

From: Rick Atherton
To: Vickie Schleuning
Cc: Bendt BENDT John
Subject: Fwd: No-Wake Zone Distance From Shore
Date: Friday, June 3, 2022 9:41:27 AM

Good morning Vickie, as a reminder, you and I have met and discussed this issue in the past and in fact discussed you using my dock to observe wake surfing behavior on Gideons. The offer still stands, just let me know.

I wanted to include you on an email I just sent out to friends and neighbors to advise them of the upcoming meeting. Would you please include my email address on any notes the Lmcd puts out regarding this issue.

One issue I have not seen discussed is the amount of silt that is churned up by this wake surfing activity. Where the common docks have needed to dredge every 5-10 years before, it is now required every few years as the silt is pushed to shore. I actually have to take lake weeds back into the water to rid it of the amount of mud, otherwise they are too heavy to dispose of.

Also, we have not discussed the environmental impact of wake surfing. At a time of global warming and other recreation moving to clean energy like e-bikes and mountain biking this industry is taking an already highly inefficient gas guzzling machine and then driving it below planing speed, adding thousands of pounds of water to sink it further, adding wake gates, all to make it even more inefficient to produce ocean waves in a lake! It seems ludicrous to me that we embrace this activity while the world wrestles with trying to address climate change by switching to lower carbon activities. I imagine we can build a snow hill in the desert if we waste enough energy but that would be dumb, right?

Also, we need regulation, training is nice but as we all know, voluntary does not work if it is not in your personal interest. Examples include, only 5% of all plastic is recycled, even though we are well aware of the damage plastics do in the environment. Only 50% of boaters who trailer clean off their boats even though they know that this is what causes the transfer of invasive species. Folks do not even follow the 150 ft rule today, as the bay crowds, the boats operate closer and closer to shore. They know the rule but I hear, "well, there is no room out there, too many other surfers."

I plan to attend the meeting on June 8 but I'm not sure I'll get a chance to speak or have enough time to get my points in so wanted to share now with the Lmcd so you are aware that other issues besides what have been discussed exist.

I would ask that you please share this note with the Lmcd council members in advance.

Thank you

Rick Atherton
120 Gideons Pt rd

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: ratherton120@gmail.com

Date: June 2, 2022 at 7:48:03 PM CDT

To: Bill & Margaret Kanuit <nanakan40@gmail.com>, Bonnie Shapiro <bshapiro77@me.com>, Brett Pederson <bpederson83@gmail.com>, Carol Cole <ccole2012@me.com>, Cindy Lesage <c.lesage@mchsi.com>, Coleen May <colleen_may@cargill.com>, Danielle Nellis <danielleknellis@gmail.com>, Danna Atherton <datherton1@mchsi.com>, Dave Cole <dcole2010@live.com>, Dede Montgomery <ddlm198166@gmail.com>, Diane Liemandt <dliemandt@gmail.com>, Doff & Carey Lohernz <Ffodcbou@aol.com>, Eric Bakken <Eabakken@gmail.com>, Irene Tremblay <itremblay@vocera.com>, Jeff A Haan <jhaan@kpmg.com>, Jeff Dekko <jdekko@gmail.com>, Jeff May <jeffmay@gideonspoint.com>, John Skoglund <john.skoglund@myccmortgage.com>, Julie Jin <juliewongjin@gmail.com>, Larry Youngstedt <larry@youngstedts.com>, Liz Zuniga <the10030@hotmail.com>, Lorrie Hall <emailorrie@aol.com>, Mary Koenecke <marypk1414@gmail.com>, Mike Coughlin <mcoughlin6@gmail.com>, Mike Gorun <mgorun@performanceloyalty.com>, Mike Lesage <mlesage@proterrapartners.com>, Rick Atherton <ratherton1@mchsi.com>, Ron Reimann <ockhamraz@gmail.com>, Russ Hall <gofourlife@aol.com>, "Ryan M. Nellis" <ryannellis@gmail.com>, Scott Montgomery <sjmontgom@gmail.com>, Shannon Skoglund <shannonmskoglund@gmail.com>, Ted Koenecke <tedk1414@gmail.com>, Tom & Regina Hudson <tomreghud@aol.com>, Danna Atherton <danna.atherton01@gmail.com>, Torre Pederson <Torre.kastner@gmail.com>, Wendy Coughlin <wencoughlin@gmail.com>, Yan Jin <dr_jin@yahoo.com>, Mike Tamte <mike.tamte@evereve.com>, Megan Tamte <megan.tamte@evereve.com>, mike@aspennplantation.com, wardarmstrong@aol.com, kevindulin@msn.com, stevesbtriumph1@gmail.com, charliebennett117@gmail.com, jaginprinceton@gmail.com, Gigi Goldman <giannaint@gmail.com>, switzaaron@gmail.com, lesbork@msn.com, lbork@msn.com, Richard Atherton <ratherton@cvcap.com>, Kelsey Aden <kelsey.aden13@gmail.com>, alexhack10@gmail.com, Bryn Atherton <Atherton.bryn@gmail.com>, Neil Brown <nbrown912@gmail.com>, john.l.breon@ubs.com, ppprentice35@gmail.com, mikeleuer@moenleuer.com, leuerholly44@gmail.com, garaterry4@gmail.com, kajearmstrong@aol.com
Cc: "John G. Bendt BENDT" <johngbendt56@msn.com>, Rick Atherton <ratherton120@gmail.com>
Subject: FW: No-Wake Zone Distance From Shore

Dear Friends and Neighbors on the lake,

I want to make you aware of an upcoming meeting that will be conducted by the LMCD on the impact of Wake surfing waves on Lake Minnetonka

Wayzata City Hall

Community Room

June 8th

5:00-7:00 pm

John Bendt who heads up Citizens for sharing Lake Minnetonka (CSLM) will also be presenting as part of the meeting. I have included below a letter John sent to the LMCD to help educate council members including results of studies completed around the country as well as here at the University of Minnesota and actions taken to reduce damage by extending the distance from shore and docks that wake surfers can operate. Other states including Wisconsin counties have either banned wake surfing in less than 30 ft of water or extended the operating length to 700-1000 ft from shore. As the technology improves these boats can produce waves of up to 4 ft. in which the wave energy goes up exponentially.

Personally, we have experienced our rip rap become severely compromised while incurring damage to both our Skiff and jet ski platform. Other neighbors I have talked with have also incurred damage. I know the education program states "own your wake" but given the large number of boats operating in the bay at any one time, the density pushed the boats closer and closer to the docks.

I am not against wake surfing, I believe though from the studies and personal experience that wake surfing needs to be operated at least 700 ft from docks or shore and needs to be operated in depths greater than 30 ft which excludes the majority of Gideons Bay leaving only the east end. Currently with wake surfing boats operating in the bay at shallower depths, the sport is churning up the bottom and pushing the silt along with lake weeds into the shore creating the need to now dredge which is a very high cost. There is plenty of large lake area to accommodate this activity without interfering with other boating and water activities or doing damage to the environment.

The wake surfing association is trying to push for a 200 ft limit based on old "industry" studies. The current research disputes this, especially with the new technology increasing wave heights with wake gates and excessive weight loading.

So, if you agree and would like to see some regulation/discussion regarding this activity (distance from shore, depth, time of operation, noise level) I request that you attend the meeting to help the LMCD work to find an workable solution.

Please feel free to reach out to me or to John Bendt if we can answer any questions.

All the best,
Rick Atherton
Gideons Bay

From: John G. Bendt BENDT <johngbendt56@msn.com>

Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 12:47 PM

To: Rick Atherton <ratherton120@gmail.com>

Subject: Fw: No-Wake Zone Distance From Shore

John **om:** "John G. Bendt BENDT" <JOHNGBENDT56@msn.com>

Date: Friday, April 8, 2022 at 11:33 AM

To: Gregg Thomas <gthomas@lmcd.org>, "dbaasen@lmcd.org" <dbaasen@lmcd.org>, "ahoelscher@lmcd.org" <ahoelscher@lmcd.org>, "randerson@lmcd.org" <randerson@lmcd.org>, "bbrandt@lmcd.org" <bbrandt@lmcd.org>, "bcook@lmcd.org" <bcook@lmcd.org>, "mark@kroll.name" <mark@kroll.name>, "mkirkwood@lmcd.org" <mkirkwood@lmcd.org>, "dklohs@lmcd.org" <dklohs@lmcd.org>, "dnewell@lmcd.org" <dnewell@lmcd.org>, "dzorn@lmcd.org" <dzorn@lmcd.org>, "nstone@lmcd.org" <nstone@lmcd.org>, "jwalesch@lmcd.org" <jwalesch@lmcd.org>, "mchase@lmcd.org" <mchase@lmcd.org>

Cc: Vickie Schleuning <vschleuning@lmcd.org>, "eevenson@lmassociation.org" <eevenson@lmassociation.org>, Bret A Cline <bret.cline@hennepin.us>, "keithmenzel@gmail.com" <keithmenzel@gmail.com>, Jennifer Larson <jl Larson@vibrant.com>

Subject: No-Wake Zone Distance From Shore

Dear LMCD Board Directors;

WSIA continues to advocate a 200 ft no-wake setback from shore and docks for wakesurfing, based on their 2015 study

entitled, "Characterization of Wake-Sport Waves, And Their Potential Impact on Shorelines." I expect the boating industry and wakesurfing advocates will recommend 200 ft is the proper setback distance, when they have an opportunity to speak to you during your formal hearing process. I would like to offer the following thoughts for your consideration.

