

## LMCD

---

**From:** Frank Precopio <frank@precopio.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 5:39 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Wakesurf Issue

Hi Tammy,

I live on St. Alban's Bay on Lake Minnetonka. It was brought to my attention that there is a meeting tonight regarding the LMCD Wake impact study. I am unable to attend the meeting but wanted to make my voice heard.

I have been baffled by the information floating around regarding the impact to the lakeshore by wakesurf boats. I have lived on the bay for 32 years, and one of the first things I did in 1990 was to put riprap on my shore to prevent erosion from wind, boat waves, etc. That was 25 years before wakesurf boats, and my shore has held up fine. In fact, I can't believe anyone would live anywhere on the lake without a protective riprap shoreline, regardless of the types of boats that are out there.

I am a strong advocate for wakesurf boats and am strongly against any attempt to curtail their use. Of course, boat owners have to respect noise laws as well as basic safety distances, etc. But such a popular sport shouldn't be regulated out of existence.

Sincerely,

Frank Precopio  
5520 Maple Heights Road  
Greenwood, MN 55331

## LMCD

---

**From:** Kimberly Kazika <kimberly.kazika@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 5:39 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Boat waves

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing this email in regards to the recent requested input around waves generated by boats (specifically targeted wake boats) on Lake Minnetonka. **I do not support any type of restriction that may be placed on these watercrafts.** I have been an avid boater on the Lake Minnetonka chain for about the last 10 years and I have also seen the added scrutiny of a small group of people in regards to waves generated by surfing. I find it odd that wake boats are specifically accused for negatively impacting the lake and there is little to no mention of the large cruiser boats that are create much larger waves.

I agree that boats should be required to maintain a certain distance from the shoreline, docks and other boats for many reasons. Surf boats do not have a problem maintain their distance from my shoreline, as they require deeper water to create their surf wave. Non-surf boats are the boats that are constantly creating big waves close to my shoreline as they drive by.

Wake surfing also requires calmer water to create a wave so on weekends all summer long, wake surfing is almost nonexistent after 10am because the lake is nothing but chop from all the boat traffic creating so many waves.

Load music on boats happens on every style boat, not just wake surfing boats. Almost every boat is equipped with the exact same stereo equipment, regardless of type of boat. I have seen every type of boat playing music that is way too loud. However, I would be curious to learn which type of boat receives the most noise violations. In my experience on the lake, big cruiser boats much more often are the boats playing music way too loud. They fit a lot more people on cruiser boats than surf boats which makes for a bigger, louder party.

I do want to make the point that I feel everyone on the water could abide by the laws/rules on the lake and can do a better job of operating their specific watercraft with more courtesy to other enthusiasts. I do feel that the additional boater education has had a positive impact on creating awareness and safer conditions out on the lake. I've tried to keep up on the latest available research in regards to this topic and from what I've read you can find either positive or negative impacts based on what you're looking for and how hard you look. I appreciate the opportunity to give my input on this matter and you are more than welcome to reach out to me anytime to discuss this further.

See you on the water,  
Kimberly

Sent from my iPad

## LMCD

---

**From:** Jill Bjornaraa-Rose <jill@assetdiscovery.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 5:38 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** One more fact

And In addition in the study you can also see that wakesurfing and the boats provided the ability to increase the wildlife oxygen and airflow to increase the fish and marine life.

The future looks bright!  
Sincerely,

Jill Bjornaraa Rose  
Asset Discovery Corp.  
A Women's Owned Small Business  
612-819-3990

Sent from my iPhone

## LMCD

---

**From:** Jill Bjornaraa-Rose <jill@assetdiscovery.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 5:34 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** University of Minnesota researchers study waves created by recreational boats | University of Minnesota

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This is another “fine finding” by a very highly qualified university in opposition to John Brandt's 25 minute speech he was granted when everyone else had limited time to speak. Wakesurfing allows us as a family to focus on an activity we can do together vs sitting on phones and computers inside. I would hate to see more anxiety, anger and frustration the youth are already experiencing. We support local businesses and marinas, it provides joy and financial stability for many small businesses that have already been shut down due to Covid.

Wake board boats are less than 1% of registered boat owners. We, as wakesurfers, have created the “save the wake” program to provide education and support to help wakesurfers respect the environment and other boats.

Please don't restrict the use of wake boats as we encourage and comply with the rules of Minnetonka. Please use the article below as a reference to the opposing argument of John Brandt

Thank you

Jill Rose  
Harrison's Bay  
6128193990 .

