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LNMC MINUTES

**March 13, 2023
Charles Mack Center
 Mooresville, NC**

Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:

David Scott	Chairman
Rick Howard	Iredell County
Christopher Uzzolina	Lincoln County
John Johnson	Mecklenburg County
Kevin Frank	Catawba 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 Scott 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 February 13, 2023 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Howard, seconded by Commissioner Uzzolina. Approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

Reports – LNMC Executive Director

Executive Director Morris Sample – Report Attached

REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT

Cornelius Police Department

Report Attached

Iredell County Sheriff

Depute Church reported 15 calls for service, 11 traffic stops, 3 investigations. 1 larceny call and the boat had broken loose and was located. Attended 15 community meetings. 5 vehicle assists, 3 hazard removals. Located john boat and unable to locate owner. March 1st boat accident where a bass boat collided with a john boat but no injuries were reported. Leaf fire got out of hand along the shore but was contained until the fire dept arrived. Center console boat now under construction, eta September 2023.

Catawba County Lake Patrol

Lt Boger – No Report

Lincoln County Lake Patrol

Sgt Calhoun – No Report

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Officer Billings – No Report

Reports – Lake Issues**Duke Energy**

Joe Klutzz reported complaints regarding the water level. FERC allows Duke to secure necessary resources for its customers. Standard water level in February is 94'. During recreational season May – October target level is 98'. Today the level was 96' a little above target of 95.6'. Levels may vary due to rain, drought and resources needed. March 1 – July 1 there is a dredging moratorium to allow for fish spawning. Anything that happens in the buffer (the space between the 760 line and 30-50' inward is under the jurisdiction of NC DENR. NC Wildlife is the point of contact for abandoned vessels. Short-term rentals are a binding lease and have access to the dock if there is one that belongs to the property.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggins – Report Attached

Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

Gregory Clemmer – No report

Catawba Riverkeepers

Brandon Jones reported floating classroom is still in process, eta July 4th. Memorial Day to Labor Day lake sampling at various designated locations and reports are released each Friday. Looking for Sponsorships.

Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge**Mecklenburg County Water Quality**

Dave Ferguson – No report

NC Wildlife Federation

Billy Wilson – No Report

Comments from the Public:

- Tricia Oldenwahl – Thank you to the commission for allowing to speak. Requesting assistance in regulating short-term rental properties in Iredell County. Worked with multiple agencies and everyone says its someone else's responsibility. The bill says that the Lake Norman Marine Commission has the authority to regulate.
- Thomas Haze – Appreciate everyone efforts to make Lake Norman a safe place to lake. Short-term rentals are overwhelming septic systems and concerned with lake water quality.
- Mary Rotondo – Concerned about short-term rentals on the lake. Mooresville has 500 currently. Many are owned by out of state LLC's. Thriving in residential neighborhoods with no oversight or regulations, including environmental. Over occupancy based on permitting for residential habitation.
- Richard Buchae – Short-term rental concerns. Providing and renting pontoons and jetskis with no oversight or information regarding the laws of the lake. Culminating in problems for boating safety.

- Becky Fox – Excited about the boater education efforts the commission is promoting. Concerned about the accounting, audits and legal budget increases.

Committee Reports:

ATON Committee

Executive Director Morris Sample – Report Attached

Environmental/Hydrilla Committee

Executive Director Morris Sample no hydrilla found south of the Hwy 150 bridge. There is a small area north of the bridge that the fish and boats can't get to. There are enough fish to control it should it breach out of this small area. 2 small areas of Lymbea growth that are being monitored by the Duke Energy aquatic weed group.

Boater Education/Communication

Commissioner Johnson reported education meeting prior to this meeting. Promoting social media through the website. Having difficulty finding a suitable person to assist. Asking for contacts if someone is interested. Continuing to move forward with law enforcement and local residents to promote "Love Where You Lake" to improve safety on the lake.

Charter Boat Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina reported have received several applications for the season and will be presented for approval in April.

Rental Boat Committee

Commissioner Frank reported a committee has been formed in recognizing the issue with short-term rentals and boat rentals. Established boat rental companies do not seem to be the root of the problem, but the "one offs". Putting together a list of enforceable requirements that will address the needs for safety. Working on a policy draft however it will probably not be ready for this boating season.

Rafting Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina - No Report

No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Howard turned it over to Michael B a buoy committee member. The committee recommends not approving the current application. The goal of the commission is more public access and safety.

Applications

No-Wake Buoy Requests

- None

Rafting Applications

- None

Charter Boat Applications

- None

Variances

- None

PERMITS

- None

FERC Applications

- None

Administrative Matters

- Revised FY 22-23 Budget – Reallocations for actual expenses, Commissioner Uzzolina made a motion to approve, Commission Frank seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Reviewed State Grant Expenditures – All funds must be spent by June 30, 2023. We currently have approximately \$12,000 left to spend.
- Sinking of Christmas trees for fish habitat – Commissioner Frank made a motion to approve, Commissioner Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Our next meeting will be April 10, 2023

Mar 13, 2023 Meeting

- The Aquatic Weed Council met last week to discuss the ongoing programs to control aquatic weeds in NC. The plan to stock Lake Norman with 750 sterile grass carp was approved and the stocking should occur sometime in late April, early May.
- Time of year when the air temperature is much higher than the lake water temperature. Lake water is currently in the mid to upper 50's and people should exercise caution when entering the water this time of year.