1. The purpose of a no-wake zone is the need to protect shorelines, docks, moored watercraft, swimmers, anglers, etc. from wave energy.
- 2.
3. The formula used in the St Anthony Falls Lab Study to calculate wave energy includes the following factors: **Water Density, Wave Height Squared, and Wave Length.** Clifford Goudey, the WSIA consultant, also used this formula in his calculations for the 2015 WISA Study.
- 4.
5. **Wave height** is the heaviest weighted factor in the formula, hence the WSIA consultant, Clifford Goudey, stated a good rule of thumb measure of wave energy is wave height squared.
- 6.
7. The following studies CSLM has read also calculated wave energy using the same formula.
 - Boat Wake Impacts - Lake Rabun & Lake Burton, Georgia by Water Environment Consultants, Mount Pleasant, S.C
 - Characteristics of Recreational Boat Wakes by Robert Shuster, A Thesis Submitted To University of Alabama.
 - Review of Boat Wake Waves Inmpacts On Shoreline Erosion, And Potential Soutlions For Chesapeak Bay, STAC. Review Report Fall 2016, Published in William & Mary Scholar Works.
 - A review of a report on the potential impact of intentional waves from power boats, as commissioned by the Water Sports Industry Association, and the WISA summary of that report. By Edward B. Swain, Ph.D, Independent Scientist, Ph.D in Ecology (University of Minnesota,1984) Published February 16, 2020.

The purpose of the above discussion is to demonstrate there is no scientific disagreement on how to calculate wave energy, and that wave height is the most significant factor in creating wave energy.

Given this fact, logic demands this conclusion: **The higher the wave, the more energy it contains. And the increase in energy is not linear.** For example, using the wave height squared rule of thumb, a 4 ft wave contains 4 times more energy than a 2 ft wave. (2 squared = 4) (4 squared = 16).

Question? How does the WSIA claim 200 ft is the correct setback from shore and docks for wakesurfing stand up to this logic? The wave height tested in their 2015 study was 27 inches, and today's wakesurf boats can create waves that are significantly higher. For example, a wave height of 39 inches generated by a Malibout MXZ was tested in the St Anthony Falls Lab Study. This wave has twice the energy of the 27inch wave according to the wave height squared rule of thumb method of calculating wave energy. So, is it logical to claim a wave with twice the wave energy will have the same impact on shore and docks at 200 ft as the lower energy wave?

The link below shows today's wakesurf boats are capable of creating waves in excess of 4 ft. Using the same rule of thumb, these waves pack four times more energy than the 27 inch wave tested in the WSIA 2015 study. The basis of competition for wakesurfing boats is the height and shape of the wave they create. This most likely will drive technology to create even bigger, more perfectly shaped waves in the future.

CSLM believes a logical conclusion is a 200 ft setback provides inadequate protection against wave energy for these size waves. The St Anthony Falls Lab research found the operational distance required by wakesurf boats to **attenuate their wave energy** to a non-wakesurf boat planning at an operational distance of 200 ft from shore was greater than 575 ft. The study also found a distance greater than 600 ft was required to **attenuate wakesurf boat's wave power.** We, therefore, conclude it is reasonable to prohibit wakesurfing within 700 ft from shore or docks and request LMCD pass an ordinance requiring this distance for the coming boating season.

Sincerely,
John

John G. Bendt
President, CSLM

<https://www.guinnpartners.com/boat-testing/>

[Boat Testing: Wave analysis and comparison for Malibu, Axis, Moomba, Mastercraft, Nautique](#)

From: [WILLIAM COOK](#)
To: [Vickie Schleuning](#)
Subject: Fw: LMCD Boat-Generated Waves Listening Session
Date: Saturday, June 4, 2022 4:06:57 PM
Attachments: [SAB Buoy Map with 150ft and 200ft lines from shore.pdf](#)

Please add this comment to your files and the public record.

From: Debra Kind <dkind100@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 12:43 PM
To: Bill Cook <billandtishcook@msn.com>
Subject: LMCD Boat-Generated Waves Listening Session

Bill —

As you know, the Greenwood city council has not taken a position regarding wake surfing, but I want to share my personal opinion with you as a resident ...

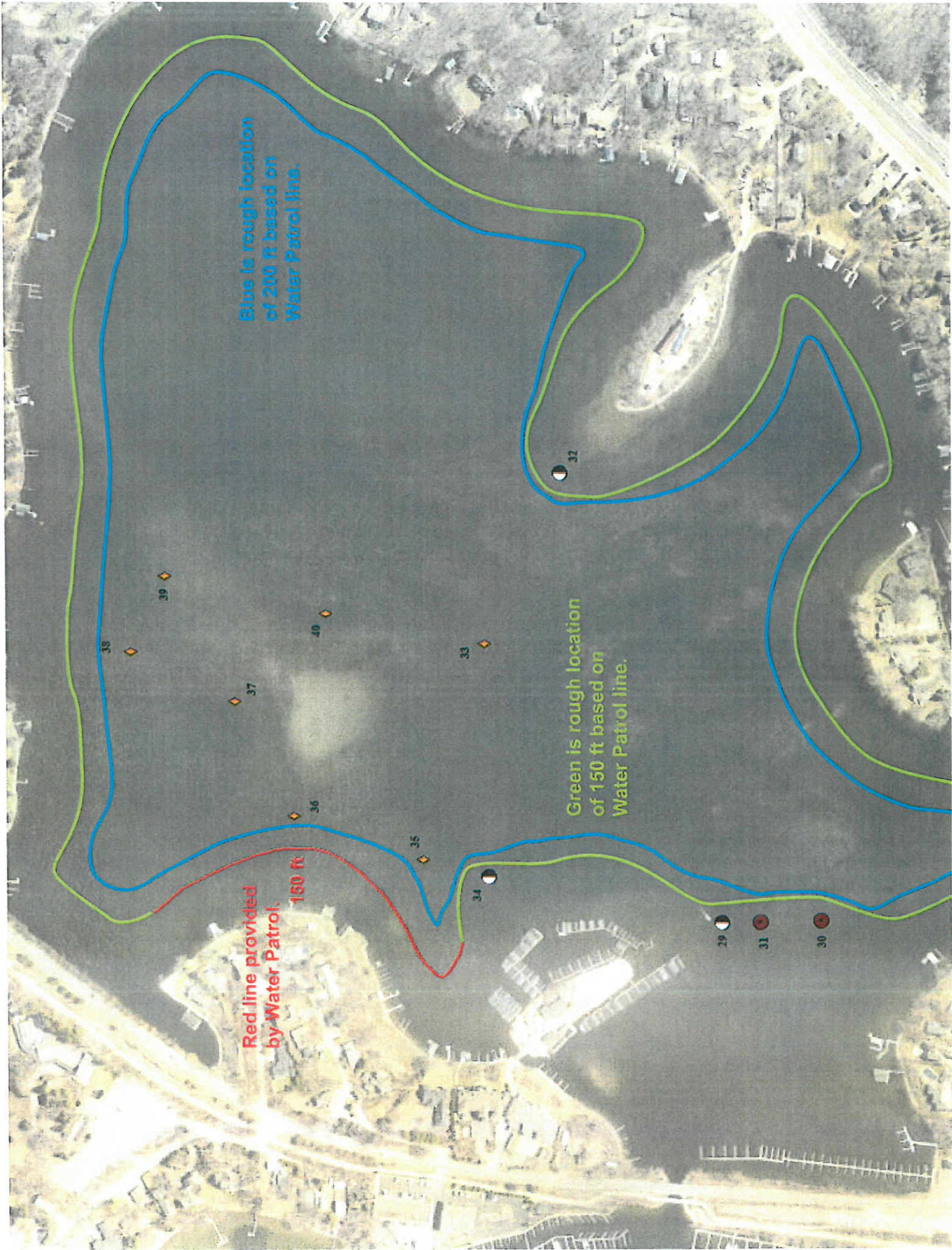
I support a 200 foot setback for wake surfing. In my opinion, anything beyond that would need to be supported by research proving wake surfing damages shorelines and / or the ecology of lakes. See the attached map for the rough location of the 150 ft line (current LMCD rule) and 200 ft line for St. Alban's Bay.

I also support keeping music at a reasonable level for all boats. The LMCD could set a maximum decibel level measured at the transom of the boat. There are decibel apps for phones that boat operators and the Water Patrol could use to measure music volume.