<https://twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/university-minnesota-researchers-study-waves-created-recreational-boats>

The future looks bright!  
Sincerely,

Jill Bjornaraa Rose  
Asset Discovery Corp.  
A Women's Owned Small Business  
612-819-3990

Sent from my iPhone

## LMCD

---

**From:** Scot kirk <scotk123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 5:33 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** re Wave impact discussion

Hello,

We have lived on Harrison bay since 1995, we raised our kids here. We moved to the lake to specifically enjoy boating and watersports.

We waterski, wakeboard and now wake surf. We have always been respectful to other boaters and lakeshore owners.

As a 27 year lakeshore resident we would like to relay the information from our lives here.

- We have not seen any type of shoreline erosion due to wake surfing or any other large wakes.
- The wildlife has always been and remains very healthy and active, ducks , geese, pelicans , eagles , loons , frogs, Beavers ..ect ..all are well and thriving, in fact I would say that there is more wildlife now than ever before.
- Wakesurfing speeds are 10-12 mph and most stay in the middle of the bay and respect other boaters.
- As far as noise, waksurf boats are very quiet... as far as loud music, there are plenty of culprits for that complaint...there are already laws for disturbing the peace..

Lake Minnetonka is a very active and busy lake with many large boats making very large waves. Many days we will see several boats including large cuddy cabins pulling tubers swerving all over the bay at high speeds, this is very dangerous and maybe something that should be addressed for safety reasons.

We do not feel that targeting one type of boat that makes an average size wake in relation to boats on Minnetonka would be fair.

There has been much discussion and boater awareness around waksurf boats the past few years and we think that education would be the best solution for peoples differences.

We do not need more regulations and laws.. there are already many laws in place that are simply difficult to enforce, we should not put more pressure on our waterpatrol, especially to enforce something that is not a safety issue.

Thank you

Scot Kirk family  
Harrison Bay

## LMCD

---

**From:** Mary Pat Peterson <mpp25@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 4:41 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Restrictions on Wake-surf Boats

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

As I am writing this ,the waves from the wake-surf boats are crashing onto the beach in front of my house while the music is blaring. I live on Gideons Bay at 126 West Lake Street in Excelsior and there are numerous wake-surf boats every day on the bay from sun up to sun down. Many days we are not able to take our pontoon boat off our lift to use the lake as the waves from the surf boats are too high. And many nights sitting outside on our deck even after sunset we are forced to go inside and shut the doors because of the often times offensive music being played at extreme volumes.

Per Subd 12 of your operating regulations, it states that the boat operator is responsible for the wake of the boat and it should not prohibit another person's enjoyment of the lake. I believe in light of these regulations, wake-surf boat usage should be restricted to certain times of the day and must maintain a minimum distance of 500 ft from shore. The length of time they can operate in one area should also be restricted as they do personal watercraft. And the Water Patrol should strictly enforce these rules.

Lake Minnetonka is a wonderful resource for recreation. I do not want to prohibit people from enjoying wake-surfing, but restrictions need to be put in place so others may enjoy it too!

Thank you for your attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Pat Peterson

## LMCD

---

**From:** Jeff Archambault <jeffarch95@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 4:33 PM  
**To:** Ben Brandt  
**Cc:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Boat Generated Wakes Review

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Ben:

Hello. We're unable to attend this evening's listening session. We recently purchased a home on Harrison Bay. While we're new to the lake and it's high volume of traffic, we do not support any restrictions for wakesurf boats.

We do think stronger communication of common sense guidelines like operating 500ft from shore, reduced noise hours and keeping proper distance between vessels is important. However, we feel putting forth enforceable restrictions is a misallocation of law enforcement. We're grateful to have the water patrol on the lake focussing on necessary safety issues like speeding and drinking.

We'll be watching for details coming from tonight's meeting. Please do keep us informed by adding this email address to email notifications if possible. Thank you for your service on the LMCD.

The Archambault  
4890 Edgewater Drive  
Mound

## LMCD

---

**From:** Paige Johnson <johnsopn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 4:07 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Lake Minnetonka - Boat Generated Wakes Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi there,

I'm unable to attend tonight's meeting but wanted to share some feedback on the recent discussion of eliminating the use of wake surf boats and large cruisers.

I strongly believe that Lake Minnetonka should be kept open for all types of boaters, including wakesurf boats and large cruisers. My husband and I frequently visit Lake Minnetonka with our wakesurf boat and enjoy the sport of wakesurfing. I think the key to keeping Lake Minnetonka a safe lake and available to all boaters is to reiterate good boating etiquette. We keep a minimum of 200 feet away from all boats and docks, avoid repetitive passes, and keep our music at reasonable levels to not disturb others enjoying the lake. We are cognizant of which side our riders surf on and make sure to keep a further distance from boaters and shores on that side especially.

