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LNMC MINUTES

**August 8, 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 July 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:

- 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. For law enforcement, please let me know the number of PFD's you would need for the remainder of the boating season.
- Big thank you to all the law enforcement work this year on the lake. Lake Safety Day was a great opportunity for the boating public to get to see the law enforcement activities.
- Working with the state DEQ and NC Wildlife to discuss future for dealing with potential outbreaks of Lyngba. As we have mentioned this is occurring more in southeastern lakes and we are seeing some small pockets of this in the Ramsey Creek area.

REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT

Cornelius Police Department

Sargent Figaro reported officers responded to 59 calls for service during the month of July. 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 for all calls

of service was 6.54 minutes. The average response time to citizen generated calls was 8.02 minutes. Officers self-initiated 390 zone checks. There were 22 vessel stops with 6 verbal warnings, 10 written warnings and 6 State Citations issued, also 14 vessel safety checks during the Stops. Officers conducted 23 Community Involvement activities.

- Officers Report of death/drowning: A male fell over the front of a pontoon boat in motion and was killed as a result.
- A male jumped off a boat for unknown reasons and never resurfaced., he was found deceased a short time later.
- Drowning Save: Boat officers Brinzey and Bennet found a female clinging to a wake buoy. As officers approached to help, the female started swimming back to shore and began struggling. Officer Brinzey was able to grab hold of her as she was disappearing under the water, pulling his entire upper body under the water. Officer Bennet got hold of Officer Brinzey pulled him back into the boat and they pulled the female from the water.
- Boat fire at Safe Harbor Kings Point Marina dock. The boat was totally destroyed and two other boats were damaged.
- Successful lake summer camp completed in conjunction with Mecklenburg County Parks. Twelve children from ten to fourteen years old participated in the camp which focused on Lake Safety, boating education/navigation, swimming techniques and operation of paddle craft.
- Lake Patrol participated in the "Peninsula Yacht Club" summer camp, speaking about lake and boating safety.
- Cornelius Lake Officers conducted "Lake Safety Day" in conjunction with other lake agencies in which education in boating safety was the focus. Thirteen Safety checks were conducted in addition to the stats as posted on page one. Officers handed out "Chick-fil-A" coupons for vessels in compliance and distributed "Love Where You Lake" educational pamphlets.
- Officers worked in conjunction with "ABC" Officers in operation "Safe Lakes" where a combination of education and enforcement actions were conducted at two restaurants/marinas, focusing on alcohol violations.
- Lake Patrol participated in the "Blessing of the Fleet"/"Big Day at the Lake"
- Lake Patrol Officers trained with fire department personnel in search and recovery operations.

Iredell County Sheriff

Lake Patrol Deputy Finch reported 46 stops and 440 safety checks. Assisted with the Big Brothers Big Day at the Lake program. Participated in On the Water on the Land program. Domestic disturbance on 7/12/22. AirBNB parties and boat usage. 7/20/22 missing person report near Perth Rd of elderly female. 7/30/22 stolen jetski trailer out of Stumpy Creek. 7/31/22 missing boater call at night. Boater was headed the wrong direction. Teamed up with a person with a YouTube following to show the new boat. Wishing Sgt Robertson well with his retirement.

Catawba County Lake Patrol

Lt. Boger reported July was quiet. 7/3/22 SWAT was called to approach by water. Slanting Bridge buoys are out of place. 524.75 on the water hours. 168 stops mostly wake violations. 14 vessel assists. 52 calls for service.

Lincoln County Lake Patrol

Sgt Calhoun reported 121 vessel stops mostly negligent operation. 44 calls for service. 6.8 min average response time. 7/30/22 concert at Goat Island went well. 7/12/22 unapproved event was addressed and did not happen. 7/29/22 event had no issues. 7 pfd's were distributed. Distributed Love Where You Lake literature during National Night Out event.

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Sargant Ron Robertson reported drowning at Ramsey Creek. Victim was impaired. PYC drowning victim. Major boat fire at Kings Port Marina. PWC collided with a Carolina Skiff. Operator suffered minor injuries. 2 PWC's collided and 1 person transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Water skiing accident resulting in a fatality. BAT and air detail utilized on 7/16/22. 14 boating citations. 1 BWI. Sargant Robertson was presented with a plaque honoring him for his years of service to Lake Norman.

Duke Energy

Chad Broadway – No report

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 were conducted for Lake Safety Day on July 23 at these ramps: Little Creek, Beattie's Ford and Blythe Landing from 10:00am – 4:00pm. Approximately 100 Vessel Safety Checks were completed providing one-on-one education to boaters.
3. USCG Auxiliary units supported a USCG Active Duty Recruiting event sponsored by the USCG Charlotte Recruiting Office at Blythe Landing on Saturday 8/6/22 with an on-site USCG Auxiliary patrol vessel and other USCG Auxiliary members on-land.
4. 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.
5. Internal training activities are continuing and ATONs' 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 – No report

Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge

Dave Ferguson – No report

Comments from the Public:

- Mike N. – Cornelius resident. Own and operate a boat rental company. Questions about the new boating Captain license.
- Rayann N. – Cornelius resident. Own and operate a boat rental company. Wanting clarification on the boating license requirement.

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 continues. The red and green lights do have different flashing intervals which should help identify them.
- Bridge buoys at Slanting Bridge and RR bridge may be out of place and will be repositioned.
- Light out on Shoal Marker 367 near Queens Landing. Please note the marker number on a white band just below the sign, this helps us make sure we service the correct lights.

Environmental Committee

Executive Director Morris Sample reported chara will go away in the winter.

Boater Education/Communication

Commissioner Scott reported 20% growth on the website. Love Where You Lake is the 3rd most visited page, Boating Laws is 2nd and Navigation is 1st. Please take cards and brochures to distribute. Posters are also available if you have a place to post. T-shirts are available for \$10/each or 3 for \$25.

Charter Boat Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina reported that the commission has adopted the federal guidelines for charter boats and captain requirements.

No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Howard reported that buoy removal is in process. 1 pending buoy application.

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

- Sherrills Creek HOA application. Duke is in the process of releasing/relicense existing marinas. Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve. Chairman Eddinger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

- None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

Our next meeting will be September 12, 2022