Thanks for serving on the LMCD!

— Deb

DEB KIND | 612.718.6753 | dkind100@me.com



Red line provided
by Water Patrol.

150 ft

Blue is rough location
of 200 ft based on
Water Patrol line.

Green is rough location
of 150 ft based on
Water Patrol line.

LMCD

From: Lynn Truesdell <ltrues8557@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:09 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake Boarding on Lake Minnetonka

To: The LMCD

From: **Lynn and Carol Truesdell**, lakeshore owners on Upper Lake, Lake Minnetonka at 5860 Hardscrabble Circle Minnetrista, MN 55364 (on Hardscrabble Point)

We wish to record our opposition and objection to any and all proposed LMCD regulations regarding wake boats or wake boarding on Lake Minnetonka. The wake boating and wake boarding that we have seen in our many years of lakeshore occupancy and ownership has been very responsible and not in need of formal regulation or control. We also own, and our family uses responsibly, a wake boat for family boating and occasionally for water skiing and wake boarding.

We note from the LMCD "principles" for its "process" that the focus of your study should be on the boating "activity" and "not the type of boat". We agree.

We also caution in this regard that limiting certain activities to some bays and/or to distances from shore greater than 200' will cause unsafe concentrations of use in severely restricted areas. Thank you for your efforts to maintain fair boating activities for **all** users of Lake Minnetonka.

Lynn and Carol Truesdell
Sent from my iPad
952-927-6874
952-472-1276 (Summer)

LMCD

From: Chris Massoll <chris.massoll@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:13 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Board Meeting - Wake Surfing

To whom it may concern,
I cannot make Wednesday (6/8) night's board meeting, where the Lake Minnetonka wake surfing topic will be discussed.

I would like to register my opinion on the topic.

- I do not support any additional regulations for any boats on Lake Minnetonka.
- I own a boat and regularly use it on Lake Minnetonka.
- We use our boat as a family recreation tool and enjoy getting together with our friends on the lake.
- We have had many run-ins with boats that produce large waves on Lake Minnetonka. In my experience, the boats that create the most disruptive boating experience are the large boats that throw off very large waves. In fact, one time a large boat cut in front of us while we were entering a channel and the wave they threw off actually came over our bow and partially flooded our boat.
- In 2020, several "Trump parades" were held on the lake. These parades were comprised of several large boats. These boats generated substantial waves and created very unsafe conditions for smaller watercraft.
- In the spirit of not discriminating people, I suggest that if wake boats are to be regulated on Lake Minnetonka based upon the size of the wave they create, we should also apply the same regulations to the large boats on Lake Minnetonka.

To be clear, I am not a proponent of any additional regulations for any boats on Lake Minnetonka.

It's important to remember that public lakes are like public parks. Public parks & lakes are to be available for use by all who wish to use the space (respectfully, of course).

--

Chris Massoll
612-860-6018

LMCD

From: Jason Pass <jcpass0923@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 12:51 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Fair Boating laws

In the world of cancel culture taking away a family orientated recreational sport that brings joy and unity would be a crime. In a world that has seen our youth crumble taking away another release for them like surfing and wakeboarding makes no sense.

I personally spend hours on the water with not only my kids but their friends creating life long memories. They always ask when they can go again. We respect and follow the boating laws and others on the lake unlike some of the jet skis, pontoons and fishing boats.

I ask that this topic be put to rest. If anything police the lakes for those breaking the law. There are laws in place to keep all on the lake safe. If everyone would follow them or if those that don't are punished then a lot of this noise would go away.

Thank you

Jason Pass

LMCD

From: WMS <tigewill@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 12:54 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake Surfing on Minnetonka

To Whom it may concern,

As an avid boater for more than 20 years, using Lake Minnetonka multiple times a year, a ban on Wake surfing is a ridiculous idea. If the intent is to placate owners who are complaining about shore erosion or other boaters in the area, then the solution should start with the **LARGEST** boats on the lake. There are literally thousands of boats in the Yacht class moored on the lake, weighing 10,000 pounds, drafting 3-4 feet or more and LOA's of 35+ feet.

The wake produced at even 15 miles an hour by yachts of this class can easily exceed 4-5 feet from the trough to the peak of the wave, and I can tell you, the behavior of many of these boat owners is horrible. Having a 21 foot wake boat with a freeboard of only 24 inches off the water, I have to dodge their wakes every time or risk being capsized.

On more than one occasion, including coming out of a no wake zone near the sailing club a 40 foot cruiser went to full throttle 50 feet away from me while we were going 5mph. There was no way I could get the bow of my boat up fast enough to avoid his wake and I took at least 100 gallons of water over the bow. did he stop? NO. This is a terrifying thing to happen to small boat owners and it happens multiple times a day on every weekend on that lake.

Blaming issues on wake boats and surfers is a joke.

THE BIGGEST wave these boats produce are maybe 3 feet from trough to peak and that's the 25foot wake with 3,000 of ballast on board. MOST wakeboats on Minnetonka are between 21-23 feet and weigh in fully loaded around 6-7,000 lbs.

Maximum speed surfing is 12 MPH and there's only one wave- not multiple rollers like the ones thrown from 35 plus foot-yacht-class boats.

Wake boats are a premium boat owned my people that use services on the lake including restaurants, marinas, and boat suppliers that help the economy.

If you're looking to restrict wakes, please look to limiting the days that a yacht class boat can use the lake- this would allow smaller boats to use the water farther from shore and eliminate any issues related to wakes/ erosion or just general irritation.

I personally only use Minnetonka during the week as the chaos on the weekends is too much to put my family through, dealing with too many large boats run by people with no appropriate training.

Mentioning training, most wake boarder/ surf boat owners are well versed in appropriate driving, managing distances from shore and protecting their riders first and foremost- this can't be said for larger boat owners in general who are usually cruising around "booze-cruising" and not paying attention to the waterways and their users.

Please think about your decision carefully.

Thank you,
Will Sigsbee
Tige 2100V Wakeboard boat owner since 2001.

LMCD

From: Marcel Schwendimann <ms@nucoatinc.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 1:08 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: NO to : Lake Minnetonka Considering Restrictions on Wake Surf Boats

Dear LMCD Team,

NO TO LAKE MTKA RESTRICTION ON WAKE SURF BOATS!

We own two properties on main Lake on Lake Minnetonka. We use the lake responsibly and very often from a 6 am morning ski run to a wake surf cruise or an evening dinner cruise. We purchased our properties on the lake because we love boating and we love water sports.

We see it every day that there are boaters out there which are **NON** Experienced drivers from small fishing boat captains to large 60 ft yacht captains, which some of them creating a lot of issues on the lake due to their lack of skills, experience and just ignoring the rules. Like on the roads the right way is to ticket those drivers, which aren't following the rules – that should be the approach as well on the lake and not restricting the time and day when a bad driver can go on the lake !

In addition, since we have purchased our home approximately 18 years ago, a significant amount of boat launching parking has been added to the lake. It is very obvious that this has made the lake much more crowded than it was 18 years ago. I'm told that this additional add on was calculated based on the total square yards of the entire lake including all bays. If there is now a suggestion to reduce the amount of usable space on the lake, I would believe it would be necessary for many reasons to re-evaluate the amount of lake access as well

best regards

Marcel & Jodi Schwendimann
1931 & 1937 Beach Lane
Minnetonka Beach MN 55391

ms@nucoatinc.com
612-501-8882

LMCD

From: Brian Rappl <brappl31@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 1:12 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wakesurfing on Lake Minnetonka

Hello,

I got word recently that there is a listening session in Wayzata about wakesurfing this week. Unfortunately I'll be out of town on business for the session but wanted to pass along my sentiments on the topic.

I got my start wakesurfing six years ago during a demo day with Minnetonka Inboard. I was immediately hooked as it was the most fun watersports activity I had ever taken part in (previously I was a skier and wakeboarder as well). At the time I didn't have the resources to do it regularly but went to a few more demo days and went along with friends who had access for the next few years.

Finally 18 months ago I bought the boat of my dreams - a malibu wakesetter - and got to enjoy last summer bringing the boat to the lake and enjoying time with friends hanging out and taking a number of wakesurfing runs. My skills are improving now that I have my own equipment and I love the activity. I have a number of friends who have sustained serious injuries wakeboarding and surfing is a much safer and gentler activity for us.

Six months ago my family and I bought a property on the lake and now love spending our time on the dock and on the water. I have taken a few inaugural runs and can't wait to continue to improve my skills and eventually get my young children hooked on the sport as well. Our house is in Cook's Bay and I can't wait to watch other wake surfers in competition right in our bay in late July. As a family we're always respectful of other boaters and the impact that our big wake can have on them and other spots on the lake.

We keep far away from the shoreline (plenty of spots in cook's bay to avoid any trouble) and keep a careful watch on others who are on the lake with us.

