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MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2021
7:00 PM

Relocation to Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19

Lake Norman Marine Commissioners:

Michael Hughes	Chairman
Dennis Eddinger	Mecklenburg County
David Scott	Catawba County
Rick Howard	Iredell County
Christopher Uzzolina	Lincoln County

Staff:

Morris Sample	Executive Director
John Gerke	Asst. Ex. Director

1. Called to Order, Pledge of Allegiance - Meeting began at 7PM
2. Approval of April 12, 2021 Minutes
Motion to approve by Commissioner Eddinger
Seconded by Commissioner Scott
Approved unanimously.
3. Reports
 - a. Lake Norman Marine Commission – Executive Director Morris Sample
 - a.i. We have received several comments about small danger buoys that are missing. These small buoys have been placed by various groups over the years and were used to generally mark shallow areas. The Marine Commission does not maintain or replace these buoys but we will consider the area for a pole mounted shoal marker and light. Our criteria for placing a shoal marker generally is traffic in the area, depth of around 5-6 feet at full pond and area has been reported by boating clubs as high damage area. Many of the smaller islands are being eroded below water levels and we will be placing shoal markers where appropriate.
 - a.ii. It should be noted that fishing is allowed on Lake Norman anywhere on the water and around piers. We have gotten reports of home owners that have said fishing is restricted around docks and this is not correct.

Fishermen are not allowed to physically get on your dock but they can fish adjacent to your dock in any area.

- a.iii. The stocking of 700 grass carp will occur tomorrow at Blythe Landing sometime around noon to 2pm. The delivery truck is coming from Raleigh area and I will talk to them on Tuesday morning and get a more exact time for their arrival. We also stocked 50 tagged grass carp earlier this year and they will be part of a 3 year study to determine the mortality of the grass carp in Lake Norman. This stocking of total of 750 grass carp will help prevent future outbreaks of hydrilla.
- a.iv. Please continue to report any strange looking vegetation growing in Lake Norman. Duke Energy aquatic weed group will investigate any reports. You can report to aquaticplants@duke-energy.com or visit our website at Inmc.org and click on Useful Links, Duke Energy Lake Services.
- a.v. Boating season is getting underway and the lake traffic will be increasing. Please be courteous to everyone on the lake and be aware of your wake. We do get many reports of wake issues so please help by staying at least 150 feet from docks and be extra cautious approaching bridges on the lake.

b. Enforcement

- 1) Cornelius Police Department – George Brinzey
 - a. Significant training in April
 - b. 17 calls for service via boat
 - b.a. Most common day was Sunday between noon and 6PM
 - b.b. Average response time was 10 minutes
 - b.c. 7 crime prevention calls
 - b.d. 8 Navigation hazards
 - b.e. 4 Appeal to assist
- 2) Iredell County Sheriff – Lake Watch Report – Jarid Church
 - a. 807 security checks
 - b. 27 stops on the water
 - c. 1 impaired boater – worked with NCWR
 - d. 6 civil disturbance calls
 - e. 1 property damage
 - f. 27 vessels inspected
 - g. 5 navigation hazards

- 3) Catawba County Lake Patrol — No Report
- 4) Lincoln County Lake Patrol – John Isaacs – No Report
- 5) N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission — Ron Robertson
 - a. 1 impaired boater
 - b. There will be new officers on the lake this summer
 - c. Clarified the use of waters and shoreline for fishing and hunting – 760 is the defining mark of public vs private
 - d. Discussed fish
 - d.a. Stocked stripers did not do well – did not survive summer heat.
 - d.b. Now trying Bodie Bass – a cross between a white bass and a striped bass
 - d.b.1.1. 50 stocked May 2020 with electronic tags
 - d.b.1.2. 50 more are being stocked this month

c. Lake Issues

- 1) Duke Energy — Joe Klutz
 - 1.1. Lake at 97.4
 - 1.2. Several calls for dock billet removal
 - 1.3. Expect strong recreational activities this summer
 - 1.4. There is no swimming allowed at boat access areas

- 2) Coast Guard Auxiliary - Division 26 – Summary provided by Steve Riggan

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.

1. The USCG Auxiliary (certain members) are now authorized to conduct on-water patrols on Lake Norman after successfully completing a reconstitution “check ride” conducted by a USCG active duty Bosun Mate from Wilmington, NC on April 24, 2021 on Lake Norman.
2. Flotilla 26-04 Lake Norman West conducted a live virtual on-line About Boating Safely class in April over 3 Zoom sessions as planned, enrolling and graduating 15 students. The final exam was administered using a Google form with results recorded electronically which worked well.