ATON Report Mar 2023

- Installation of high intensity lights for channel markers has been completed. Shoal marker lights will be replaced with higher intensity lights as old lights require replacement.
- Osprey's have returned early this year and will be constructing nests. Hopefully most of them will build on the nesting poles rather than sign poles.
- 2 new shoal markers will be installed:
 - Near Westport Marina between Shoal 320 and shore
 - Near Marker 4, small island has eroded below summer water level.

**Lake Norman Marine Commission
2022-2023 Approved Budget**

	Approved Budget FY 22-23	Revised Budget 3/13/2023
Revenues		
County Revenues		
Catawba	35,000.00	35,000.00
Iredell	35,000.00	35,000.00
Lincoln	35,000.00	35,000.00
<u>Mecklenburg</u>	<u>35,000.00</u>	<u>35,000.00</u>
Total County Revenues	140,000.00	140,000.00
Other Revenues		
Application Fees	530.00	530.00
Charter Boat Fees	1,800.00	1,800.00
Rafting Fees	300.00	300.00
Donations	-	-
Total Other Revenues	2,630.00	2,630.00
Total Revenues	142,630.00	142,630.00
Expenses		
General Government Administration		
Audit & Accounting Services	8,300.00	13,000.00
Contractual Services	40,200.00	40,200.00
Risk Management/insurance	5,250.00	5,250.00
office expenses & supplies	3,400.00	2,500.00
Storage Rental	1,080.00	1,100.00
Communications	1,500.00	2,500.00
Workshops/Education	300.00	300.00
Legal services	10,000.00	10,000.00
Miscellaneous, Awards & Grants	600.00	600.00
Total Government Administration	70,630.00	75,450.00
Public Safety		
Boater Education	5,000.00	5,000.00
NavAids Maintenance	58,000.00	55,480.00
Charter Boat Expenses	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Public Safety	65,000.00	62,480.00
Environmental Protection		
Hydrilla Mgmt. Carp Stocking	1,000.00	1,200.00
Hydrilla- Mortality/Lake Survey	6,000.00	3,500.00
Total Environmental Protection	7,000.00	4,700.00
Total Expenditures	142,630.00	142,630.00



Report from USCG Auxiliary for Lake Norman Marine Commission March 13, 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 03/12/2023
On-Water Patrols Count	0
On-Water Patrols Hours	0
Public Education Classes	0
Public Education Enrollees	0
Vessel Safety Checks Completed	2

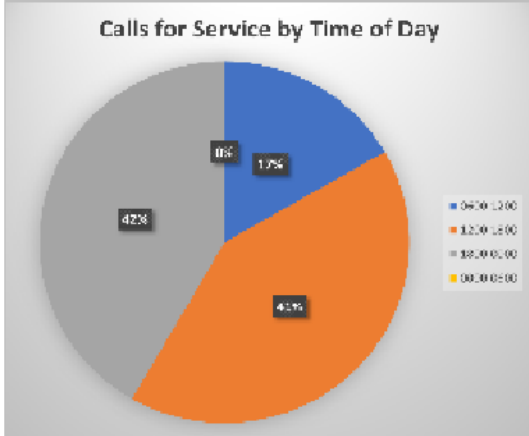
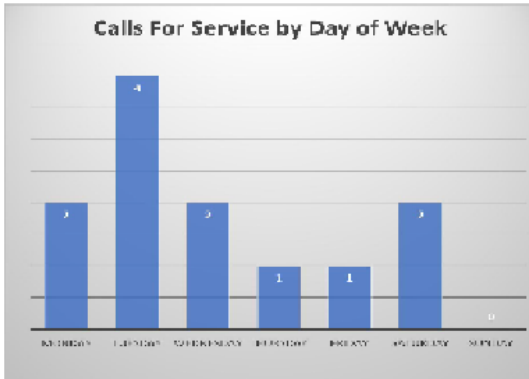
Upcoming Events and Items of Note:

1. Activities continue to install a USCG Auxiliary Fixed Land VHF Marine Radio Station. New location is Blythe Landing Park with ongoing discussions with Mecklenburg Parks and funding sources. Funding has been allocated for removal of existing antenna tower currently located at Midway Marina.
2. A boating safety class in-person is scheduled for March 25, 2023 at Denver Fire Dept. Class is currently full with 27 students registered.
3. Upcoming on-water operations:
 - a. April 1 Commissioning of the Fleet at Lake Norman Yacht Club
 - b. Joint Lake Training Days with First Responders and LEO's on May 8-9 and possibly 10-11, 2023. CG Auxiliary is assisting with training incident scenario development.

End of report.



February 2023 Monthly Lake Report



Officers responded to 12 calls for service during the month of February. These calls for service were on the lake only. The most calls for service was on Tuesdays. Calls for service were most often reported between the hours of 6:00am -12:00pm and 12:00pm - 6:00pm with 5 each. The average response time for all calls of service was 5.5 minutes. The average response time to citizen generated calls was 11 minutes. Officers conducted 369 zone checks. Officers were also involved in 6 community involvement activities and 3 special events.

Monthly Activity	
Navigation Hazard	5
Suspicious Person	2
Lake Questions	2
Attempt to Locate	1
Suspicious Vessel	1
Suspicious vehicle/Persons	1

February Highlights:

- A plan is in place to remove (in two weeks) the 28 foot abandon/derelict sailboat near the old sandbar.
- A 55 gallon barrel was reported underwater by neighborhood near the causeway. The barrel was brought to shore where it was found to be empty.
- Plans have been finalized for lake spring training with the fire department and surrounding lake patrol agencies.
- Suspicious vehicle located at Blythe Landing, subjects found to be drinking on the dock after hours.
- Juveniles found smoking marijuana on the "John Connor" Docks