Wakesurfing is very important to me. I love the Lake Minnetonka body of water and owning a piece of shoreline has been a dream come true. I would be devastated if I could no longer partake in the activity while on the lake and think that you'll find that many others share the sentiment.

Best regards,

Brian Rappl

LMCD

From: Loran Hillesheim <LHillesheim@HGKCPA.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 9:28 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: LMCD Wake Impact Listening Session

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Lake Minnetonka Conservation District:

My name is Loran Hillesheim and I spend time on Lake Minnetonka boating and fishing. My daughter learned to wake surf on Lake Minnetonka and enjoyed it so much we purchased a wake surf boat. Now the whole family wake surfs and skis and loves spending time on the boat.

We support leaving Lake Minnetonka open for all boats and water sports. Please do not restrict Lake Minnetonka access for wake surfing boats with new regulations and restrictions.

Thank you,

Loran Hillesheim

LMCD

From: David Birkemeier <d.birkemeier@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 9:35 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake surfing on Lake Minnetonka

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my disagreement with the recent petition activity to limit/ban wake surfing on Lake Minnetonka. It seems more emotional than fact based.

I'm interested to see the hard data linking shore erosion/damage specifically caused by wakeboard boats. Given the number of other fast and large boats causing waves on the lake, it seems unfair to pin the perceived damage on one type of boat.

All boaters should be courteous and respectful to other watercraft, docks, and sensitive shoreline areas.

Please make a fair and balanced decision regarding this issue. I'd like to think there's a "middle ground" that's workable for residents and boaters.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

David Birkemeier

LMCD

From: Jacob Simms <jacob.simms@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 8:35 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Do Not Restrict Wake Surfing on Lake Minnetonka

LMCD,

I truly believe that there is no reason to limit wake surfing on Lake Minnetonka. Wake surfing is so much more than a sport or an activity, it is precious spent with family and friends. In the continuum of life, it is those memories and moments that matter the most. Do not take that away from you fellow Minnesotans.

Regards,
Jacob

LMCD

From: Tony Hill <tony.hill@jjflooring.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 1:38 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake surf

To whom it may concern

Couple questions/food for thought on the wake surf topic.....

If wake surf wakes are prohibited on lake Minnetonka what will be done about the even larger wakes from the gargantuan boats on the lake?

What unbiased data is provided that supports that a wake surf wave is any more "damaging" than any other wake from other boat traffic, especially larger vessels?

What data is provided that shows any wake at all is damaging when properly distanced from the shore?

Will be an interesting discussion, hopefully filled with actual studies and not just opinions.
Thank you

Sent from my iPhone



Tony Hill
Senior Sales Representative
o: 800.241.4586 x57948
m: +17636148896

An advertisement for J+J Flooring. It features a photograph of a long, brightly lit hallway with a patterned carpet. In the center of the image is a dark teal rectangular overlay with white text. The text reads: 'INTRODUCING Craftwork + Chromatics Modular + Broadloom'. Below this is a white button with the text 'ORDER A SAMPLE'. Underneath the button, it says 'or contact your sales rep to learn more'. At the bottom of the teal overlay, it says 'QUICK SHIP OPTIONS' in red text. The background image shows a hallway with several teal chairs and a desk on the left, and a white wall with a doorway on the right.

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LMCD

From: Jesse Botker <orthosportsdoc8@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 1:03 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake boat meeting

I am very disappointed to hear about the consideration of restrictions on wake boats on Lake Minnetonka. As a responsible wake boat owner for over a decade and an avid wake surfer I feel restricting one kind of boat is entirely uncalled for. A recent study showed minimal impact on shoreline beyond 200 feet compared to normal wind and other environmental factors. Small activist groups should not drive these considerations. Wake surfing has exploded in popularity as it is very low impact on your body and a relaxing way to enjoy the lake for the entire family. It can be enjoyed by five year olds to 85 plus year olds. There will be bad apples certainly, but I can tell you I have many friends who are all responsible when it comes to use of the lake and consideration of shoreline impact. I drive in the middle where water is deep which improves the quality of the wave, stay more than 200 feet from shoreline and keep moving to new spots. Compared to idiot drivers who are pulling tubers at high rates of speed weaving through bays and other boaters, jumping my waves behind the surfer I am pulling endangering that person, we all drive between 10.5-11.5 mph and maintain a straight line to maximize enjoyment of the surfer behind us. To single out one group over others is entirely uncalled for. I encourage you to forego any restrictions on its activity.

Sincerely,

Jesse Botker

Jesse Botker M.D., FAAOS

Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon and Sports Medicine Specialist

Team Physician MSU Mankato Athletics

Orthopaedic and Fracture Clinic

[1431 Premier Dr.](#)

[Mankato, MN 56001](#)

[Orthosportsdoc8@gmail.com](mailto:orthosportsdoc8@gmail.com)

<https://ofc-clinic.com/staff/jesse-c-botker-md/>

[763-442-7991](tel:763-442-7991) (c)

[507-386-6600](tel:507-386-6600) (w)



LMCD

From: Lisa Turner <blturner82@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 11:53 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: surf boat wakews

I live on a small lake and the wake from these boats seem to damage the shore line. Also our lake, which is less than 25' deep, has lost transparency from the prop wash. All other boats are adversely affected from the large wakes these boats make. Regulations need to change, as scientific evidence comes in, to mitigate the harm caused by these boats.

Bruce Turner

LMCD

From: Tom Schneider <tom.c.schneider@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 11:48 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Minnetonka Wake Restrictions

To whom it may concern,

In hearing about the potential restrictions being proposed on Lake Minnetonka regarding wake boats it concerned me greatly. Wake surfing is a fantastic activity I enjoy with my family and friends and do not agree with restricting the use of wake boats. With standard boating etiquette and respectful music volume levels in mind I see no issue with wake boats. If individuals are not following these basic rules, the issue is with the water patrol and not the type of boat. Any concerns over following these rules should be taken up with water patrol on an individual basis, not imposed across an entire type of boat.

Thank you,
Tom Schneider

LMCD

From: Jon Rausch/USA <Jon.Rausch@cushwake.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 11:19 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Rausch family Opposes wake surf restrictions

Dear LMCD.

The Rausch family very strongly opposes onerous wake surf restrictions on Lake Minnetonka. When considering please be thoughtful of all the business this drives around the lake and the fact that a lot of people are drawn to the lake because of wake surfing. There's a very short season for this activity (generally warm days June-August) which allows families and kids the opportunity for a low impact activity.

Thank you.

Jr

Jon Rausch
Executive Director
Brokerage Services

Direct: [+1 952 893 8251](tel:+19528938251)
Mobile: [+1 612 685 8288](tel:+16126858288)
Jon.rausch@cushwake.com

[3500 American Blvd W, Suite 200](#)
[Bloomington, MN 55431 | USA](#)

Sent from my iPhone

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LMCD

From: PAUL CLAIRE RUD <paulclairerud@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 10:57 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Destructive boats

Please do anything you can to get rid of these boats. Their owners have no concept to what their massive wakes do yo the lake and to other people trying to use the lake. I have a 23 foot Tritons which is a decent sized boat. I have almost been swamped by waves from a surf boat with water completely over our bow soaking every one on board. Not even sure the Captain of the surf boat had a clue that this had occurred! Please place the strictest limits you can!!

Sent from my iPhone

LMCD

From: Peter Gosz <peterjosephgosz@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 10:25 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake surfing

Good morning. No one activist should determine a lakes fate of enjoyment. Start ticketing the surfers that are breaking the current rules (laws). When one lives on a lake they have chosen to deal w noise, waves etc. don't scream and cry about it and "cancel" the rest of us.

Lastly, it would be interesting to find out if the ones complaining own a surf boat themselves.

--

Peter Gosz

LMCD

From: Joe Baker <jmblvre@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 10:11 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake surf agenda

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly oppose further restrictions on wakesurf style boats. I do agree with the current setback requirements of at least 200 feet from shore.

I understand there is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 8 at the Wayzata city hall. Please consider my comments on opposing further restrictions at the meeting.

Thanks,

Joe Baker

LMCD

From: Steve Lindholm <pslindholm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 2:32 PM
To: LMCD
Cc: Harley Feldman; Mary Jane
Subject: Wake surfing

Dear friends,

I am a resident of Excelsior and a wake boat owner. I am unable to attend Wednesdays meeting concerning a potential wake surfing ban.

I support responsible wake surfing to protect shoreline, wildlife and to ensure good etiquette toward others on the lake.

I am very concerned and oppose any potential banning of wake surfing on Minnetonka or any other Lake.

Wake surfing is one of the best ways to entertain kids in the summer that is good socially, good for exercise and general health and gets them outdoors. As a family we depend on it to keep the kids happy and healthy as well as a great way for them to get together with their friends in a controlled environment.

A small group of very vocal residents are opposed. In my opinion, the vast majority of wake surfers are responsible. Their recreational lives should not be regulated by banning this healthy activity.