We live in Waconia, but love visiting Lake Minnetonka as many of our friends live on the lake or have slips at the lake. Allowing wakesurf boats on the lake brings all of us together and increases revenue in surrounding cities as we frequently shop or visit restaurants while on the lake or on our way home.

I believe lakes should be inclusive to all types of boaters.

Thanks,  
Paige Johnson

## LMCD

---

**From:** John Lynch <John.Lynch@castle-peak.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 2:57 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Wake Impact Listening Session

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I won't be able to attend the meeting this evening, but feel compelled to make a few comments.

I live on Lake Minnetonka and own a Malibu boat.

I appreciate there is significant energy on both sides of the topic, but it concerns me that action might be taken based on the referenced study.

I won't go through all of my concerns with the study, but the 2 largest are the choice of comparative boats and the overly broad assumptions about "typical operation" of the referenced boats (the Larson is always going 20 mph and the Malibu Wake boats always have full ballast and are going 10 mph). It's just not the case.

All boats on Lake Minnetonka can be operated to make larger wakes and smaller wakes. All boats can be used for a slow pleasure cruise around the lake and all boats can be used for recreational activities like tubing, water skiing and wake surfing. Lake Minnetonka is an amazing treasure and should be open for all to enjoy. The current standard of wake surfing at least 200 feet away from shore is an appropriate standard. Doing anything to single out wake surfing or wake boats apart from all other boats/activities on the lake is not the right thing to do.

I appreciate your consideration.

John Lynch  
612-710-9324

## LMCD

---

**From:** Kate Rice <ricekb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 3:00 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Wake boats

Hi, I am writing to ask that you do not impose restrictions on wake boats. This is a freedom that many of us in the northern Midwest want to preserve. Fishing, pontoon boats, ski boats, and others should be allowed equal access to our lakes. We have two very short months to enjoy the weather and taking away a popular pastime is not fair to many people.

Thank you,  
Kate Rice

## LMCD

---

**From:** Steve Manhood <karman2008@live.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 10:46 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Wake boats

For the few who do this the negative affect on the many is enormous.

They boats, to be quite honest should be banned from our lakes. They damage the shoreline, create sometimes dangerous waves for other boaters just so some (excuse me for saying the truth) spoiled brat can jump a wake? This is a disaster in the making. Just like when Ventura OKed small fireworks, the floodgates were opened and now it's to late.

## LMCD

---

**From:** Brian Molitor <brian.molitor@molitorbrothersfarm.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 8:49 AM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Wake/Wake surfing

My family and friends are avid surfers. We live and play on our Minnesota lakes and do not want to see any harm come of them. Like most of us that participate in the sport of wake surfing we take great pride in respecting the environment and our neighbors. We want to protect our sport and family time as much as we want to protect our lakes and waterways.

When analyzing this situation please use common sense with practical solutions that work in harmony with each other so all stakeholders can benefit.

Brian Molitor

## LMCD

---

**From:** Colf0004 <colfordjohn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 6:11 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Wake surfing

To Whom it May Concern,

Please do not enact onerous restrictions on wakesurfing. Lake Minnetonka is plenty big enough for everyone.

It's clear there is a faction of folks that hate wakesurfing and have attacked it at every angle because they hate it and want it banned. Let's keep our waterways free.

Thanks,  
John Colford.

## LMCD

---

**From:** jgkoonce@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 11:47 AM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** WAKE BOARD BOATS

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

While considering new, much needed regulation of subject boats, please also consider regulating noise. It is unacceptable to endure obnoxious music emanating from these or any other boats, while inside our home with our windows closed and air conditioning running. This is a serious infringement on our peace and tranquility.

Thank you.

Joel Koonce  
16524 Grays Bay Blvd, Wayzata

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

## LMCD

---

**From:** Alec Van Dyke <alecvandyke@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 11:26 AM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Wake/Wake Surf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning. I was informed that there is a discussion around wake boats and the potential impact that they have on the shorelines of our great lakes in MN. My family has been a boating family for the last 10 years and it is our go to activity in the summer much like other MN residents. While I do agree that surf boaters can have a negative impact, it is usually very uneducated boaters who are causing the harm. The small few affecting the masses. As a property owner I understand that there is a higher level of maintenance to the shoreline of a lake home then there would be off the lake. As the wake boaters get a bad rap I could show you countless times during a busy day when a combination of tubers behind bow riders, pontooners, jet skiers, and others (with no wake boats out) create way more havoc then wake boaters. The constant power turning that tubers do sends 270 degree waves into the lake which is super harmful overall. I would caution taking extreme action against what so many of us take as our outlet from the crazy day to day.

