MINUTES

**June 13, 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
Robby Maschhaupt	Mecklenburg County (Absent)

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 May 09, 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:
 - The high intensity lights for channel markers have been received and lights will be installed over the summer. Lights currently reported out will be replaced first then others as time permits over the summer.
 - Additional supplies of tri-folds and boater education materials have been received.
- 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. Marine Commission has provided PFD's to law enforcement to give away when needed.
- Stocking of 750 grass carp was completed on the morning of May 12th. Release was at Beatty's Ford Landing in Lincoln County.
- Received reports of leeches in the lake. They are naturally occurring in the southeast and are not parasitic type that people typically refer. They are actually a good indication of good water quality and tend to live in the bottom features of the lake specially if it's covered with layer of decaying leaves and natural material. Swimmers can stir them up by walking on the bottom and then they can attach to legs and arms. Not dangerous and can be safely removed.

Cornelius Police Department

Officer Vanzant reported officers responded to 49 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 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 7.91 minutes. The average response time to citizen generated calls was 9.3 minutes.

- Rental pontoon boat crashed into Shoal Marker at CM R1. Shoal Marker was snapped in half and the pontoon boat had left the scene. Lake officers located the suspect pontoon boat the next day at Safe Harbor, Kings Point
- A boat struck a jet ski near the Ramsey Creek Park dock, causing only property damage.
- Two boats crashed near Blythe Landing, causing only minor damage.
- Several issues with subjects on rental boats and new vessel owners, mostly not knowing boating laws and safety issues.
- An impaired boater (passenger) transported to hospital due to alcohol impairment.
- Several community involvements, including “WCCB” News “Do My Job” interview with Sgt. Figaro, the Peninsula Yacht Club, fleet commissioning ceremony, assisted “Carefree Boat Club” in making a safety video, group meetings with Wilderness Explorers Group (with 10 children) and the “VillageNature” Facebook group which included 15 to 20 preschoolers.

Iredell County Sheriff

Lake Patrol Officer Finch reported 51 calls for service. Assisted with NC Wildlife boat stops. 1003 security checks and assisted 6 citizens on the water. 3 alcohol tickets. 1 missing person who was located. 260 on the water hours and 90 hours of training. Rental boats are the biggest concern. Lake traffic has slowed down Monday – Friday but extremely busy on the weekends. Promoting lake safety through news outlets and influencers.

Catawba County Lake Patrol

Lt. Boger reported rental boats continues to be a problem. Also noticed Monday – Friday is slower may be due to fuel costs. 72 hours of training. 44 boats inspected and 44 pwcs. 78 citations and 60 were wake violations. New Mt. Creek Park opening Saturday, June 18th.

Lincoln County Lake Patrol

Officer Richard Calhoun reported hours of 8:00am-8:00pm. 303 zone checks. 29 vessel stops resulting in 11 verbal warnings, 6 written warnings, 4 citations. Rental boats are a concern. 9 calls for service with an average response time of 6 minutes.

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Sargant Ron Robertson reported a Lincoln County bass boat caught fire with no injuries. Mecklenburg County has a 2 boat collision with no injuries. 1 vessel wiped out the shoal marker at Ramsey Creek and charges are pending. Iredell County cabin boat struck another boat with damage but no injuries. Female operator struck 3 boats while leaving Apps N Taps and left the scene. She was arrested for boating while impaired. May 20th kick off for annual On the Road, On the Water. All Lake Norman agencies participated. Officer Matthew Lee, the only Iredell County officer currently, gave an interview on boater safety to a local news outlet. Contacted 567 boaters. 14 boating while impaired arrests over Memorial Day weekend. 6 non-boating citations. July 2-4 dry boating campaign. July 1st BAT detail with the Mooresville Police Department at Queen’s Landing. Officer Lee is working with a group called Safe Kids. Boat Ramp Kiosk with boater safety tips and loaner life jackets available. 80% Americans say they can swim but only 47% can perform the 5 safety skills listed by the American Red Cross.

- Step or jump into the water over your head.
- Return to the surface and float or tread water for one minute.
- Turn around in a full circle and find an exit.
- Swim 25 yards to the exit.
- Exit from the water.

Reports – Lake Issues

Duke Energy

Tammy Styer reported the plan is to hold the lake level at 97.5 for the summer due to maintenance on Mt. Island. It allows for more storage on Lake Norman should we have a high-water event. Download the Lakeview mobile app.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggins reported 1 vessel safety check and 49.18 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.
2. Activities continue to assess the possibility of installing a USCG Auxiliary Fixed Land VHF Marine Radio Station at the Cornelius Police Department Lake Patrol Office in Ramsey Creek Park.
3. Internal training 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 – No Report

Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge

Dave Ferguson reported by email

- Routine lake monitoring for May conducted on 5/19/2022
- Average water temperature on day of sampling = 77.3 F
- Lake level on day of monitoring = 96.9 ft (target = 98 ft)
- Average water clarity on day of monitoring = 4.98 m (16.3 ft)
- All points were good with the exception of Lake Cornelius which is typical for this lake due to its size and lack of water movement.

Comments from the Public:

Chris Uzzolina reported for John Sullivan who sent via email. Dog Island Jam concert which is a family oriented annual event will be raising money and have local sponsors. Please reach out to him if you have any questions/concerns at 704-301-5113. More information is available at www.johnsullmusic.com

Committee Reports:**ATON Committee**

Executive Director Morris reported the following since last meeting:

- Marker D-10 light out, will be replaced with new lighting.
- Marker R-2 light out, will be replaced with new lighting.
- Shoal marker 313 was knocked down and will be replaced.
- Shoal signs that are faded will be replaced.
- Currently revising list of new shoal markers that will also be installed over the summer.
- Installation of high intensity lights for channel markers will begin soon.

Environmental Committee

Executive Morris Sample reported please contact the marine commission if you see anything growing in the water that you are unsure what it is.

Boater Education/Communication

Commissioner Scott reported last month we set a record for website usage with over 2400 hits. The most popular page is Boater Laws. Love Where You Lake literature has been printed and is now available. Sending out with local law enforcement. Boots offered to distribute wherever needed. Commissioner Uzzolina recommended stickers for rental boat dashes.

Charter Boat Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina reported the committee has been working on an updated Charter Boat regulation document. The final should be ready at the next meeting. Rental boats are an issue and need to be addressed.

No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Howard reported the first application with the new guidelines has just been submitted postmarked June 3rd.

Rafting Committee

Commissioner Maschhaupt – No report

Applications

No-Wake Buoy Requests

- None

Rafting Applications

- None

Charter Boat Applications

- None

Variances

- None

PERMITS

- Beatty's Ford Park improvements in Lincoln County submitted by Duke. Commissioner Uzzolina made a statement for a Lincoln County representative. Per this representative the majority of the citizens and the commissioners are opposed to the renovations being proposed by Duke. Commissioner Scott made a motion to accept, Chairman Eddinger seconded. The motion did not pass. A Duke representative elaborated on the project which has been in motion for several years and was approved by FERC in 2015. The marine commission is just a consultation agency as the project has water frontage that will be monitored by the commission and will require future buoys.

FERC Applications

- None

Administrative Matters

- Reviewed the 2021-2022 budget and a few adjustments were necessary to create a balanced budget. Commissioner Howard made a motion to accept the revised budget, Commissioner Uzzolina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- An auditor is required by law and this year we added a state grant. Commissioner Howard made a motion to approve the current CPA, Belinda Johnson, Commissioner Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

Our next meeting will be July 11, 2022