Steve Lindholm

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

LMCD

From: walt gren <grentek@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 2:07 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: LMCD Wake Impact Listening Session >> Oppose Restrictions for Wake Surfing or Wake Surf Boats on lake Minnetonka

Hello Lake Minnetonka Conservation District,

I oppose restrictions for wake surfing or wake surf boats on lake Minnetonka or other recreational Minnesota Lakes. I support the WSIA, Wake Responsibility Campaign, with 200-foot setbacks for wake surfing, keeping music at reasonable levels, and minimizing repetitive passes while wake surfing.

Thank you for taking my feedback into consideration for your upcoming LMCD Wake Impact Listening Session on June 8th or future debates.

Walt Gren

763.226.7094

LMCD

From: Ice, Pete <peteice@edinarealty.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 10:30 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake boats can share our lake.

Im ok with them. In most cases they're not a problem. I think with some rules they can be allowed. I see way more issues with 30ft+ wakes from the big boats.

Pete, Wayzata

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LMCD

From: Chris Erhart <cerhart@theimagegroup.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 8:18 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake surfing restrictions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good evening,

The Erharts very strongly opposes onerous wake surf restrictions on Lake Minnetonka. When considering please be thoughtful of all the business this drives around the lake and the fact that a lot of people are drawn to the lake because of wake surfing. There's a very short season for this activity (generally warm days June-August) which allows families and kids the opportunity for a low impact activity.

Chris Erhart
Imagine | Account Executive
M: 612.384.8666

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LMCD

From: Chris Manlove <cwmanlove@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 4:34 PM
To: LMCD
Cc: birdmanlove@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Manlove Family Opposes Wake Surf Restrictions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear LMCD,

The Manlove family very strongly opposes onerous wake surf restrictions on Lake Minnetonka. When considering please be thoughtful of this family friendly water sports activity on the lake and the business it drives on and around the lake.

The largest and most detrimental waves we regularly see on the lake come from the large boats that are 35' and longer. Their wake impact is much more substantial and can be down right dangerous. This group of boats has a much larger wake impact on residents, shoreline, and users of the lake.

Thanks,

Whitey Manlove

Christopher Manlove
19675 Silver Lake Trail
Excelsior, MN 55331

612-964-2427 (Cell)
cwmanlove@gmail.com

LMCD

From: Bill Gust <billgust@toadad.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 2:48 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Fwd: Lake Minnetonka Considering Restrictions on Wake Surf Boats

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I live on lake Minnetonka and have a wakeboard/wakesurf boat; while I do not wakesurf, I do wakeboard.

My questions/comments related to this meeting are below:

1. What is the basis for restricting these boats?

a. Are associations worried about shoreline erosion?

b/c if that we're the case I would think you'd then have to look at all types of boats on Minnetonka and start restricting sizes and motors (ie. The 40' twins out there generating 4' wakes).

b. Is it the noise of these boats?

If so that's controllable and there's already ordinances in place, but perhaps more training is needed.

c. Is it the often unsafe operations of these boats (lots of teenagers are out there in their parent's boats and do not know how to drive, have not been trained, and frankly are at times unsafe mainly by surfing in too-congested areas, and/or in bays where it's too narrow to support set back?

If so this can be managed by requiring boating licenses and safety classes for those, say...under 30 and for anyone who doesn't actually own the boat (ie. They're renting or harrowing therefore don't have the experience).

Other examples are out there, but again, I think the root question is what is the basis/reason they want them restricted?

Thanks,

Bill Gust
713-907-6432

Begin forwarded message:

From: Minnesota Inboard Water Sports <adamf@mminboard.com>
Date: June 4, 2022 at 10:00:28 AM CDT
To: BILLGUST@toadad.com
Subject: Lake Minnetonka Considering Restrictions on Wake Surf Boats - IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED
Reply-To: Minnesota Inboard Water Sports <adamf@mminboard.com>

Lake Minnetonka Considering Restrictions on Wake Surf Boats

Good Morning All,

We want to make you all aware of some very concerning developments we're seeing in the efforts to restrict and regulate the use of wake surf boats and wake surfing on Minnesota Lakes. As you are all probably aware, there have been some small activist groups that have popped up over the last few years working to restrict and regulate use of wake surf boats on Minnesota Lakes. Much of this is happening at the local Lake Association level, and many times, we find homeowners are unaware and surprised to find their Lake Associations are indulging these efforts to restrict their use of the lake. These activist efforts are getting serious for Lake Minnetonka, as the LMCD, who governs Lake Minnetonka, has decided to take up the issue of evaluating restricting and regulating wake surfing, after Boater Safety legislation recently failed in the MN State Legislature. While we support what many Lake Associations, including the LMCD, do to help with buoys, docks, AIS, boater education, Water Patrol, and other environmental matters to help preserve and protect our lakes, many are leaning into uncharted territory entertaining these new 'anti-wake' agendas. We do not support Lake Associations creating onerous restrictions on wake surfing and the use of wake surf boats on Minnesota Lakes. We strongly support the WSIA, Wake Responsibility Campaign, with 200 foot setbacks for wake surfing, keeping music at reasonable levels, and minimizing repetitive passes while wake surfing.

While many of you don't use Lake Minnetonka, this still VERY MUCH affects you. If the LMCD, governing Lake Minnetonka, is able to create restrictions and regulations around the use of Wake Surf Boats, other smaller Lake Associations will use this as a basis for enacting their own restrictions. On many lakes, should an onerous setback back be adopted for wake surfing, it could effectively ban wake surfing on many smaller lakes that

couldn't meet setback requirements.

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) **will be holding a public listening session on wakes/wake surfing next Wednesday, June 8th from 5:00PM – 7:00PM** at Wayzata City Hall. Full details are in this document from the LMCD outlining the meeting. We apologize for the short notice but only found out about this a couple of days ago, while details were still developing. We wanted to make sure we were getting you the most accurate information. You can find more information on the LMCD by going to their website <https://lmcd.org/>. Lake Minnetonka municipalities each have a representative sitting on the LMCD Board, each appointed by the respective city's City Council. You can find your city's respective representative here <https://lmcd.org/about/our-team/>.

It is imperative that we work as a community to make sure our voices are respectfully heard, and we are represented in this conversation. The LMCD has not stated a clear goal for the listening session – but has indicated that the session will cover wake surfing and wakes (could expand to other boats). The LMCD has authority to make regulations, so we must be vigilant in preventing egregious and onerous setbacks for wake surfing or wake boats that could be suggested by opponents.

We strongly urge you to attend this meeting to show that while a small anti-wake surf activist minority is making a lot of noise, reasonable stakeholders do not support onerous restrictions and regulations for wake surfing or wake surf boats on our Minnesota Lakes. If you are unable to attend the meeting on Wednesday, June 8th, written comments can be submitted to the LMCD Office at lmcd@lmcd.org.

LMCD Wake Impact Listening Session

Date: Wednesday June 08

Time: 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Location: Wayzata City Hall

Address: 600 Rice Street E, MN 55391

Format: Boating industry will have ~10-15 minutes to present; same with Citizens for Sharing Lake Minnetonka; then it will be public testimony (time limit – likely 3 min per speaker; alternating support/opposition of surfing restrictions).

Media: Open – likely news coverage

- Only 100 people will be able to attend inside the meeting hall per fire code, the rest will need to remain outside

If you cannot attend the meeting in person, written comments should be sent to the LMCD Office at lmcd@lmcd.org or by mail at LMCD, 5341 Maywood Rd, Suite 200, Mound MN 55364.

We appreciate your support as we all work together to respectfully fight this anti-wake surf sentiment that seems to be infiltrating our lakes. Every voice counts when it comes to protecting boating access, and we need boaters and families just like you to come out and support our message.

Please visit the Boating United webpage

<https://www.boatingunited.org/lmcd-listening-session/> to learn more about how you can protect wake boats and wake surfing on Lake Minnetonka. Here, you'll also find a PETITION to the LMCD. We encourage you to sign this and share with your friends who boat and surf on Lake Minnetonka.

We will continue to keep you informed as we learn new information.

We appreciate your trust in MN Inboard to serve your family's boating needs!

The Minnesota Inboard Family



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You are receiving this email for you our in my outlook contacts.

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Minnesota Inboard Water Sports

720 Galpin Lake Road

Excelsior, MN 55331

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LMCD

From: P OK <pokeefe314@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 12:29 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: LMCD Wake Impact Listening Session

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The people calling for these bans are the same people that dislike jet skis, speed boats, large boats, water skiers etc. They are calling for these bans under the guise of shoreline erosion etc. They are the same people that want to ban activities they don't participate in or do not like.

Reality is that many boats create waves equal to or larger than surf boats. Surf boats are 20-25 feet long. They have ballast to increase weight to "enhance" the wave. They have the ability to shape the wave.