A solution to the perceived problem – EDUCATION! So many people buy boats that have zero boating experience. Heaven forbid they read the boating guide put out by the DNR and learn something. I would be 100% for a new & existing boat owner having to take an online course. It would make me 100% more comfortable on the lake. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13wiklrzcuw> MNInboard has started to make videos which could be the beginning to a great end result. It could be expanded. I would be happy to collaborate with someone with the video and editing skills to create something like this.

Regards,  
Alec Van Dyke  
C: 952-846-9957

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## LMCD

---

**From:** GARY THOMPSON <runshort7@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 2:03 PM  
**To:** LMCD; tconnelly@cityoftonkabay.net  
**Subject:** Wakeboard boats

I was unable to attend the listening session of the LMCD in Wayzata last night, but I would like to add my thoughts. I live on lakeshore in Tonka Bay and receive the full brunt of the wakeboarding activity in the Upper Lake.

I agree with those who detailed to the LMCD the disruption of the extra large wakes left by those boats. In addition to lakeshore damage, boating has become more dangerous. My 20 foot boat is no longer large enough for Lake Minnetonka because of the difficulty of crossing the wakeboard waves.

I think it is important to add the issue of the loud music coming from these boats. It appears they are sold with two loud-speakers installed in the overhead superstructure of the boat and facing back towards the wakeboarder. I assume this is because a wakeboarder wants to have his own playlist of his favorite music playing loudly to him as he rides the waves. It is so loud that it carries for three-quarters of a mile across the lake. I live on the shoreline across from Casco Point. When those boats head towards Casco point from my eastern shore, I am listening to their favorite tunes when they are still 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile away from me. Unfortunately that music isn't always my favorite.

It would seem easy to regulate that loud music by restricting the distance from the boat the music can be heard and ENFORCING it.

This fairly new sport is a growing problem and won't go away. Now is the time to adequately regulate it so that we all can continue to enjoy the lake.

Thank you.

Gary Thompson  
190 Wildhurst Road  
Tonka Bay

## LMCD

---

**From:** Dr. Jeff Stephens <JStephens@edinaeye.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 7:51 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Wake surfing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good evening-

As a Minnesota resident & boat owner who spends time on Lake Minnetonka, I'm strongly opposed to any regulatory actions taken by the Lake Minnetonka association to restrict wakes. We need to continue to enforce 200 ft setbacks from the shoreline & responsible boating thru education. To restrict any further will severely affect the enjoyment of our Lakes by my family & many others. Please don't let a small minority ruin our enjoyment of our lakes & family time together.

Thank you  
Jeff Stephens

Jeff Stephens  
Twin Cities Eye Consultants

## LMCD

---

**From:** LMCD Website Form <lmcd@lmcd.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 4:25 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Contact Us

### Name

Patrick Ridgely

### Email

[ridge004@tc.umn.edu](mailto:ridge004@tc.umn.edu)

### Phone

(612) 390-5065

### Address

4314 Queens Way  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
United States  
[Map It](#)

### Question or Comment

Just wanted to weigh in on the wakesurfing issue. I certainly support the use of education as one piece of addressing the issues, but I think a ban at some distance (700 ft?) is going to be needed. Thanks.

## LMCD

---

**From:** Brian McLaughlin <brian.mclaughlin@alula.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 2:12 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Wake Boat Restrictions feedback

LMCD:

I am sure you have had plenty of feedback on the Wake issue. As an individual who lives on the lake and owns a Wake Boat, I am very concerned about my ability to continue to have family time while surfing on the lake that I love and wanted to pass on the following:

- 1) Thank you first and foremost for the work that you do to ensure our lake remains beautiful
- 2) Regarding the Wake Boat potential regulation change, **I would recommend that we wait until the State provides guidance**; doing so prior would disadvantage Lake Minnetonka in terms of recreation and punish those who are boating responsibly on the lake. It will certainly also have a material impact on the value of living on the lake for those that have already invested as we become "the lake you can't surf on"
- 3) IF the LMCD decides they must move ahead of the state, I would offer the following:
  - Don't discriminate based upon boat type. There are many ways to run a wake boat. If the wedge is up and the ballast isn't full, it makes less wake than most boats; i would strongly encourage you restrict wave height vs. shoreline distance, something that is fairly easy to observe and enforce.
  - If you focus on hours, please ensure ample hours as surfing is a family event and limited hours will certainly limit the amount of time we can get the family together
  - I would definitely increase the distance from shore to 200-300'. I have a buoy in front of my house that is approx 300 feet out and still get large waves, mostly from the 30-40' boats, not from the wake boats. When I see boats 100' from shore, I typically signal them back. I would suggest more distance black buoys around the lake and have the police actually enforce these. There are many boats that go inside the buoy off of Casco Pt. and they never get pulled over
  - Maybe consider noise (fishing boats at 5am are the worst followed by jet skis) as too many wake boats create music for the entire bay which should be looked at as a nuisance

Thanks for asking. Side note, but I personally think the emerging Carp population is a much bigger issue than Wake Boats.

