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LNMC MINUTES

May 12, 2025
Charles Mack Center
 Mooresville, NC

Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:

	Chairman
John Johnson	Mecklenburg County
Kevin Frank	Catawba County
Billy Wilson	Iredell County
Jim Konieczny	Lincoln County
Martin Oakes County	Lincoln 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 Commissioner Johnson at 7:00pm. All in attendance rose to salute the flag and repeat together the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Johnson introduced the new Lincoln County representative, Martin Oakes.

Minutes

After a review of the minutes from the April 14, 2025 meeting, there was a motion to approve by Commissioner Frank, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Approval of the minutes, as presented, were passed unanimously.

Commissioner Election

Commissioner Konieczny made a motion to name Commissioner Johnson as acting chair, Commissioner Frank as vice-chairman and Commissioner Wilson as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frank. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports – LNMC Executive Director

Executive Director David Scott – Report Attached

REPORTS - ENFORCEMENT

Cornelius Police Department

Ian Clausen Cornelius Lake Patrol reported 22 calls for service with an average response time just under 5 minutes. Lake training occurred at the beginning of April. Participated in lake clean up with Wildlife.

Iredell County Sheriff

Sgt Church with Lake Patrol reported participation in the April lake training. 84 calls for service. Increased activity with warmer days. Boating accident during the Professional Fishing tournament.

Catawba County Lake Patrol

Corporal Sawyer Lake Patrol reported 255 lake hours including the April training day. 6 wake violations. Total of 20 violations. Assisted Iredell on April 16th with a boating accident.

Lincoln County Lake Patrol

Deputy Isaacs Lincoln County Sheriff's – No Report

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

NC Wildlife Officer - No Report.

Duke Energy

Chad Broadway reported an increase of water over the past few days. Currently right at target level. Higher water levels have lead to increased debris in the lake. Final shoreline management workgroup meeting was April 28th. Working on final steps to file with FERC at the end of this year.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 26

Steve Riggins – Report Attached

Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec.

Gregory Clemmer – No report

Catawba Riverkeepers

Brandon Jones reported swim guide monitoring will begin next weekend. Looking for volunteers for the southern part of Lake Norman. Beginning to see invasive aquatic weeds. Please report to Duke Energy Aquatic Plant forum. Made a statement that they support the Lake Norman Marine Commission and hope a new commission will be instated quickly.

Water Quality/Buffers/Illegal Discharge

Mecklenburg County Water Quality

Dave Ferguson – No Report

NC Wildlife Federation

Billy Wilson reported NCWF just hosted its 60th annual awards event in Cary, NC. Recognized Master Office Eric Crouse as the top enforcement officer of the year. Dave Myers with NCWF reported an exciting time with volunteers since Hurricane Helene. NCWF Clean & Green program which is a trash pick-up and collection event on April 26th. 25 volunteers collected 1780 lbs of trash and 142 trees were donated to the Town of Cornelius. Relaunching the Island Habitat Program which includes the adoption of 73 lake islands with full Duke Energy approval. There will be coordinators for each of 6 segments within the 4 counties. Pre-register for the event May 14th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

Comments from the Public:

- Boots thanked everyone who has participated in the Lake Norman Marine Commission over the years and thanked all of the law enforcement. Feels the dissolution of the marine commission originated in Lincoln County by a small group with mis-information because events that went against policy were not approved.
- Commissioner Elaine Powell with Mecklenburg County feels it's unfortunate the marine commission is being dissolved. Let's work together to use the knowledge of the marine commission moving forward. Thanked the current commission and all those that have served.

Committee Reports:

ATON Committee

Assistant Director John Gerke – Report attached

Environmental/Hydrilla Committee

Committee Chairman Bob VanDolah – No Report

Boater Education/Communication

Commissioner Konieczny – No Report

Charter Boat/Rental Boat Committee

Commissioner Frank reported 36 new rental boat applications year to date. Have not received any completed packages for Charter Boats.

Rafting Committee

Commissioner Konieczny – No Report

No Wake Buoys

Commissioner Wilson reported one pending application originally submitted on November 21, 2024. Requesting an existing buoy be relocated to expand the area. The NC Wildlife Commission responded that they did not recommend approval of relocating the buoy. The committee is in agreement with the NC Wildlife Commission. Commissioner Frank made a motion to not approve the buoy, Commissioner Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Government & Legislative Liaison

Commissioner Johnson reported that 40 stakeholders and citizens participated in the meetings and thanked all of them. April 25th completed recommendations that were sent to Senator Sawyer on April 28th. With the closure of the commission there will be no future meetings.