- The waves are not any larger than any boat larger than 25 feet. Any cabin cruiser will create huge waves

- Any boat 23 feet or larger, such as a Cobalt or Chaparral bowrider, where the operator cruises the shoreline at 1/4 throttle creates a large wave similar to a surf wave

- I used to water ski. Once towables came along I had to water ski early in the morning or late at night because the boats with towables drive in circles for hours on end creating waves. Were they banned? Are they allowed to tow only between certain hours? No. I figured out how to coexist.

Are you going to limit or ban jet skiers? Boats >25 feet? Speed boats with above water exhaust that are loud? People driving their boats at 1/4 throttle and not attempting to plane the boat out? Boats going over a certain speed?

Every boater needs etiquette, understand safe operation of their boat and be courteous and aware of other boaters and lake shore owners. Singling out and banning or limiting/regulating any one group over another is wrong.

Patrick O'Keefe

LMCD

From: Brett Sanford <brettasanford@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 10:40 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: wakes/wake surfing Discussion

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Brett Sanford and I wanted to reach out to communicate that I am **against** additional regulations against surf boats and/or larger boats that create larger waves. Have been boating on Lake Minnetonka for 30 years. A lot of family memories.

Thanks,

Brett

LMCD

From: Skeeter Rose <skeeter0729@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 5:03 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wakesurfing

Hello

I heard you guys are trying to ban Wakesurfing. Wakesurfing is a sport I love. It has a awesome community and it's like my second family. Please do not ban wakesurfing. I love the sport and spending time on the water.

Sincerely,
Skeeter Rose

Sent from my iPhone

LMCD

From: Randy Schoephoerster <randy.schoephoerster@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 3:37 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Surf boat regulations depress lakeshore values

When we were looking for a house on the lake, there was a beautiful house and level lake lot that checked off all our check boxes except one. The lake had restrictions on waterskiing before noon and after 6pm.

We wondered why the cabin was so cheap and still on the market. When we looked at comparables, all the cabins went cheap. The real estate agent said no one wants a cabin/house on this lake because of the water restrictions.

I strongly oppose any non safety related regulations that brings down the property values.

Regards,

Randy Schoephoerster

LMCD

From: Chad Olinger <ccolinger@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 3:23 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wakesurf restrictions.

Dear lmcd,

I am a resident of Minnetrista with property on Lake Minnetonka. I am in opposition to further restrictions on wake surf boats specifically and on changing wake restrictions. There are many watercraft in my bay (Jennings) which create similar or larger wakes than wake surfing boats. The lake is full of boats that create wakes as large when driving at certain speeds esp when leaving docs within 200 feet of shore or returning. The current restrictions allow boaters of all types to enjoy our public lakes. It would seem discriminatory to single out a type of boat in particular. In addition many homeowners have large watercraft that create similar wakes and frequently already violate the current rules. I would encourage you to spend your time and resource more on preserving our native habitat, eliminating exotic species, and looking at ways to be more inclusive of the community rather than singling out and limiting members of our lake community. Beyond this further action would have a profoundly negative economic impact on our community and it's businesses by reducing the diversity of its patrons.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Chad Olinger
1330 Morningview drive
Minnetrista mn 55364
(515)865-8881

Sent from my iPhone

LMCD

From: Tad Weiss <tadweiss@modusadvisors.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 12:17 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wakesurfing boats

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing in support of the sport of wakesurfing. I live on a small lake in Victoria and there are two surf boats on the lake. We have surfed and co-existed peacefully with our neighbors on the lake for 8 years and I see no reason why this can't be the same on Lake Minnetonka.

Our lake is used for many summer activities including skiing, fishing, swimming, jet skiing, pontoon rides, kayaking, and wake surfing. Everyone respects the other person's desire to do different things and this should be no different on Lake Minnetonka, as long as it is done reasonably and with respect towards others.

Sincerely,

Tad M. Weiss
7400 Rolling Acres Road
Excelsior, MN 55331

LMCD

From: Michael Johnshoy <michael.johnshoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 12:17 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Restrictions on Wake Surf Boats

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear LMCD - I find the news of restricting any type of boating on Lake Minnetonka alarming. Although I have owned a wake surf boat in the past and I am considering it again, limiting the types of boats on Lake Minnetonka or any lake is flat out discrimination. I understand that if wake surf boats are not following lake specific or federal or state laws, they should be held accountable for any misuse. However, to out right exclude any type of boat is discriminatory.

Again, I thoroughly disapprove of any restriction of any boat on any lake as long as they are following the local, state and federal laws.

I occasionally use Lake Minnetonka for fishing and recreational use and it would be upsetting if any boats were excluded.

Sincerely,

Mike Johnshoy
763-370-9453
michael.johnshoy@gmail.com

LMCD

From: Kevin Mach <machkm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 12:08 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Lake Minnetonka Considering Restrictions on Wake Surf Boats

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I strongly oppose any restrictions regarding Wake Surf Boats on Lake Minnetonka. I live on the lake, I believe there is a MUCH smaller group of people who oppose Surf Boats than those in favor. It's an activity that people and families of all ages enjoy.

Thanks
Kevin Mach
2043 Lakeside Lane
Mound, MN 55364

LMCD

From: Jon Goode <jongoode1112@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 11:29 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wakesurfing meeting.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Although I will not be able to attend this Wednesday's upcoming meeting, I assure you I am passionate about the subject matter. I have been wake surfing since I was 55 and I am now 67 years old. I've been living on lake Minnetonka since 1990 and have skied and wakeBOARDED every summer prior to the creation of wakeSURFING. I am a responsible boater and received my boating safety certification years ago. I am against instating any harsh restrictions against the sport but am totally in agreement with distancing laws and noise ordinances, especially the latter! The tower speakers on my boat have never been used because I am sensitive to annoying other boaters and homeowners that can hear the music whenever your facing the stern of the offending craft. Early morning restrictions would allow kayakers and paddleboarders the opportunity to enjoy their recreation without the large waves but scheduling times for surfing boats would be a total disaster and cause a highly dangerous situation. My bay, Harrison's, has at least 15 to 20 boats that would all be vying for space and arguments would obviously insue, with the potential for serious accidents.

Thank you,

Responsible boat operator, wakesurfer, and decades long Lake Minnetonka homeowner.

LMCD

From: Cole Mecray <cole@hexclad.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 4:32 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: New resident, avid wake surfer

To whom it may concern,

I'm an avid wake surfer who recently purchased a 4,750,000 home on lake Minnetonka. I purchased a home here rather than lake coeur d'Alene or many other options because I love Minnesota, it's people and it's lakes. Any additional restrictions on wake surfing would certainly drive me out the state as well as some of my neighbors. These are high net worth individuals who have many lakes to choose from. We are happy to contribute our tax dollars to Minnesota, but not with additional wake surfing restrictions. I strongly urge no changes made.

Cole Mecray
6272 Smithtown rd
Excelsior, MN 55331

--

Cole Mecray
COO, HexClad Cookware
Web: www.hexclad.com
Cell/WhatsApp: 310.779.4696
WeChat ID: ostmcole



LMCD

From: Jake X Petersen <jake@golfthejake.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 4:21 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: LMCD Wake Impact Listening Session - Please do not impose more restrictions and regulations around the use of wake surf boats.

I'm writing in opposition to restricting and/or prohibiting wake surfing on Lake Minnetonka and other area lakes. I have found that wake surfing is a wonderful activity for people of all ages to enjoy. The slow speed makes it safer from injuries and I think navigating around the lake as well. In contrast, if you have multiple boats pulling tubes, wakeboarder, and skiers at 20-35mph (versus 10mph with wake surfing), it can quickly eat up space on the lake and leads to potentially more incidents.

As for larger waves being created, I think most surfers try to stay in the deeper water because it just works better. If a dock is so low to the water that a wave might wash up over the top of it, it should probably be raised up a bit to eliminate the issue. For waves hitting the shore, the rip rap seems to handle waves of all sizes and I haven't found it to be an issue.

I'm a boat owner, a lake home owner, fisherman, and a watersports enthusiast writing in the hopes that you do not impose additional restrictions and regulations around the use of Wake Surf Boats on Lake Minnetonka or any of the other Minnesota lakes. Please don't let the voices of a small few, limit the enjoyment of the majority of lake users.

Jake X. Petersen
Chanhassen Resident
952.738.2551

LMCD

From: Peni Gensler <penigensler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 9:03 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wakeboard boat

I would sure love it if the wakeboard boats could be 500 feet from shore, of course primarily when their ballasts are full and they are going fast.

The waves just fly onto our shoreline. In 2018, on our 22 foot boat in our Gideons Bay, we went over a wakeboard wake and it broke my back.

Thank you.

Peni Gensler
185 Woodpecker Ridge Road
Tonka Bay. 55331

LMCD

From: Anthony Grobel <tsgrobs@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 5:52 PM
To: LMCD
Cc: Joe Gunter; Sarah Pudding Pants
Subject: Wake Boarding and Wake Surfing Minnesota Lakes

Dear Board,

I'm a new Wakesurf boat owner as of last year but I've been a boater all my life. We occasionally boat on the weekend but primarily on weekdays for safety due to the congestion on the lake.

