

## **Lake Norman Marine Commission**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes - November 20, 2025**

The Lake Norman Marine Commission met in Regular Session on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in the CLT Water Dukes Treatment Plant located at 7980 Babe Stillwell Farm Rd. in Huntersville, North Carolina.

Members present were Barbara G. Beatty; Timothy W. Holder; Mark Mullen; Jason Ralston; Cameron Sloan; and Gregory Truesdell. Commissioners Richard C. Gaskins and Kristian Hernandez were not present.

Also present were Lincoln County Manager Davin Madden and Catawba County Manager Mary Furtado.

1. **Call to Order.** In absence of having established Commission officers, Ms. Furtado called the regular meeting of the Lake Norman Marine Commission to order at 7:00 p.m., noting a quorum was present.
  
2. **Public Comment.** Duke Energy Lake Services Representative Chad Broadway introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. Broadway explained that in the past, the LNMC has been called upon to provide large non-project use applications, which are proposed projects not related to energy generation. The regulatory review process for these non-project use applications is 4-part, and LNMC's feedback has typically been given during the agency consultation process, which can span several months. LNMC's feedback has focused on matters related to boater safety, ingress / egress, ATONS, etc. Mr. Broadway indicated the types of projects most typically reviewed by LNMC in this way include utility line crossings, bridge crossings over the lake, and marinas. To this point, LNMC's input has been codified in a voted recommendation, where the specific feedback points are committed to writing and submitted to Duke for dissemination to applications and other regulatory officials. Mr. Broadway explained there are typically several applications making their way through the approval process at any given time, and he requested the LNMC provide him with an anticipated timeline regarding its ability to resume providing project comments.
  
3. **Operational Update.** The Commission discussed the status of ATONS maintenance on the lake. Mr. Madden shared that Iredell County was currently managing the contract with Mozely Construction for ATONS maintenance, and the 4 county managers recently made the decision to move forward with getting the list of "critical items" addressed to avoid creating unsafe conditions and a maintenance backlog. Cornelius Police Officer Clawson, who was in attendance, shared he has been reporting issues directly to Mozely. It was agreed that the ATONS contract – specifically the status of ATONS across the entire lake - needed to be a topic of focused discussion at the next meeting, as the off-season is the perfect time to address the osprey nests and other issues better handled in the lower traffic season.

This led to a discussion of historical and proposed future committee structure for the Commission. It was agreed this should be a topic of conversation at an upcoming meeting.

Mecklenburg County Water Quality Manager Dave Ferguson shared a water quality report with the Commission, indicating he would attending future meetings to share updated information on a periodic basis.

Ms. Furtado shared Catawba County recently executed a contract amendment to an agreement with NC Department of Environmental Quality for Triploid Grass Carp, Herbicide Applications, and Aquatic Vegetation Surveys. This contract will eventually be transferred back to the Lake Norman Marine Commission.

Ms. Furtado indicated she recently learned the LNMC has responsibility for approving water ski course permit applications, in addition to the other functions previously outlined. This information came through an encounter with a representative of the Lake Norman Water Ski Club.

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Commissioner Holder made a motion to approve the Regular Minutes of the October 14, 2025 Lake Norman Marine Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beatty, and` passed unanimously.
5. **Meeting Schedule and Location.** The established meeting schedule for the Commission (third Thursday of every month) was distributed. Lincoln County's location has been confirmed to be St. Peters by the Lake Episcopal Church; 8433 Fairfield Forest Rd.; Ste 1; Denver, NC 28037. There was a discussion among Commissioners regarding whether to cancel the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, due to the holiday season. It was agreed that Ms. Furtado would send a follow-up email to check members' availability for that date, and a decision would be made accordingly. Appointments for future meetings with locations will be sent to all Commissioners in coming weeks.
6. **Selection of 9<sup>th</sup> Commission Member.** In revisiting the discussion of selecting a ninth commissioner, the group established the following target timeline for sharing nominations among the Commission and taking a vote on those nominations, with the caveat that the group wanted to be sure to reserve the ability to delay the vote to a future meeting if there were consensus regarding conducting interviews with a narrowed slate of candidates.
  - 12/31/25: Nominations due to County Managers via email
  - 1/5/26: Managers share packet of nominations
  - 1/15/26: Commissioners work to consensus on 9<sup>th</sup> member; simple majority vote
7. **Executive Director role.** The Commission discussed the best way to go about scoping an executive director role, with the decision of full versus part-time employee being driven by the performance expectations and specific responsibilities assigned to the Executive Director role. By consensus, the group agreed it a good next step would be for the managers to prepare an initial job description for the Commission's reaction, to be shared at the next meeting. (For context, a 20-hour per week position earning \$25 per hour would cost \$26,000 per year, before including benefits and payroll taxes.)
8. **Administrative Services Contract.** After discussion at the last Commission meeting regarding the possibility of the Centralina Council of Governments (COG) providing administrative services and bookkeeping, Mr. Madden contacted the Centralina COG to learn more about a similar arrangement it has with the Lake Wylie Marine Commission. Mr. Madden received a copy of the annual contract between Centralina COG and Lake Wylie Marine Commission, which includes Financial Management Services (Accounts Payable and Receivable, Annual Funding Request Preparation and Invoicing, Annual Budget

Development, Annual Audit Coordination, Monthly Reporting), Commission Administrative Support (Commission Management Responsibilities, Monthly Meeting Preparation, In-Meeting Responsibilities, Post-Meeting Responsibilities, and Special Activities or Committee Meetings), and Public Information Support. The total amount of the contract with Lake Wylie Marine Commission is \$27,900. After a brief discussion, the Commission requested staff get a proposal from Centralina COG to provide those same services for the Lake Norman Marine Commission for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

9. **Budget.** To begin building context around the LNMC budget, the FY25-26 Budget resolution was distributed to Commissioners in attendance. The LNMC has historically had a total annual operating budget of \$155,000 per year. This resolution was shared for information only; there was no requested action.
10. **Distribution of Draft By-laws.** The draft bylaws were distributed, and the group engaged in a detailed discussion of each section of the bylaws, suggesting edits and revisions that will be reflected in the version of the bylaws distributed for the December 2025 Commission meeting. Significant discussion topics centered around:
  - ensuring consistency between the statutory framework established for the Commission and the bylaws;
  - more clearly defining County-facing reporting mechanisms regarding Commission activities;
  - clarifying the Commission's regulatory authority (ex. – does it include establishment of safety authority zones? Which previously implemented regulations are still in effect?);
  - address conflict of interest recusal; and
  - streamlining the section addressing community engagement and stakeholder input.

It was suggested that the LNMC Bylaws should be reviewed by attorney Chris Clarke, who previously supported the Commission, to ensure there are no issues with the content.

11. **Board of Directors Notebook.** Ms. Furtado shared the Board of Directors notebook is still under development. If any Commissioners would prefer a paper copy in addition to access to an electronic library, please let Ms. Furtado know.
12. **Adjourn.** With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m. after a motion by Commissioner Mullen, which was seconded by Commissioner Ralston, passed unanimously.