Good luck with your decision. You are welcome to come out and observe the wake/boating behaviors from my property on Casco Pt. any time if that helps.

Brian McLaughlin  
3205 Casco Cir.

--

**Brian McLaughlin**  
**CEO**

Mobile: 612.859.8898

[brian.mclaughlin@alula.com](mailto:brian.mclaughlin@alula.com)

## LMCD

---

**From:** Brian Zambreno <brianzambreno@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 11, 2022 1:17 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Wake Boats

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I know this is a hot topic at the moment and I want to weigh in. We keep our family boat in the municipal docks in Tonka Bay and have done so for almost 40 years. We have seen the lake go through many changes (addition of PWCs, arrival of milfoil, zebra mussels, etc.) and I have to say that these new wake boats have been the biggest nuisance we have ever had. The waves are ruining the lake due to their size and the fact that it never ends, they just keep coming. I know those families are having fun, but those of us without \$200K to burn on a boat are paying the price. We can no longer water ski or enjoy swimming as we are constantly swamped by the waves. Please consider some sort of ban, either entirely or by limiting the hours when people can wake surf or limiting their use to certain bays so the rest of us can have times/places we can enjoy the lake. It is so unfair that a handful of people are holding our lake hostage.

Additionally, you should institute a new rule that boats drive along the right shoreline/counter clockwise at all times, especially when towing skiers or if wake surfing. This is a rule on many bodies of water and should be on Tonka as well. It allows boats to almost always maintain right of way when others are approaching and creates a rhythm that is safe and predictable. No matter what is decided around wake surfing, this new rule would make the lake much calmer and much, much safer. To me, it is honestly just common sense and is something I always do as my father taught me this best practice when I was a child. Clearly wake surfers do not know this logic as they go all over the lake in random patterns that are very unsafe.

Please, please, please, be brave enough to take action even if these boat owners are some of the most privileged people you may encounter.

I would be happy to speak on either the wake boat issue or on a new counter clockwise rule.

Sincerely,

Brian Zambreno

## Vickie Schleuning

---

**From:** Forester, Jeff <jeff@minnlakesandrivers.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 7, 2022 12:15 PM  
**To:** Vickie Schleuning  
**Cc:** Gregg Thomas; Ann Hoelscher; Dan Baasen; Bill Cook; Rich Anderson; Ben Brandt; Mark Chase; Mike Kirkwood; Dennis Klohs; Mark Kroll; Denny Newell; Nicole Stone; Jake Walesch; Deborah Zorn  
**Subject:** Boat Generated Wave Impact on Lake Minnetonka

Greetings Vickie and the LMCD BoArd,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding your upcoming meeting on "Boat Generated Wave Impact on Lake Minnetonka." Unfortunately I am unable to attend the meeting on Wednesday night, but wanted to share some thoughts.

I am Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, MLR and we have members in every legislative district in the state including over 250 lake associations. In 2018 I began receiving emails from members about the negative impacts of large wakes on shorelines, the destruction of aquatic plants, re-suspension of sediments, silting in of spawning beds, and user conflicts due to large wakes and more powerful prop-thrust.

We began by meeting with representatives from the boating and water sports industry. We worked together to define the problem, and concluded that it was due to a lack of clear guidelines and widespread, universal education. The boating industry does have a training course that they provide for people when they are buying a boat and the water sports groups are also offering educational materials. We realized that while this is a good start, often it is not the owner of the boat that is operating it, but family members or friends using the boat, and they did not get this training.

Over the next few years we continued meeting and talking and discovered some shared values; safety of boaters, protection of environment, reducing conflicts between different user groups like paddle boarders and large cruisers or wake surfing boats.

In 2020 we began to work together to advance a policy proposal that addressed the problem, supported our shared values, and most importantly, was doable by law enforcement and the courts.

One of the most important lessons I have learned in the last 22 years as Executive Director of MLR is this; The Minnesota Legislature is the worst place in the state of Minnesota to resolve conflict. The second is that it is always easier to prevent legislation from passing by creating controversy around the issue than it is to broker and advance a productive public policy.

I am writing today to urge you to not adopt a 1000 foot from shore rule at Wednesday's meeting. My reasons for this are:

- 1) Such a move will generate considerable controversy statewide and make any statewide progress much more difficult moving forward,
- 2) It would strain the coalition that we have worked to form in support of a deeper and more productive solution strategy - boater education and certification,
- 3) Our law enforcement partners tell us that enforcement and prosecution is difficult and unlikely to be productive, particularly given the resources of a boater who can afford such an expensive watercraft.
- 4) There is not definitive scientific support for a blanket 1000' rule.