My family enjoys being active on the lake which include both wakeboarding and wakesurfing. We are fully aware many others enjoy the lake as well, the fisherman deserve a quiet distance and sailors the right of way. In addition we obey the the existing rules maintaining more than the required distance from dock and shoreline for the homeowners. Keeping the distance from docks allows the wave to dissipate and prevent wear and tear on homeowners property.

If music is played, it is suitable level and content for my 54 year old ears. These boats are quite expensive and too expensive to unleash my 16 or 20 year olds on their own in the boat.

The political environment in this country seems to whipsaw from one extreme to another. I hope this board has the wisdom to not overreact and make reasonable measures where we can all enjoy the lake over our very short summer season.

Thank you,

Tony Grobel
612-730-7878

Sent from my iPhone

LMCD

From: Steve Nemeth <cptcotton@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 5:45 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wakesurfing MN

In 2004 we purchased a boat specifically designed for wakeboarding and waterskiing. We did this to enhance our family experiences together. We used it on Deer Lake, Itasca County. After a couple of knee operations we converted to Wakesurfing. It is a very low impact and easy sport for all ages to enjoy. I'm 63 and have been out twice so far this year. In the 18 seasons since we first started, we have learned to respect the other residents of the lake as well as other boaters. We do put out a rather large wake, pushing 3 feet at times while moving around 10mph. We quickly learned to move out towards the middle of the lake and to keep moving as to not make a nuisance of our activity. Much like the boom in jet ski popularity in the 80s, there is a learning curve for all. Education first before over reaction. I'm proud to say we were among the first to Wakesurf Minnesota. Please do not take this away.

V/R
Steve Nemeth
38763 Oklahoma Hill Road
Deer River, MN 56636
2183497374

Sent from my iPad

LMCD

From: Ryan Miller <ryanmitchellmiller@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 5:13 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake surf ban

If you ban wake boats your going to kill all the local Buisness's that cater to them
Marinas, bars, gas stations, Minnesota inboard
Just to name a few
Who wants to go to tonka if you can't surf
Also you really think that boats can produce more erosion than the constant wind we have here.
Bad move if you ban them
Ryan miller
6129406715

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

LMCD

From: les martin <lespinemartin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:55 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Restrictions on Wake Board Boats

If I invented a fun game that did irreparable damage to wake board boats when not played correctly, the owners would justifiably be upset and the game would be banned. But wake board boat owners seem to think their fun new game should be allowed even though it can do irreparable damage to lakes and property if the boats aren't used correctly. Restrictions on use based on 300 ft. distance from docks, proximity of other boats and even maybe a complete ban. Wake Board boats do damage and the culprits usually aren't caught. Maybe make them have a transponder which automatically notifies enforcement when they violate rules. Then you could catch the offenders.

Les Martin
33890 449th PI
Aitkin, MN 56431

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

LMCD

From: Johnson, Jim S. <Jim.Johnson@ExpressPros.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 3:55 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake Surfing

I am very disappointed to hear that potential restrictions are being debated regarding wake surfing activity on Lake Minnetonka.

My family and I are new owners of a surf boat and have never enjoyed our family together-time more than surfing together on the lake.

Please do not put needless restrictions in place.

Thanks,
Jim

Jim S. Johnson, CSP | Franchise Owner | Regional Franchise Developer
5151 Edina Industrial Blvd. | Suite 100 | Edina, MN 55439
952.915.2009



LMCD

From: Chad Beckius <cbeckius@crenlo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 3:50 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Lake Minnetonka Considering Restrictions on Wake Surf Boats

Please do NOT consider imposing lake restrictions on Lake Minnetonka. Most of us are families just trying to have fun on the lake with all sorts of watersports activities.

Yes I do own a Malibu surf boat, and yes we do far more than just surfing on the lake.

LMCD

From: LMCD Website Form <lmcd@lmcd.org>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 3:23 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Contact Us

Name

Steven Blandino

Email

trgsteve@gmail.com

Phone

(952) 500-8385

Address

5209 Sequoia Dr
Minnetonka, MN 55345
United States
[Map It](#)

Question or Comment

I plan on being present at the meeting this Wednesday evening. Assuming there will be a large presence, I hope to send a quick message to the board for consideration. My hope is that the board does NOT rule in favor of more restrictions focusing directly on the wakeboard/surf boats. I am a 50 year old boater, paddleboarder, skier, and boarder for decades. We will be purchasing a lake home on Minnetonka later this year. We love the lake and all it offers. I have been exclusively on Minnetonka for over 15 years. I strongly support the WSIA, Wake Responsibility Campaign, with 200 foot setbacks for wake surfing, keeping music at reasonable levels, and minimizing repetitive passes while wake surfing, rather than new rules. There are numerous boats in the 25-50+' category on this lake that produce far larger/dangerous waves even my 23' wakesetter struggles to handle. Enforcement of current rules in place will allow Minnetonka to remain a safe and enjoyable lake for all. Please do not take away our family summer passtime.

From: Todd Erickson <todderickson33@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 3:35 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: LMCD Wake Impact Listening Session

Hello. I'm writing these comments as I will not be able to attend the LMCD boat wake listening session on June 8, 2022.

First, thank you for approaching this issue. It is an emotional and potentially divisive issue but needs to be addressed. I hope that those presenting at the hearing session speak respectfully and with facts or personal experiences in hand.

I live in Shorewood (6030 Ridge Road) but not on Lake Minnetonka. I live on Christmas Lake though, and see an increasing number of larger and more powerful boats using Christmas Lake, and many by people who have very little idea of how to drive a boat, the impact their boat and its wake has on other users of the lake, the shoreline and lake bottom, or on lakeshore improvements. I would imagine the same is true of Lake Minnetonka.

Here are my main comments.

1. Be Guided by Good Science

Any regulation of boats that intentionally creating large wakes should be based as much as possible on science. The UofM St. Anthony Falls Hydrology Lab's study, published in the fall of 2021, is probably the best science so far on this issue. The same lab will hopefully be continuing its study of boat wakes and the impact of propeller thrust on lake bottoms this boating season. I know you are aware of this study, and its conclusion that for wakesurf boat wakes to have the same impact on shore as more typical boats the wakesurf boat needs to operate at a distance of greater than 500 feet from shore. Many say 500 feet. That is not what the study says. It says greater than 500 feet.

2. Avoid Bad "Science"

Some may say that 200' is sufficient. To the extent they base this number on science, they are referring to a discredited 2015 "study" (to be generous) in Florida which was funded, designed and promoted by the Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA). They have not released their procedures, work product or underlying data. The "study" was not peer reviewed. It therefore cannot withstand any scrutiny. I also know from personal experience that wakesurf boats 200' from shore produce waves that run over the top of my dock. I have never seen another boat do that on my dock.

3. Multiple Passes

I agree with the idea that a boat producing large waves should not make multiple passes in front of the same shoreline. In smaller bays and lakes however we see one boat taking several passes, shortly followed by another. So this guidance may help, but on busy days does not always result in the shoreline getting a rest.

4. Lake Wakes Consume Can Consume a Bay or Lake to the Exclusion of Others

Boats producing large wakes tend to consume a huge area of water. On Christmas Lake, and I imagine on bays on Lake Minnetonka, when a wakesurf boat comes out, SUP paddlers, water skiers and others leave the lake, and fishing boats get tossed about. These huge waves are, simply, incompatible with nearly every other use of the lake, no matter how courteous or responsible the driver. I don't think wakesurf boat operators understand this. The only way for boats producing huge wakes to share a relatively smaller body of water (yet one which allows them to remain a significant distance from shore) may be for them to have limited operational hours.

5. Wakesurfing Does Not Enjoy Majority Appeal

I have seen a recent appeal from a nearby boat dealer that talks about those that don't support wakesurfing as a "minority" and those that oppose unrestricted wakesurfing as a minority of "activists." The activist label is a bit of demagoguery, which is unfortunate, but it and the "minority" label are also just not true. Wakesurf boats are no doubt becoming more and more popular, but in talking with those that use lakes, just about anyone who doesn't own and operate a wakesurf boat thinks they need to be regulated to minimize damage to our lakes and lakeshores, and to allow others to use our lakes as well. Let's call these "traditional" lake users and lakeshore owners. No matter how you do the counting, these traditional users and lakeshore owners far outnumber wakesurf boat owners and users. The Minnesota DNR sells about 1 million fishing licenses a year. A few fishermen may also own wakesurf boats. But ask any other fisherman about boats throwing up huge wakes for hours on end and I think you'll find few supporters. Wakesurfers are the minority, and at \$150,000 plus for a wakesurf boat, they always will be.