Applications

No-Wake Buoy Requests – None

Rafting Applications - None

Charter Boat Applications - None

Variances

- None

Permits

- NC DOT at the 150 bridge. Commissioner Oakes made a motion of No Objections, Commissioner Frank seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

FERC Applications

-

Administrative Matters

- Commissioner Frank made a motion to enter a closed session to consult with legal counsel regarding the dissolution of the marine commission.
- Following the closed session a time was discussed with the commission for dissolution on June 30, 2025 – see attached.

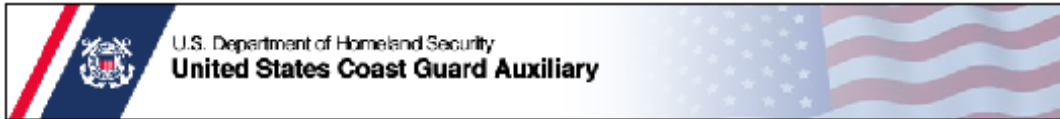
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. Our next meeting will be June 30, 2025.

Executive Director Comments

May 12, 2025

- On May 5 the Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners voted to withdraw from the LNMC effective 30 June. Per our enabling legislation this means the Commission will be dissolved.
- We have begun to plan for an orderly shutdown.
- Senate Bill 697 which will enable a new Commission was passed by the NC Senate on 8 May. It was passed to the NC House on 8 May and is in Committee now.
- We participated in the final meeting of the Catawba Wateree Shoreline Management Plan workgroup on 28 April.



Report from USCG Auxiliary for Lake Norman Marine Commission May 12, 2025

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 2025	
Activity	2025 Total As Of 5/5/2025
On-Water Patrols Count*	11
On-Water Patrols Hours*	51.29
Public Education Classes***	5
Public Education Enrollees	24
Vessel Safety Checks Completed**	62
* Includes on-water patrols and supporting radio watches	
** Actual number on LKN higher-VSCs by non-LKN Flotillas not included	
*** Includes Class at Blythe Landing taught by Lake Wylie Flotilla	

Upcoming Events and Items of Note:

1. A "Safe Summer" boating season kickoff event is scheduled at Blythe Landing for May 17 sponsored by CPD Lake Patrol and USCG Auxiliary. The CG Auxiliary will have a grand opening ceremony for the VHF marine radio station (station call sign is "USCG Auxiliary Blythe Landing Radio").
2. CG Auxiliary provided a perimeter patrol boat assisting CPD Lake Patrol at the cardboard boat races held May 3 at Ramsey Creek Park. USCG Auxiliary Blythe Landing Radio provided the radio guard for the patrol.
3. Next Boat America boating safety class is May 17 at Denver Fire Department (class already full).

End of Report.

LNMC
Outstanding ATON Items
May 12, 2025

- Lights replaced on D8A and MC1 and Marker 21
- New pole light and sign at Marker 24
- New sign on Shoal Marker 365
- New Bridge markers at Buffalo Shoals Bridge
- Nests obstructing lights – 17C, 17D, R3, D1, D11

Timeline and Plan for Closure of Lake Norman Marine Commission

In order to effect the orderly closure of the Lake Norman Marine Commission (LNMC), the following plan and schedule are proposed:

#	Description	Date Due
1.	Notify suppliers/vendors to have final invoices submitted by 5/30/25	5/30/25
2.	Decision on payment or cancellation of ATON light inventory	5/16/25
3.	Decision related to term of rental for storage locker	5/30/25
4.	Decision on term/payment for website going dark	5/30/25
5.	Final payments to vendors/suppliers made week of 6/2/25	6/6/25
6.	Payment to auditor (Belinda Johnson) for final audit; note contract signed on 5/9/25 with report due 6/30/25	6/6/25
7.	Staff paid for services through 6/30/25 – notice of contract cancellation (as necessary)	6/6/25
8.	Angela to compute final amount remaining in accounts, subsequent 4-day split to each county	6/11/25
9.	Final checks written to counties taking LNMC account to zero balance	6/13/25
10.	Notification to auditor of final account action so audit can begin (in contract dated 5/9/25)	6/16/25
11.	LNMC to notify counties, Wildlife, and SoS of closure on 6/30/25	6/23/25
12.	LNMC Annual/Final Report prepared and approved on 6/30/25 meeting	6/30/25
13.	Auditor presents final audit report at meeting on 6/30/25	6/30/25
14.	Copies of QB account information provided to each county on USB along with electronic records copies (meeting minutes, reports, etc.)	6/30/25
15.	LNMC Commissioners vote to officially dissolve the LNMC at meeting on 6/30/25	6/30/25