Perhaps a bit of background is useful.

MLR has been working since 2020 to resolve conflict and build a broad base of support for a boaters education and certification program which includes rules of the road, how to operate a boat without causing ecological damage to the lake, and basic boating etiquette so that everyone can enjoy our lakes as they see fit.

This training, we recognized, would require the best, independent and peer reviewed academic research into the power of prop thrust, and the potential energy and impact on shorelines of the wakes produced by different types of watercraft. In 2021 the St. Anthony Falls Lab, SAFL one of the oldest fluid dynamics labs in the county, crowd funded a study into the wake dynamics of various watercraft. They released the finding of the first phase of this study in February 2022. Plans are under way to continue this research.

This information will be critically important as a working group of engaged citizens partners with the MN DNR to outline Best Practices to be included in a watercraft operators training course.

This coalition includes law enforcement, statewide angling groups, the Community of Minnesota Resorts, MN COLA, marina owners, and national boating and water sports industry trade groups. As far as I know, this is the first time that such a diverse group of organizations and individuals has been brought together to advance the common good.

It is a strategy that will be able to productively address a large number of lake issues *if the coalition remains in tact.*

Because of this work the bill that extended the current youth boating training and certification requirement to adults passed 4 legislative hearings without a single "no" vote. There was no organizational opposition to the bill except for the Senate Republican Caucus, which blocked it from going to the Senate floor as a stand alone piece of legislation.

That move by Senate Republicans made it much more difficult to pass this consensus legislation.

Building this coalition has been incredibly difficult and has required hundreds of hours of effort. It is a new and somewhat fragile coalition. Each of the members of the coalition have had to contend with some of the more passionate members of some of these various groups pushing for what they perceive to be shorter more direct solutions, like a 200 foot from shore statute, a ban on various watercraft and so forth and yes, a 1000 foot from shore statute.

The wake surfing issue mirrors other controversies and provides some insight, the use and mis-use of ATVs and snow mobiles. After a decade of heated discussion at the Capital, the solution was an operators training and certification requirement.

In your notice of the meeting, you lay out four potential courses of action:

1. Wait until the State passes a law
2. Wait until subsequent phases of the SAFL study are published
3. Propose an ordinance, based on public suggestions received so far, that addresses:
  - a. Distance from shore that boats must operate at low wake
  - b. Whether this distance should be the same for different types of boats
  - c. Whether certain smaller bays should have different restrictions than larger bays
  - d. Whether there should be restricted hours or days for some recreational boating activities
  - e. Other?

I want to suggest 3,e. - Other. Please consider working with MLR, MN COLA National Marine Manufacturers Association, the Marine Retailers of the Americas and other partners to support ongoing independent research to guide best practices, and creation of an education and certification program for all of Minnesota's boaters.

The LMCD has a role to play, particularly during a campaign season, in educating policy makers of the importance of this and other lake forward legislation.

Education will save lives, protect lake ecology and ensure that more people can enjoy our lakes as they see fit. As more people learn the basics of lake ecology, boat safety and lake etiquette, other and more meaningful efforts will become possible with regard to AIS, shoreline restoration, protection of native aquatic plants and more.

Thank you for your commitment to one of Minnesota's most iconic lakes and for your consideration of the above.

Sincerely,

Jeff Forester  
Executive Director of MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates

--  
Jeff Forester  
Executive Director, MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates  
952-854-1317

*"What I have desired to do is to make the people ... realize that the most important office, and the one which all of us can and should fill, is that of private citizen. The duties of the office of private citizen cannot under a republican form of government be neglected without serious injury to the public,"* Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis

## LMCD

---

**From:** Mark Enger <markenger2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 9:24 AM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Wake Board Boats

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning, I am a member of LMCD and live on Spring Park Bay in Orono. I am writing to add my concern to the growing issue of wake board boats on the lake and the impact they are causing. I was considering signing the petition to restrict the access of those boats on smaller bays but have concluded that is not enough to make a difference. All that would happen is the boats would be more present on the larger lake and bays. There needs to be added compromises specifically a reasonable distance from all shorelines. I think 150 feet is not enough and 750 feet is probably to much. I understand that the LMCD board has the authority to establish enforceable policy.

I would encourage the board to implement a reasonable policy soon as summer is almost one third over. Thanks for the great work you do.

