



Lake Norman
Marine Commission



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LNMC MINUTES

**February 12, 2024
Charles Mack Center
Mooresville, NC**

Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:

Rick Howard	Chairman
Christopher Uzzolina	Lincoln County
John Johnson	Mecklenburg County
Kevin Frank	Catawba County
Billy Wilson	Iredell County (Absent)

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 7:15 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 January 8, 2024 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Uzzolina. Approval of the minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

Reports – LNMC Executive Director

Executive Director David Scott – Report Attached

REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT

Cornelius Police Department

Officer Clauson with Lake Patrol reported 31 calls for service with an average response time of 3.6 minutes.

- Storm debris is still somewhat floating freely throughout the lake. Officers located debris and cleared items as needed.
- Ongoing work to bring Blythe Landing training facility in by Spring 2024. (Coast Guard Aux/Meck County Parks)

- Lake Norman Leadership Youth visited the Lake house and did a boat tour.
- Several new commissioners came to the Lake House for a tour and were taken out on the boat.
- Officers went to Leaf Spring school to speak with kids about safety.

Iredell County Sheriff

Deputy Church reported 71 calls for service. 11 civil disturbances, protocol is to educate the parties. 2 major incidences that were turned over to other jurisdictions. Young female attempted to self-harm and intervened to get her help.

Catawba County Lake Patrol

Lieutenant Bryon Hollar Lake – No Report

Lincoln County Lake Patrol

Deputy Isaacs Lincoln County Sheriff's department – No Report

County Commissioner reported a hunting accident where a grandfather was teaching his grandson gun safety and accidentally shot into a house. This was handled by NC Wildlife.

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Sargent Lyle – No Report

Reports – Lake Issues**Duke Energy**

Chad Broadway reported lake level is at 94.6 and target is rising. Recreation season target is 97.5 again this year while maintenance on Mt. Island Lake continues. Debris calls have been extensive. March 1st starts the moratorium on dredging. This runs until July 1st. SMP meeting at the end of January. Lincoln County has a new Duke representative. Contact information will be distributed. Discussion about varying lake levels and how residents can be notified. Using the Duke Energy app is recommended.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggins – Report Attached

Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

Gregory Clemmor - No Report

Catawba Riverkeepers

Brandon Jones – No Report

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

Dave Ferguson reported routine lake monitoring occurred on 1/8/24. Water looks great including Lake Davidson and Lake Cornelius. Participating in the Mt. Island Centennial Celebration.

NC Wildlife Federation

Billy Wilson – No Report

Comments from the Public:

- Bob Watson and Bob Menzel reported 200 people at the committee meeting on weed control including many community leaders. There is a good handle on this and it is ready to be turned over to the commission. A PR announcement will be going out thanking everyone for their

Committee Reports:

ATON Committee

Assistant Director John Gerke reported 6-7 channel markers with osprey excluders needed. Shoal marker broke off. Located a missing shoal marker that washed up, but was replaced 10 months ago.

Environmental/Hydrilla Committee

Committee Chairman Bob Vandola reported committee met 1/11/24. Lyngbya is a relatively new issue. Currently impacts about 10 acres of the lake and is likely to expand if not treated quickly. There is a pending senate bill, but will not be passed soon enough. Funding has been obtained for first year eradication by the counties, Charlotte Water and Duke Energy. Private Citizen money was pledged, but is currently not needed. Working with NC State to obtain a qualified consultant and identifying a suitable contractor to provide the treatments. Target treatment date is April 2024. Eelgrass is expanding into some areas to problem levels for dock usage. Could become a problem for water intake systems in the future and will therefore be monitored. This can be treated chemically and is a solvable problem. At this time treatment would be the responsibility of permit holders. Water Quality Monitoring consolidated map developed. More extensive than the commission was aware as Mecklenburg is the only one that provides regular reports to the commission. Recommend the commission review summary of sites being sampled. Data is available and maybe having a scientist to synthesize the data similar to what Meck Co does on a periodic basis, but for the entire lake.

Boater Education/Communication

Commissioner Johnson reported a meeting at noon February 15, 2024 at the Safe Harbor Peninsula Yacht Club in preparation of the upcoming boating season. Performed an internet search for rental boats and they all have been invited. There will be a Q&A and boat inspections will be available along with rental boat applications. Refreshments will be provided by the yacht club. Law Enforcement is encouraged to attend.

Charter Boat Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina reported the regulation is there and some are complying and others are not. Trying to get a general statute passed to assist with enforcement. 2 companies will no longer be offering rental boats to the public.

Rental Boat Committee

Commissioner Frank reported the application to get your permit is on the website. Working on online application process. The positive is there are many people asking questions about the right way to comply.

Rafting Committee

Commissioner Uzzolina – No report

No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Wilson – No report

Applications

No-Wake Buoy Requests

Rafting Applications

Charter Boat Applications

Variances

- None

PERMITS

- None

FERC Applications

- Town of Davidson – Fish Dock. Commissioner Uzzolina made a motion to approve, Commissioner Frank seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Matters

- Review of 2nd quarter financial reports. No questions.
- Shoreline Management Plan available online for review.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm. Our next meeting will be March 11, 2024.

February 12, 2024

- We received sad news that Bob Elliott, a long time member and leader of the LNMC passed away at the age of 96. He was a mentor to many who served on the Commission over the years and cared deeply about Lake Norman. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.
- Water levels may be best described as a steep roller coaster ride over the last month. With the recent drop to the 95 level it is still above target of 94.3
- We had another successful boat show. Thanks to Asst Ex Dir John
- On Thursday 15 Feb we will be having a session for Rental and Charter boats. More from Commissioner Johnson
- Since our last meeting, the Marine Commission participated in several meetings including
 - The 31 January meeting of the group working on the 2025 updates to the **Catawba – Wateree Shoreline Management Plan**. This Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is basically the guidelines for any construction, shoreline stabilization or modifications, marinas, etc that touch the shores of any Duke Lake in the FERC project. If you would like to review the document and submit ideas for revisions please contact your Commissioner. The next meeting is in March.
 - January 22 we met with the **NC DEQ Weed Council aka the Lake Norman Aquatic Weed (Hydrilla) Management Project** . Bob Van Dolah will cover this later.
 - And several meetings to discuss plans to address the Lyngbya outbreak.

We participated in the **Mid-Atlantic Boat Show** at the Charlotte Convention Center February 8-11. There were good crowds and we met with a lot of people, many new to the lake that were anxious to understand the ins/outs of the lake.