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LNMC MINUTES

**July 11, 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 June 13, 2022 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Uzzolina. 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:
 - High intensity lights installed in Ramsey Creek and other markers reported as lights out.
 - Reviewing update to LNMC Map showing the Search & Rescue grids and other side will be shaded for water sports guidance.
 - Addition of new shoal markers, general guidelines are greater than 50 feet from shore, less than 6-8 feet at full pond, reports of groundings and increased boat activity.
- As lake traffic and recreational use increases, remember that the leading cause of death on the lake is drowning. Many times, the victims did not wear a PFD during water activities. Fatality this past week, not wearing a PFD.

REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT

Cornelius Police Department

Sargent Figaro reported

Iredell County Sheriff

Lake Patrol Officer Finch reported June had 64 traffic stops, 986 security checks, 7 BUI's. 281 on the water hours. Conducted 47 boat and 29 pwc inspections.

Catawba County Lake Patrol

Lt. Boger reported 488.5 on the water hours. 762 property checks. 298 community meetings. 100 lake violations. June 14th across from Mt Creek Marina there was a suicide attempt with \$30,000 worth of property damage. Cape's Cove someone jumped in the water and did not resurface for 2 minutes. The person was rescued.

Lincoln County Lake Patrol

Jerry Scott with Sherriff office reported 58 vessel stops. There is an operations plan in place for a party scheduled on an island on July 15th.

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Sargent Ron Robertson reported a busy month for boating accidents. June 19th 67' house boat attempting to maneuver into the marina channel and blew into the nearest dock causing damage. Rental boat attempting to dock and struck a pontoon boat. June 20th boat owner refueled and didn't vent and the vessel blew and burned to the water line. One person with minor injuries. June 25th PWC struck a boat, property damage only. July 7th drowning victim when a passenger fell overboard. Alcohol was involved and 2 other passengers had alcohol poisoning. The operator of the vessel was not impaired. July 1st Operation Fire Cracker – joint detail with other law enforcement. Road patrol officers had a check point on Hwy 150. 1 BWI. The weather reduced the boating traffic. July 2-4 – Operation Dry Water 31 boating citations 7 BWI arrests. Marker 14 was snapped and removed before causing any damage. Partnered with Sonic to give away Free Ice Cream to kids for being "caught" doing the right thing.

Reports – Lake Issues**Duke Energy**

Chad Broadway reported the lake has been down about 1' below this year's target. The rain has helped over the past couple of days but still not where it needs to be. Some unwanted activity on a few of the islands. Requested law enforcement remove any type of recreational items (rope swings, etc.)

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggins reported 1 vessel safety check and 62.18 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: Aug 27 Oct 29
2. Vessel Safety Check Stations are planned for Lake Safety Day on July 23 at these ramps: Little Creek, Beattie's Ford and Blythe Landing from 9:30am – 4:00pm.
3. 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 and at the Lincoln County Sherriff's office at Beatty's Ford Park.
4. Internal training activities are continuing and ATON's condition on Lake Norman continue to be assessed during patrols and any issues reported.

Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

No Report

Island Habitat Program & NC Wildlife Federation

Billy Wilson – No Report

Catawba Riverkeepers

Brandon Jones reported measuring bacteria levels and all have been clear. River Sweep is coming up October 1st and registration will open August 1st.

Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge

Dave Ferguson reported the year end wrap up report has been presented. The overall report looks good. Lake Davidson and Lake Cornelius are always not as good due to lack of water movement and depth. June 15th off Meta Rd a horizontal boring job popped a line resulting in a swim advisory. The samples were clear on June 17th and the advisory was removed. July 6th routine sampling at Lake Davidson and Lake Cornelius were conducted. Lake Davidson came back high and a swim advisory was issued. Lake Cornelius came back high as well and a swim advisory was issued. The advisory was lifted the next day. July 8th there was a discharge and there is now another active no swim advisory.

Comments from the Public:

- Ronald Carter – retired coast guard. Addressing illegal charters on Lake Norman. Watching Blythe Landing and Ramsey Creek. Observed an overloaded boat with 13 people begin to sink and assisted the passengers. Many are doing business on the docks and are putting the public in jeopardy. Coast Guard does not have jurisdiction. Observed drug use. Discussions with boat owners have revealed they do not have captain's license.
- Kevin Anderson – Hospitality and Tourism industry for 20+ years. Party Pontoon on Lake Norman. All captains have license and commercial insurance. Safety is extremely important. Three stumbling blocks – 1) Why radar requirement? 2) Most groups are picked up at Air BNB's as long as there is permission from the dock owner. The rest are picked up at North Harbor Club. 3) Storing the boats – there is no availability.
- Richard Permitter – Retired Captain familiar with the marine commission. Proposed relocation of Marker 11 - 65 yards N of its existing location and add a Shoal Marker NNW of Marker 11. Will improve navigational safety.

Committee Reports:**ATON Committee**

Executive Director Morris reported the following since last meeting:

- Bridge buoys to be installed at Mt. Pleasant Rd bridge due to increasing traffic
- Installation of high intensity lights for channel markers has started with Ramsey Creek completed.
- Markers are being knocked down by boaters. These are big, heavy poles and the signs are metal and can cause damage. Please report if you see who hits them so that they may incur the cost of repair.

Environmental Committee

Executive Director Morris Sample reported currently no hydrilla. But there is concern about the spread of lyngbya.

Boater Education/Communication

Commissioner Scott reported a lot of website traffic. Boater Education literature is available. Love Where You Lake tshirts available.

Charter Boat Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina thanked the Charter Boat committee. Presenting the new ordinance for Charter Boats to keep everyone safe. Voting will take place tonight and once approved it will be posted on the website.

No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Howard reported the committee met on June 30th. One application has been received and will be sent to NC Wildlife for their review.

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

- 2022 Charter Boat Ordinance with the recommended changes by Attorney Chris Clark – Chairman Eddinger made a motion to accept the ordinance, Commissioner Uzzolina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4th quarter financial reports – under budget for the year. Restricted column is for the state funded grant. Unrestricted column is general operating budget.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.

Our next meeting will be August 8, 2022