Mark Enger

Sent from my iPad

## LMCD

---

**From:** LMCD Website Form <lmcd@lmcd.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Contact Us

### Name

Thomas Enlow

### Email

[enlow.tom@gmail.com](mailto:enlow.tom@gmail.com)

### Phone

(612) 860-4363

### Address

1905 Beach Lane  
1905 BEACH LN  
Wayzata, MN 55391  
United States  
[Map It](#)

### Question or Comment

We live on the east side of the Arcola bridge and watch boats power thru at half (or greater) throttle creating waves that are excessive, never mind the noise. Who might we talk to about installing "no wake" buoys beyond the channel markers on both sides of the bridge?

In addition perhaps a message on the digital billboard saying "NO WAKE...smile for camera".

This may also reduce my floating weed removal to something less than a full trailer a week.

Thank you for your consideration, Tom Enlow 612-860-4363

# City of the Village of Minnetonka Beach

2945 Westwood Road - P.O. Box 146  
Minnetonka Beach, MN 55361  
[www.ci.minnetonka-beach.mn.us](http://www.ci.minnetonka-beach.mn.us)  
952-471-8878

June 15, 2022

**Lake Minnetonka Conservation District**  
5341 Maywood Road, Suite 200  
Mound, MN 55364

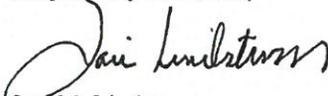
To: Lake Minnetonka Conservation District Board of Directors, Executive Director Vickie Schleuning

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) has received a number of public comments and concerns about wakes generated by watercraft such as wake surf boats and large cruisers.

This letter serves as an official letter of support to the LMCD from the City of Minnetonka Beach. During a report about the impact of wakes created by watercraft from LMCD Representative Dennis Klohs before Council at the June 13, 2022 City Council meeting, Council members unanimously introduced the following statement:

*"The Council of the City of Minnetonka Beach supports the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD), the LMCD mission and expresses their support for upholding the standards of water quality and the preservation and protection of the integrity of shoreline around Lake Minnetonka."*

Respectfully submitted,



Jaci M. Lindstrom  
Mayor, City of Minnetonka Beach

Cc: Minnetonka Beach City Council, City Administrator, LMCD Representative  
LMCD Board of Directors, Executive Director

## LMCD

---

**From:** Jim Friedlander <jimfriedlander1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2022 5:04 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** Boat Wakes

Thank you for taking up the subject of excessive boat wakes and the impact on the ecology of the lake, erosion of lake shore and safety issues caused by exceptional wakes.

I'm not against Wake Boats. I love the creativity of the athletes that surf, ski and ride in some very dramatic fashions. Just like sail boats, pontoons, fishing boats and cruisers all have a purpose, wake boats have a place on the lake. Several years ago (and before the prevalence of wake boats) there was a period when the entire lake was "no wake" due to the flooding. It created a very enjoyable experience for many of us that enjoyed not getting banged about by the larger waves, typically caused by "cruisers" up on plane or plowing to get there. I would like to see if there is a way to enact something similar, but on a scaled down level. Provide either a time, or a space where surfers can be, and allow non-surfers the peace of knowing they'll have a calmer lake. (The same would apply to ANY boat... No wake is NO WAKE!)

1. No Wake from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on weekends. Not only would it reduce the amount of waves on the lake during prime time and therefore improve safety, it would allow for people to plan accordingly if they want to participate or not.
2. Alternating No Wake in Upper and Lower Lake (Or other specific bays and areas) From Monday morning to Sunday evening have No Wake in either Upper or Lower lake. If you want to surf (Or drive your cruiser at full speed) you can do so in the weekly designated area.
3. Combination of both... allow for people to get out on the water before 9:00 AM (or Noon... the time isn't the issue) , get to their desired area (Wake or No Wake) as quickly or slowly as they wish, and then enjoy the day...After 6:00 PM they can once again migrate to Upper or Lower lake as they desire.

Thanks again for listening. Glad to spend more time with you if there is an opportunity to discuss further.

Best Regards,  
Jim

Jim Friedlander  
612-850-8166  
Jimfriedlander1@Gmail.com

I'd hazard a guess that there's no one who uses Lake Minnetonka who wants to do anything to hurt the lake. Moreover, I'd bet that no one would prefer impaired water to crystal-clear water; no one would prefer mats of invasive weeds, over native vegetation that's good for fish. I'm guessing that we're all pretty much of the same mind to start with: to take good care of Lake Minnetonka!

We also probably all know that one of the newest activities, wake-surfing, has some downsides, which have been in the news lately. Yep, if practiced under less than optimal conditions, wakes and bottom-scouring tend to do what we'd all prefer they not do. In addition, they can make kayaking and such—and even anchoring--downright dangerous. So I'm guessing that we are all grateful that the U of M research project is beginning to give us some guidance on how to minimize those downsides--by starting to quantify some remedies. Knowing these numbers should empower us all to have a better chance of not hurting the lake.

