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LNMC MINUTES

**June 12, 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 (Absent)
Kevin Frank	Catawba 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 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 May 08, 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

Lake patrol reported 34 calls for service with an average response time of 6.37 minutes.

- A subject was “doing tricks” on a jet ski when it rolled over. During the rider’s attempt to roll the jet ski back over, the throttle was hit putting the ski in motion and causing it to cut the rider’s leg. The rider was transported to the hospital.
- (4) juveniles were located on John Conner island by lake officers. (3) had been drinking alcohol. The juveniles were turned over to parents.
- A subject was charged with BWI near North Harbor Club
- Officers attended the PYC “Blessing of the Fleet”
- Officers gave presentation and tour to both a Boy Scout and Girl Scout troop
- Officers attended the “Lake Norman Community Sail Club” annual kickoff.

Iredell County Sheriff

Lake Patrol reported 360 hours on the water. 29 boat inspections and 21 pwc inspections. 5 vessel assists.

Catawba County Lake Patrol

No report

Lincoln County Lake Patrol

Lincoln County Sheriff's department reported 1 boater assist. 6 calls for service.

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Sargent Lyle reported 8 BWI arrests. 2 serious injury accidents, both involving rental activity.

Reports – Lake Issues**Duke Energy**

Joe Klutzz – No report

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggins – Report Attached

Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

Reported focus on rental boat issues. 2 officers at Blythe Landing and Ramsey Creek. Documenting hull numbers and taking pictures. Maintaining a log. Making contact and identifying individuals and educating about safety.

Catawba Riverkeepers

Brandon Jones reported Lake Norman has been clear. Several sewage spills 800 gallons and 8000 gallons. The spills are isolated. Don't flush wipes or grease. These are hard on the aging system. The floating classroom is progressing.

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:

- Jack Benyon – Charter Boat approvals for 145 Bridle Path. This is a wooded lot that does not have ample parking and there is no dock present. Asking the commission to vote against charter boats in residential areas and confirm and/or research what they are submitting.
- Matt with Carolina Cruising Charters – Concerned about rogue rental boats and charters. Mecklenburg County processes are pushing charters north on the lake where it is less monitored. Observing captains consuming alcoholic beverages while boating. Focus on safety
- Martin Cagle – Owner of Ride Lake Norman which teaches wakeboarding. Requesting a list of approved rental boats and charters added to the LNMC website. Does the marine commission have a process for reporting what appears to be an illegal charter?
 - Comment from the commission – any reports regarding illegal charters are sent to law enforcement.

- o Comment from Duke Energy – a commercial charter is not allowed to operate from a private residence

Committee Reports:

ATON Committee

Executive Director Morris Sample – Report attached

Environmental/Hydrilla Committee

Executive Director Morris Sample reported nothing new. If you see anything growing that is of concern, please report to either the commission or Duke Energy.

Boater Education/Communication

Commissioner Johnson – No report

Charter Boat Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina reported that any reports regarding charters are being reviewed and handled accordingly. Working on posting a list of approved charters to the public. Requested having Mecklenburg County enforcement work with the other counties to get processes in place. The committee will review the regulations to ensure they address not operating from a private residence.

Rental Boat Committee

Commissioner Frank – No report

Rafting Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina – No report

No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Howard – No Report. Asked NC Wildlife to update on removing illegal buoys. NC Wildlife says they have stopped for now.

Applications

- Ranger Island Marina Reconstruction – postponed until July
- Staging Area Upgrades for Lake Norman Dredging – Chairman Scott made a motion to approve, it was seconded by Commissioner Howard. The motion passed unanimously.

No-Wake Buoy Requests

None

Rafting Applications

Charter Boat Applications

- Carolina Cruising Charters – 3 vessels: 24' Berkshire Pontoon, 22' Berkshire Pontoon, 25' Berkshire Pontoon – Chairman Scott made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Uzzolina. The motion passed unanimously.
- Adventures with Eddy – 22' Pontoon carrying 6 or less passengers – Commissioner Uzzolina made a motion to reject until further review, seconded by Commissioner Howard. The motion passed unanimously.

Variances

- None

PERMITS

FERC Applications

- None

Administrative Matters

- Review budget adjustments of 2022-2023 Fiscal Year
- Discussion of Rental Boat Regulations
 - o Is there any limit of number of passengers? Vessel capacity
 - o Is Freedom Boat Club a rental boat organization?
 - o How often is the rental boat permit renewed? Every 2 years
 - o Watercraft Rental Service Agreement? This is for anyone who operates from Blythe Landing and Ramsey Creek Park.
- Change to legal services contract with a fee increase – Commissioner Howard made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Uzzolina. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Our next meeting will be July 10, 2023

Executive Director Comments

June 12, 2023 Meeting

- The Catawba Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group is holding their annual meeting on June 13th. The Marine Commission will attend this meeting. We are currently out of the Stage 0 drought designation based on recent rainfall.
- Please report any issues with lake markers to the Marine Commission at lnmc.org. For shoal markers, please include the label number on each pole just below the sign. This helps in making sure we have the correct marker. There are currently 194 markers, buoys that we maintain.
- Have received several questions concerning anchoring vessels on the lake. Currently no restrictions on anchoring vessels as long as they display proper navigation lights at night and are not in a main channel area. However, vessels anchored to shore line are subject to restrictions from property owners.
- As lake traffic increases, please notify county lake patrol for obvious violations. This gives them info on where to monitor in the future.

ATON Maintenance Items

June 12, 2023

- Marker 16 – Light out
- Shoal 341, North of D3 – Sign Missing
- Shoal near T4 – Missing will be replaced
- Osprey Nests reported on:
 - 18A
 - D7
 - S1



Report from USCG Auxiliary for Lake Norman Marine Commission June 12, 2023

Submitted by: Steve Riggan, USCG Auxiliary
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www.cgaux.org

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 6/7/2023
On-Water Patrols Count	21
On-Water Patrols Hours	87
Public Education Classes	3
Public Education Enrollees	51
Vessel Safety Checks Completed	71

Upcoming Events and Items of Note:

1. 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 Building Permit will be required and an engineering firm is working on drawings needed for the permit.
2. May 13 the USCG Auxiliary participated in the "Love Where You Lake" day at Blythe Landing, conducting Vessel Safety Checks and supporting an active duty USCG recruiting event including presence of USCG Auxiliary vessels and a USCG 22ft. response boat.
3. May 13, the USCG Auxiliary attended a boating safety booth at the Mooresville Race City Festival with approximately 50 direct contacts made with the public.
4. Additional Vessel Safety Checks were conducted on May 13 at Peninsula Yacht Club.
5. A boating safety class was held May 20, 2023 at Denver Fire Dept with 13 students in attendance.
6. Vessel Safety Checks were conducted at Safe Harbor Kings Point marina on May 20.
7. Upcoming on-water operations consist of Marine Observation missions and training sessions.
8. Flotilla 26-04 continues to sponsor a Sea Scout ship, conducting training sessions on-land and on-water. During a week in August, various CG Auxiliary members will be hosting the Sea Scouts overnight at their homes at stop-over points as the ship canoes down Lake Norman with the purpose of conducting cleanups at various locations.

End of report.