Events and Items of Note:

1. A second live virtual class via three Zoom meetings on June 15, 17 and 19 is open for registration, utilizing the revised Boat America class material. Lake Norman-specific regulations and navigation information will also be covered in this class.
 2. Further evaluation of in-person activities will continue. Vessel Safety Checks are authorized, but not in mass events. In-person regular business meetings can be authorized.
- 3) America's Boating Club – No Report
 - 4) Mecklenburg County Parks & Rec – No Report
 - 5) Island Habitat – No Report
 - 6) Riverkeepers – Michael Lindsay
 - 6.1. Swim Guide Program on water quality will run Memorial Day to Labor Day – need some more volunteers – results will be posted on Fridays.
 - 6.2. Floating classroom
 - 6.2.1.1. Expect the boat to be in operation in June with classes starting in July.
 - 6.3. Discussed Watershed management plan.
 - 6.4. Summarized information available on Catawba Riverkeeper new phone app.
- d. Water Quality/Erosion/Buffers/Illegal Discharge
- 1) Mecklenburg County Water Quality – No Report
 - 2) NC Wildlife Federation – Billy Wilson
Osprey eggs have hatched!!
4. Comments from the Public:
- a. Andy Elliot
 - a.i. Support no wake buoy for Onsrud
 - b. Jill Paterson
 - b.i. Support no wake buoy for Marina Village
 - b.ii. Safety issue
 - c. Sherry Harris
 - c.i. Support no wake buoy for Marina Village
 - c.ii. Jet ski issues
 - d. Kelly Dunn
 - d.i. Support no wake buoy for Marina Village
 - d.ii. Close call with speeding boat
 - e. John Easter
 - e.i. Support no wake buoy for Marina Village
 - f. Faraz Syed
 - f.i. Support no wake buoy for Marina Village
 - f.ii. Jet ski issues

- g. Dan Callan
 - g.i. Support no wake buoy for Marina Village
 - g.ii. Would like a larger buoy or multiple buoys
- h. Mike Corran
 - h.i. Support no wake buoy for Marina Village
 - h.ii. Safety issue

5. Committee Reports

- a. ATON – Morris Sample (Markers, Maintenance)
 - Marker 6, Light Out
 - Marker R5, Light Out
 - Marker D4, Sign Missing
 - Shoal Marker south of PYC, on east shore, Light out.
 - Shoal Marker north of T5, marker nearest shore, Light out.
 - Shoal Marker, Near D2, Sign Missing
 - Shoal Marker, Hagers Creek, Badly Faded
 - No Wake Bridge buoy to be added at I-77 bridge east of Williamson Rd. Bridge
 - No Wake Bridge buoy to be replaced at railroad bridge leading to Lake Norman Marina
 - No Wake Bridge buoy to be replaced at Hwy 150 bridge at Mountain Creek Marina
 - No Wake Bridge buoys at Buffalo Shoals bridge are missing and will be replaced. Will be replaced with poles with No Wake sign and lights as alternative to buoys.
- b. Environmental/Hydrilla – Morris Sample
- c. Boater Education – Commissioner Scott
 - c.i. Next meeting is tomorrow at 7PM
 - c.ii. Education classes are on the LNMC web site
 - c.iii. Website has seen increased activity – 900 in April
- d. Charter Boat – Commissioner Eddinger, Commissioner Uzzolina
 - d.i. All charter boats have been inspected and approved
 - d.ii. Waiting on receipt of stickers to distribute
- e. Rafting – Commissioner Uzzolina – see Section 6
- f. Buoy – Commissioner Howard
 - f.i. Process is taking longer than anticipated.
 - f.ii. Asked for further delay from Commissioners.

- f.iii. Enforcement is the most important part of no wake violations and they need more staffing

6. Applications:

Rafting Application from PYC for end of May. Motion to approve by Commissioner Uzzolina, seconded by Commissioner Eddinger. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

7. Variances

None

8. Permits

- A. Onsrud No Wake Buoy Permit – Motion to approve by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Scott. Motion approved by a vote of 4-1.
- B. Marina Village No Wake Buoy Permit – Motion to approve by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Commissioner Eddinger. Motion approved by a vote of 3-2

9. FERC Applications:

None

10. Administrative matters

- a. May need to make some budget reclassifications at the June meeting
- b. A possibility that the June meeting will be held in person. Further details will be sent out prior to the June meeting.

11. Adjournment – Adjourned at 8:20 PM