There appear to be two key remedies for wake-surfing's downsides: One, staying 600' or more away from shore<sup>1</sup>. And two, running in deeper water. Until the U completes research on bottom scouring, we can rely on other current research<sup>2</sup> that found that a little over 30' of depth may be sufficient to avoid the most harmful scouring of the lake bottom from wakesurf boats.

So. Here's an idea: How about the LMCD, under its *statutory responsibilities to promote the orderly utilization of the lake*, educate us all about where on Lake Minnetonka are the best areas for wake-surfing? For starters, just use lake depth maps to scale out those areas that may be deep enough, and far enough away from shore. Map them, like quiet waters are mapped now. Then put the map in the boating guide, post it at boat launches, put it into news releases. Etc. Maybe there's even an app that could help people to know those areas in real time, on their phones. With this help from LMCD, maybe there'd be enough self-sorting that takes place, such that few further steps would ever be necessary. Be a worthwhile experiment to run, in any case, wouldn't you think? Plus, this approach could also nicely serve the vision that the organization, Citizens for Sharing Lake Minnetonka, has for the lake.

This lake, in one way or another, is a sacred place to probably all of us, much as it was to the American natives that first found, and named, Lake Minnetonka. So I'm guessing that a strategy that keeps the lake in the best condition for all of us is going to be pretty darn popular.

Bottom line, encouraging the LMCD to take this kind of action, simply helping to educate us all, is going to be better than no action. So how about this simple mapping project for starters? As FDR used to say: "Try something. If it works, keep doing it; if it doesn't, try something else."

---

<sup>1</sup> While this does not fully operationalize the 'rules of the road' that (a) give a non-motorized watercraft right-of-way over a motor-powered watercraft except when it is the overtaking watercraft (MN rules, Chapter 6110), and that (b) motorized watercraft must keep a sufficient distance to avoid endangering other watercraft from its wake, a minimum 600' from shore rule would help to familiarize wake-surf boat operators with that distance they must stay away from not just shoreline, but non-motorized watercraft, anchored/rafted boats, etc, per DNR and other navigation rules. If this regimen proved unworkable, resorting to either time of day, or area/bay, zoning for less-compatible uses may be worth considering.

<sup>2</sup> *Analyzing Threats to Water Quality from Motorized Recreation On Payette Lake, ID*, Alex Ray, Colorado University, August 20,2020. The head researcher at the U of M St Anthony Falls Lab found the simulation models in this study to be scientifically sound.

## LMCD

---

**From:** scott@rutledgeconstruction.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 11:09 PM  
**To:** LMCD  
**Subject:** LMCD Wake Impact Listening Session

My name is Scott Rutledge and I am a lifelong resident of Minnetonka. I am writing you today to Urge the LMCD to maintain fair boating rights for ALL water sports enthusiasts on lake Minnetonka.

I have enjoyed water sports on lake Minnetonka with family and friends for over 45 years and our family has been wake surfing on the lake for the past 15 years. Wake Surfing is a safe low impact water sport that the whole family can enjoy young and old. And I strongly disagree with adding regulations and overburdensome directives that would limit this sport to large bodies of water. These parts of the lake are usually very choppy and heavily trafficked by fast moving boats which will make the sport much less enjoyable and much more dangerous. The smaller bays and bodies of the lake can often provide shelter from the winds and additional options of less traveled waters for a safer experience when in the water. I feel that the LMCD should fairly leave the lake open for all watersports enthusiasts to enjoy. Your added consideration for our family's safety and others who enjoy these sports with open access to our great lake would be very much appreciated.

I urge you to keep the conversation open and engage all stakeholders for their input, and to fairly consider all of the water sport enthusiasts who provide valuable funding and increased economic value to our lakes businesses and surrounding towns.

Thank you,

*Scott Rutledge*

*Rutledge Construction  
1409 South 7<sup>th</sup>. Street  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
W.952.935.5558  
C.612.804.5442*

**From:** [Walt Larson](#)  
**To:** [LMCD](#)  
**Subject:** Email news letter  
**Date:** Saturday, July 2, 2022 10:21:29 AM

---

I am concerned about wake surfing on Lake Minnetonka. Please keep me posted on any actions in this area via email.

I am on Jennings bay, we often have multiply wake surfers at once in the bay creating waves that make the entire bay unusable by anyone else.

I recommend that guidance be fostered that limited the number of boat doing this at one time on all dead end bays.

Walt Larson  
5135 Minneapolis Ave,  
Minnetrista MN 55364  
[WltLars@gmail.com](mailto:WltLars@gmail.com)  
612-910-0176