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Lake Norman Marine Commission Monthly Meeting  
October 14, 2024  
Meeting Minutes

- Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
- In attendance was Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Frank, Commissioner Wilson, and Executive Director Scott. Commissioner Uzzolina was absent. The new Commissioner from Lincoln County has not been appointed by the county at this time.
- The minutes of the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting was approved.
- Election of the 2024-2025 Officers was passed as follows:
  - Commissioner Uzzolina – Chairman
  - Commissioner Johnson – Vice Chairman
  - Commissioner Frank – Secretary, Treasurer
- Executive Directors Report -Dave Scott – See attached
- Commissioner Johnson presented to former Chairman Howard the 8 bells salute
- Cornelius Police Department – No Report
- Iredell County Sheriff
  - 109 calls for service
  - 937 man hours
  - 20 vessel checks
- Catawba County Lake Patrol – Deputy Sawyer
  - 13 boat inspections
  - 11 citations
- Lincoln County Lake Patrol – No Report

- Duke Energy – Chad Broadway
  - Lake at 97.1 elevation
  - Recognized Tow Boat US for their efforts of 100 hours to
    - Remove debris
    - Secure 5 floating docks
    - Secure 20 wayward boats
- Coast Guard Auxiliary – Steve Riggan – See Attached
- NC Wildlife Federation – Billy Wilson - See Attached
- ATON – John Gerke – See attached
- Environmental/Hydrilla – Bob Van Dolah – see attached
- Boater Education – Commissioner Johnson
- Charter Boat – Commissioner Uzzolina – No Report
- Rental Boat – Commissioner Frank
  - Proposed revision to the Rental Boat Regulations is deferred pending coordination with the Charter Boat Regulations.
- Buoys – Commissioner Wilson
  - No applications pending
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

## Executive Director Report

October 14, 2024

- The aftermath of Hurricane Helene is top of mind for the past month. First, thanks to everyone who helped during and since the event to reduce loss of life and help residents recover.
  - Tons of dangerous debris remain in the lake. Boating is not advised.
  - There are also unknown levels of contaminants and contact with the water is not advised. Specifically an outbreak of Harmful Algal Blooms has been found around the Peninsula.
  - Duke has restricted use of access ramps and they will continue to block off sections which will be used for cleanup.
  - Coordinated clean up planning is underway with Duke, NCWF, Riverkeeper, LWMC, and others. Commissioner Wilson is taking a lead on coordinating and will update us.
  - Duke is using contractors to remove large manmade debris. Directions to request service are on our website homepage.
  - Everyone should use Duke's Lake View app and the Inmc.org website to see the latest advisories.
- Planning continued with Charlotte Water, Duke and the Lake Wylie Marine Commission on a unified approach to obtaining ongoing funding for future lyngbya treatments. A meeting with officials will be delayed to mid-January due to Helene's impact and the uncertainty as to levels of lyngbya in the lake. We will use 2024 as a baseline for planning.
- The review by Duke and other stakeholders of the draft of the 2025 **Catawba – Wateree Shoreline Management Plan** was delayed by Helene. The September meeting was canceled and will be rescheduled. The draft and shoreline maps public reviews will be scheduled later. If you would like to review the document and submit ideas for revisions please contact your Commissioner.
- Finally, since our regular meeting day falls on Veterans Day next month, we are rescheduling to November 18.

# Coast Guard Auxiliary Report

## Report from USCG Auxiliary for Lake Norman Marine Commission October 14, 2024

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. <b>USCG Auxiliary Lake Norman Flotilla Activities 2024</b>	
Activity	YTD As Of 10/14/2024
On-Water Patrols Count*	47
On-Water Patrols Hours*	224
Public Education Classes	9
Public Education Enrollees	115
Vessel Safety Checks Completed**	333
* Includes on-water patrols and supporting radio watches	
** Actual number on LKN higher-VSCs by non-LKN Flotillas not included	

