

**Lake Norman
Marine Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2025**

The Lake Norman Marine Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in the Florence Shanklin Library; 7837 Fairfield Forest Rd. in Denver, North Carolina.

Members present were Barbara G. Beatty; Richard C. Gaskins; Kristian Hernandez; Timothy W. Holder; Mark Mullen; Jason Ralston; Cameron Sloan; and Gregory Truesdell.

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, Catawba County Manager Mary Furtado called the inaugural meeting of the newly reconstituted Lake Norman Marine Commission to order at 7:00 p.m., noting a quorum was present.
2. **Welcome and Introductions.** Commission members in attendance rotated around the room and introduced themselves, indicating which county appointed each member and sharing relevant background and context related to their interest in and expertise in serving the Commission. It was requested that if there are partners or interested stakeholders who need to be added to the distribution list for LNMC business, those individuals' contact information should be sent to one of the county managers for inclusion on the master distribution list.

Several members of the public who were in attendance also introduced themselves and shared the nature of their interest in matters related to LNMC.

3. **Overview of Purpose and Structure.** Copies of Session Law 2025-67 were distributed, and members reviewed the enabling legislation that establishes the Commission, bestows specific powers and duties, and lays out governance considerations and administrative and procedural requirements, to ensure clarity of purpose and common understanding of function.
4. **Meeting Schedule and Location.** After discussion of the need to establish a regular meeting schedule, a consensus was reached to meet on a monthly basis on the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm. It was decided the meeting location would rotate between counties to distribute the travel burden. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20th at 7 pm, with Catawba County tentatively committed to host.
5. **Budget / Funding Availability, Existing Service Contracts, Additional Information Requests.** The group discussed the matter of establishing an annual operating budget (roughly \$155,000 per year, on average, based on history) for the LNMC. Several Board members requested information on historical budgets. This evolved into discussion on compiling a Board notebook for each Commissioner. Specific information requested to be made available to Board members includes:
 - Meeting Schedule and Locations

- Membership List
- Financial Information – 3 years of operating budgets
- Bylaws
- Resolutions – recent reconstitution; territorial jurisdiction
- Resolutions – existing regulations
- Existing service contracts – including website, storage unit, navigational aide maintenance, and invasive species management
- Board Meeting Minutes for historical context
- Website link

Ms. Furtado indicated she would work with staff to develop an electronic document library for LNMC members and would also make a paper alternative available to those who prefer that format over electronic.

In terms of existing service contracts, the following details were shared with the group:

- Navigational Aid Maintenance – Iredell County is currently managing a contract with Mozely Construction for navigational aide inventory, maintenance, and repair (\$20,000 for the summer season);
- Invasive Species Management – Catawba County has maintained communications with DEQ regarding invasive species management activities (grass carp; herbicide applications; aquatic vegetation survey);
- Website – Iredell County is maintaining a \$12,000 contract with Blarney Stone Marketing (Tammi Murphy) to keep the website active (link hidden but still available); and
- Storage Unit – Mecklenburg County is currently maintaining a contract on behalf of LNMC for a storage unit (Lake Norman Storage; Unit 1031; 18926 W. Catawba Ave; Cornelius; Phone: 704-896-0123) for \$100 / month (\$1,200/year).

6. Distribution of Draft By-laws. This agenda item was deferred to a future date, as the document was not available for distribution, as anticipated. A draft of the bylaws will be emailed to the Commission prior to the next meeting.

7. Executive Director role. The group discussed potential approaches to filling the executive director role, including hiring a full-time or a part-time employee and contracting for services with a local organization. It was shared that the previous Executive Director was a part-time position. It was mentioned that the Lake Wylie Marine Commission contracts with the Centralina Council of Governments for administrative and finance functions associated with the Lake Wylie Commission, and that the Lake Wylie Executive Director is a 20-hour per week position. Commissioners requested that additional information on the arrangement between Centralina Council of Governments and the Lake Wylie Marine Commission be brought back to the group for discussion.

8. **Selection of 9th Commission Member.** It was suggested that each LNMC member think about individuals to potentially serve as the 9th commission member. (State statute requires the 8 county-appointed commissioners to jointly elect a 9th commission member, which would then need individual ratification by each member county.) This item will be discussed as an agenda item at the November 20th meeting.
9. **Election of Officers.** The group agreed to defer election of officers for the LNMC until the 9th Commission member has been selected.
10. **Adjourn.** With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.