

Post Office Box 2454 Cornelius, NC 28031 Web: www.lnmc.org Phone (704) 564-6333 Email: <a href="mailto:lnmc@lnmc.org">lnmc@lnmc.org</a>

# **LNMC MINUTES**

October 09, 2023 Charles Mack Center Mooresville, NC

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

Rick Howard Chairman
Christopher Uzzolina Lincoln County

John Johnson Mecklenburg County (Absent)

Kevin Frank Catawba County
Billy Wilson Iredell County

### Staff:

David Scott 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 Howard 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 September 11, 2023 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Frank, seconded by Commissioner Uzzolina. Approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

### Reports – LNMC Executive Director

Executive Director David Scott – Reported by John Gerke - Report Attached

#### **REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT**

#### **Cornelius Police Department**

Officer Brenzey with Lake Patrol - No report

#### **Iredell County Sheriff**

Deputy with lake patrol reported 16 boat stops. Activity slowing down. 2 Citations for youth without life jackets. Assisted 4 vessels. 1 lake incident – 84 yo male fell from dock but made it safely to shore.

#### **Catawba County Lake Patrol**

Lieutenant Bryon Hollar Lake patrol reported 546 on the water hours. 25 boat inspections and 14 pwc inspections. 32 wake violations. 2 navigation light violations. Assisted 7 vessels. 17 calls for service. September 10<sup>th</sup> water rescue. Rescued mother and 2 children from the water and towed PWC to shore.

### **Lincoln County Lake Patrol**

Deputy Isaacs Lincoln County Sheriff's department - No Report

#### **N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

Sargent Lyle – No Report

### Reports - Lake Issues

#### **Duke Energy**

Chad Broadway reported lake level is at is down due to lack of rain. Shoreline Management plan draft upcoming in the next few weeks. Contact Duke with any aquatic plant questions. Growth will decline as cold weather approaches. Any charter boat that is operating outside of Duke Energy guidelines will be addressed and action taken.

### **Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26**

Steve Riggins – Report Attached

#### Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

No Report

### Catawba Riverkeepers

Brandon Jones reported Riversweep took place October 7<sup>th</sup>. 45,000 lbs of trash removed, 3000 in Lake Norman. It is less that years past. Floating Classroom is here and permitting should take place in the next few weeks. Sampling for the Lake Norman State Park will take place this week. Please report any lyngbya you see.

# Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge

### **Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

Dave Ferguson – John Gerke reported - Report Attached

### **NC Wildlife Federation**

Billy Wilson reported Laketoberfest this Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-9pm. Proceeds from alcohol sales go to the Lake Norman Wildlife Federation. Funds will purchase button bushes, bat boxes and a rock reef at Patriot's pier. Installing excluders on a few ATONS to deter osprey nests.

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

None

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **ATON Committee**

Executive Director David Scott - John Gerke reported - Report attached

### **Environmental/Hydrilla Committee**

Committee Chairman Bob Vandola reported lyngbea is a current issue. Eelgrass is a native species and is also a current issue. You may apply to Duke if it impedes access to your dock. John Gerke reported that NC State will conduct their lake survey sometime in October.

#### **Boater Education/Communication**

Commissioner Johnson – No report

#### **Charter Boat Committee**

Commissioner Uzzolina - No report

#### **Rental Boat Committee**

Commissioner Frank reported on upcoming vote for upping the fine for violations. Working to implement online applications by year end.

### **Rafting Committee**

Commissioner Uzzolina - No report

### No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Wilson thankful to the buoy committee. Working to streamline and bring more clarity to the process. Commissioner Uzzolina recommened having the no wake distance posted at access ramps to promote public education.

# **Applications**

# No-Wake Buoy Requests

Hide Away Yacht Club – Replacement buoys. Commissioner Frank made a motion to approve.
 Commissioner Uzzolina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

# **Rafting Applications**

# **Charter Boat Applications**

### <u>Variances</u>

None

#### **PERMITS**

None

### **FERC Applications**

None

# **Administrative Matters**

Charter Boat and Rental Boat violation penalty change to up to a maximum of \$500.
 Commissioner Frank made a motion to approve. Commissioner Uzzolina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm. Our next meeting will be November 13, 2023

#### **Executive Director Comments**

October 9, 2023

- Congratulations and welcome to Chairman Howard and our new 2023 – 2024 Board, including our new Iredell Commissioner Billy Wilson, a seasoned previous Commissioner and Chairman. We have a great and very active team that will deliver great results.
- Additionally we are pleased that Bob Van Dolah has agreed to Chair our Environmental Committee. His extensive background will enable us more proactively address weeds, water quality, and other environmental issues on the lake.
- Speaking of weeds, we have had many reports of eelgrass, a
  native plant, prospering in several areas of the lake, in addition to
  Lyngbya, a toxic alga. We are working with Duke to develop plans
  for management of both. There will be a presentation at our
  November meeting by Dr Brett Hartis from Duke to lay out plans
  for addressing Lyngbya. More information is available in the
  News section of our website.
- Due to the lack of rain over the past few months, the lake level is very low below 95.3 feet, the second lowest level since 2018.
   There have been several reports of boats running aground and there are many exposed rocks and stumps near all of the land points. You can clearly see how far out the points really extend and how often you have nearly run aground! Please be careful and steer <u>very</u> wide of land, especially points.
- However, the CWWMG still indicates that we are in a stage 1
  drought condition. Reservoir storage is putting us in a stage.
   Reservoir storage is putting us in a stage 1 condition. The average

October 9, 2023

- $\cdot$  Osprey Nests will be removed in the near future from Markers 5,16,17C,17D,18A, D7, and S1
- · Light reported out on D2 and D3 Scheduled for replacement this week



#### Report from USCG Auxiliary for Lake Norman Marine Commission October 9, 2023

Submitted by: Steve Riggan, USCG Auxiliary

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Representing the three CG Auxiliary units operating on Lake Norman:

Flotilla 26-01 Lake Norman, Flotilla 26-03 Davidson, Flotilla 26-04 West Lake Norman

#### **Activity Summary:**

The three units operating on Lake Norman were involved in the combined activities listed below.

On-water activities are typically conducted on Lake Norman from April 1 – October 30 each year. On-water activities are generally scheduled in 1-2 weeks in advance; emergency callout procedures can be invoked if needed.

USCG Auxiliary Lake Norman Flotilla Activities 2023	
Activity	YTD As Of 10/2/2023
On-Water Patrols Count	50
On-Water Patrols Hours	151
Public Education Classes	12
Public Education Enrollees	107
Vessel Safety Checks Completed	155

#### **Upcoming Events and Items of Note:**

- Activities continue to install a USCG Auxiliary Fixed Land VHF Marine Radio Station. Location is Blythe Landing Park with ongoing discussions with Mecklenburg Parks and various funding sources.
- A Boat America Boating Safety Class was conducted on Sept 23, 2023 at the Denver Fire Dept. Six students enrolled, 6 students graduated, including a 13 year-old.

End of report.

