 Graham-Mebane Lake

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**Megan Garner, Manager, City of Graham Brian Faucette, CPRP, Director, Graham Recreation & Parks**

**Chris Rollins, Manager, City of Mebane Steve Hadden, CPRP, Lake Warden**

April 25, 2023

Dear Adjacent Property Owner,

When the current reservoir known as Graham-Mebane Lake (Lake) was created in the early 1990s, the Cities of Graham and Mebane purchased property to create a land buffer completely surrounding the water supply. This land buffer is critical in maintaining the Lake as a clean and sustainable water supply. In addition to purchasing a buffer, the cities passed ordinances to protect the water supply as required by the State of North Carolina (NCGS 143-214.5). This letter highlights a few of the ordinances adopted by the Cities of Graham and Mebane in 1993 that regulate the cities’ property and directly affect you as an owner of property adjacent to the Lake.

The most relevant ordinances for adjacent property owners are:

Article III, Section 14-127 (8): **No adjacent property owner shall have the right to use any of the cities’ property surrounding the lake. It is the policy of the cities to maintain the shoreline of their municipal lake in a natural state. Trees, shrubs, ground cover and natural vegetation may not be changed so that the water supply may be protected from harmful chemicals, fertilizers, erosion and the effects of development. Development of the cities’ property is forbidden. This includes establishing yards or gardens, thinning trees or underbrush, or installation of tables, walkways and other structures.**

Article III, Section 14-127 (9): No boat may be placed on the lake unless the same has been approved and specifically authorized by the Warden or his staff. Any unauthorized boats may be impounded and disposed of as required by law. Boat access from anywhere other than the cities ramps on Bason Road shall be strictly prohibited from the lake.

Article III, Section 14-128 (h): All fishing in the lake shall be from a boat or other designated areas and in no instance shall bank fishing, picnicking, cleaning or cooking fish in other than designated areas be permitted.

All ordinances that govern the Lake are included with this letter and can be accessed on the City of Graham’s website, *www.cityofgraham.com/ordinances/.* Hover over the *Your Government* tab; click on *Code of Ordinances*; Chapter 14, Article III covers the Public Use of Graham-Mebane Lake.

The complete Article on *Water and Air Resources* within the NC General Statutes can be accessed on *www.ncleg.net*; select ALL for the search criteria then enter Chapter 143, Article 21.

If you have questions concerning the regulations or property lines, I can be reached at the Graham-Mebane Lake Marina. Please call (919) 563-6544 to set an appointment.

Sincerely,

Steve Hadden, CPRP

Lake Warden