### Upcoming Events and Items of Note:

1. The Marine VHF radio station at the Joshua Murray Boating Safety and Awareness Initiative at Blythe Landing will soon be in operation. The Coast Guard approval is in process to put the station on the air.
2. Another Boat America Boating Safety class was held September 21, 2024 at the Denver Fire Department with 6 graduates.
3. CG Auxiliary will conduct a Public Affairs Booth at Blythe Landing Oct. 18 6-8PM for the Haunted House event arranged by Cornelius PD and Mecklenburg County ABC Board.
4. CG Auxiliary continues to conduct Vessel Safety Checks on Lake Norman and Lake Wylie.

End of report

## NC Wildlife Federation Report

NC Wildlife Federation is leading efforts to clean debris on Lake Norman caused by Hurricane Helene. During our recent surveys of the lake, we have identified several areas along the main channel where large deposits of debris are located. Much of the debris lies north of the Hwy 150 bridge. Plans to remove the debris will require the use of heavy equipment, barges, etc to remove large pieces. Under the umbrella of Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationist's Island Habitat Program, NCWF will deploy volunteers to remove smaller portions of debris. The first group cleanup effort is scheduled for Saturday, October 26 at 10am - 2pm. This event will focus on cleaning Lake Norman State Park and surrounding areas. NCWF has requested permission from the Park to utilize their public boat ramp for dumpster placement and volunteer deployment. Pinnacle Access will also be a dumpster and deployment site for this event. Group cleanups will take place on a weekly basis for the foreseeable future and likely to last months. Duke Energy hosts a weekly call for organizations helping with cleanup efforts along the Catawba River, including: NCWF, Catawba River Keeper, local marine commissions, Charlotte Water, and others. Duke has allocated funding to support the efforts and has reserved space dedicated to dumpster placement and volunteer use at its public access areas. NCWF is also working with the counties to request that transfer station fees are waived so that residents can dispose of debris without incurring construction debris fees, etc. NCWF will provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies (garbage bags, trash grabbers, etc) to its volunteers. Anyone wanting to volunteer should contact [islands@LNWC.org](mailto:islands@LNWC.org)

## ATON Report

Nests obstructing lights

- 1A, 16A, 17C,17D, R3,D1

Shoal Marker missing near D-2

Shoal sign missing in Stumpy creek near S-3

Bridge buoys at Highway 15 and Lake Norman Marina have been installed

New pole, light and sign at marker 8

## Environmental / Hydrilla Report

The lymbya treatment was finalized last month and then the effects of Hurricane Helene impacted the lake. The huge volume of water and sediment moving through the lake has most likely had a negative impact on any lymbya beds that remained based on my discussions with the experts, and it essentially negated the value of conducting the final post treatment survey since Jessica won't be able to conclude whether current vegetative conditions are the result of treatment effects or storm effects.

After discussing the situation with Jessica and Duke staff, we have elected to use the funds that were going to go to the final post treatment survey to, instead, conduct a detailed survey next spring in the areas we think will likely have to be re-treated. That should help to refine what treatments will need to be done during the next growing season.

The storm also temporarily stopped the annual aquatic vegetation survey that was being conducted. That survey should be restarted this week and will hopefully be concluded in the next week or two. Hopefully, the sampling sites that occur in the areas that were treated will give some insights on what is there now.

The Charlotte Mecklenburg storm water services has reported that harmful Algal Blooms are occurring in the southern portion of the lake. These are likely microcystis blooms. They may be occurring elsewhere in the lake as well, but I'm not aware of any active monitoring elsewhere.

With all the runoff from around the lake, combined with what is coming down the river system, lake water quality is possibly being impaired beyond the obvious nutrient loading and turbidity problems, but except for the monitoring in the southern part of the lake by Charlotte Mecklenburg staff, we just won't have a good understanding of what is going on. This once again highlights the need for a more comprehensive water quality monitoring program, particularly in the upper portions of the lake that are not currently being surveyed with much frequency.