6. Safety on the Water

I'm also concerned about safety with wakesurf boats. They operate in a very "bow up" plowing position so it is more difficult for the driver to see forward of the boat. And everyone in the boats is having fun and looking back and talking with the surfer, oftentimes including the driver. Two summers ago on Christmas Lake we had a wakeboard boat in such a position with the driver paying inadequate attention to where they were going and they ran right over a tandem kayak. Luckily the couple in the kayak were not seriously hurt as they dove out of the kayak just before the boat hit. Their kayak was seriously damaged. Wakesurf drivers need to know not only what their wake is doing and how far they are from shore, but know at all times what is in front of them.

Thank you for holding this listening session and for considering my comments.

Kind regards,
Todd Erickson
6030 Ridge Road
Shorewood MN 55331

LMCD

From: Pamela Dahm <pamela_dahm@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 10:37 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake Surf Boating

I wanted to give some thoughts on the surf boat issues. I am a lakeshore owner and I support responsible wake surfing. I don't know how you can discriminate against these types of boats but yet not against larger boats that throw out bigger wakes than surf boats. Wake surfing is a family friendly activity. I don't own a boat of this type however, many lake shore owners have made a considerable investment in their surf boats. We pay high taxes to have the privilege of living on the lake and using it. There should not be discrimination. Anyone who moves to Lake Minnetonka knows that this is the largest recreational lake in the Twin Cities and what type of activities take place. If everyone follows the rules and maintains a proper distance from shore and other boats I don't see an issue. I know there are some homeowners who are concerned about erosion on the shoreline but I feel that is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain their shoreline properly to combat erosion. Surf boats are not the only cause.
Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Pam Dahm

Sent from my iPhone

LMCD

From: Maggy Prochnow <mkpro21@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 8:16 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wave restrictions

Hello,

On behalf of all Wakesurfing and water sports activist I truly feel that these potential laws being put in place for wakesurf boats should be carefully considered. I also think that if laws are put in place for Wakesurf boats, there should be a cap on the size of boats allowed on lake Minnetonka.

Thank you,
Maggy Prochnow

LMCD

From: Erik Saari <driven_esaari@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 9:02 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: LMCD Wake Boat Listening Session - Boater input

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello, LMCD members. My name is Erik Saari and I own a wake surfing boat.

I ask that you conduct thorough analysis and engage all stakeholders before enacting any rules or regulations for Lake Minnetonka.

I do support set backs from shore to minimize erosion and/or dock/structure damage, but more studies would need to be performed to determine what the appropriate distance from shore would be when actively surfing behind a boat.

I also support educating surf boat operators (not just the owners) about the wakes their boats create and possible impacts of them. This includes keeping music volumes to reasonable levels as well. I'm actually in support of a "tow sports operators permit" in which the operator would need to undergo extensive training about operation and safety aspects of towed water sports of all kinds.

Summer is short in Minnesota and like most of us, being able to enjoy time spent on the water with family and friends is immeasurable.

Thank you for listening and considering all aspects of this issue. I'm happy to engage in discussion or feedback in the future.

Erik Saari
Shoreview, MN
driven_esaari@yahoo.com
612-802-4780

LMCD

From: Geoff Fischer <gfischer45@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 7:50 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wakesurf restriction opposition

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning,

I am writing to state our strong opposition to any restrictions or bans on wakesurfing on Lake Minnetonka. We are Lake Minnetonka residents and would likely relocate if any such restriction/ban is imposed. Feel free to call if you have any questions.

Geoff and Lindsey Fischer
612-735-8049

LMCD

From: Geoff Fischer <gfischer45@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 6:41 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Fwd: Wakesurf restriction opposition

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Adjustment to my comment below. Thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Geoff Fischer <gfischer45@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, June 7, 2022
Subject: Wakesurf restriction opposition
To: lmcd@lmcd.org

Good morning,

We are writing to state our strong opposition to any restrictions or bans on wakesurfing on Lake Minnetonka. Large boats at speed on the lake having been creating large wakes for many years. We are confident that restriction or ban on any popular activity on our lake will have drastic negative impact on our local economy.

With proper education, we can all enjoy the lake we love.

Feel free to call if you have any questions.

Geoff and Lindsey Fischer
612-735-8049

LMCD

From: Daniel Celotta <daniel.celotta@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 7:38 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake Surf Boats Opinions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I understand you are collecting opinions regarding wake surf boats. Last year, my family decided to purchase a wake surf boat, after enjoying time with our friends that had one. These boats, when used responsibly, are a great joy for us, and others. To surf successfully, the boats need to be driven about 10-11 mph, so they are much slower than waterski boats. Also, since the "surfer" is typically detached from the boat (no rope), we have to drive with extreme care to ensure we avoid other boaters -- this adds to the overall safety of the lake. We have stopped a few times to instruct jet skiers that they should not follow any boat, especially wake boats, as they could easily hit a fallen skier.

We have 2 boys (13 and 15) and this boat has given us a great bonding opportunity as a family. We also ensure our music is quiet, and that we don't stay in one area too long. Additionally, the sport can be tiring, so we are wake boarding for no longer than 1 hour total, for all 3 of us riders to have a good time. We also stay far from shore, both to ensure waves don't travel and contribute to erosion or damage to docked boats, but also for our safety and that of the boat. Wake boats are inboard motors, and need to be in proper depth, so it is beneficial for us to stay away from the shore for those reasons.

Thank you for including us in the discussion. We are very much in favor of continuing to support this sport, and are happy to abide by reasonable rules that allow wake boarding in a safe manner.

Best Regards,

Dan Celotta
256 Pine Hollow Dr., Circle Pines, MN 55014
612-360-1204

LMCD

From: Jeff Christensen <jeffpeterchristensen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 9:08 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: MN Resident Comments Regarding Wake Boat Restrictions

Dear Lake Minnetonka Conservation District Representative,

I understand that tomorrow, June 8th, the LMCD is holding a public forum regarding the restriction and regulation of wake boats and associated activities. As a MN resident (Lakeville), I have enjoyed this sport for well over 10 years on MN lakes, including on Minnetonka. As a wake boat owner, I understand how important it is to practice responsible wake boating. Adhering to the basic principles of a minimum of 200 feet away from shorelines and other water craft, keeping music at a reasonable level, and minimizing repetitive passes are all important and are common sense. When observing other wake boats not practicing these principles, I am one of the first that will politely communicate and share these practices with the other boat.

It is imperative that we all have a voice in any such restrictions or regulations. I recall not many decades ago similar discussions regarding the use of jet skis on our lakes. These issues were resolved taking an approach with education and practicing safe principles, as this is always the best path towards common sense outcomes. We, as responsible wake boaters and MN residents, should have a voice in any such review of regulating and restricting activities.

Thank you for accepting my comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeff Christensen
4760 165th Street W
Lakeville, MN 55044

From: [Greg Chapman](#)
To: [LMCD](#)
Subject: Wake surf boats
Date: Monday, June 6, 2022 3:03:57 PM

I am writing to you today on my support for everyone to use lake Minnetonka. ALL boats make wakes on the lake! The most damaging and cause for most of the damage comes from wind and storms. If you start banning people from using the lake because they make a wake you should not let anyone on the lake. Thanks, Greg Chapman

Sent from my iPhone

LMCD

From: Greg Chapman <gchapman6534@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 3:04 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake surf boats

I am writing to you today on my support for everyone to use lake Minnetonka. ALL boats make wakes on the lake! The most damaging and cause for most of the damage comes from wind and storms. If you start banning people from using the lake because they make a wake you should not let anyone on the lake. Thanks, Greg Chapman

Sent from my iPhone

LMCD

From: David Herr <david.herr@artech.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 10:27 AM
To: LMCD
Cc: Mindy Herr; gfischer45@gmail.com
Subject: Wake Surf Regulation Meeting

Good morning LMCD Staff:

I hope you all are well and staying healthy! I understand that there will soon be a meeting regarding regulating Wake surf boats that currently enjoy our beautiful lake Minnetonka. For reference my wife and I are residents of Mound on the lake shore at 4766 Kildare Road. To be clear, we do not own a wake surf boat however we also do not support any further regulation of Wake Surfing on the broader Lake Minnetonka where it's currently permitted.

The rules in place are completely reasonable and simply need to be enforced. Also too, the numerous extremely large cruiser boats that also enjoy our beautiful lake Minnetonka create wakes that are absolutely giant and are easily comparable to a wake surf boat yet there seems to be no discussion or concern of that. I suggest the nanny behavior that's being attempted here stop and we encourage our law enforcement to enforce the existing rules of distance from shore and get on with enjoying this wonderful resource we all have access to.

All the best,

David S. Herr

Vice President | North Central Markets



Office: 651.634.1411 Cell: 612.968.8619

Email: David.Herr@artech.com

222 S. 9th Street, Suite 2850, Minneapolis, MN 55402

Website: www.artech.com



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From: Nick Culotti <nculotti@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 11:34 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Lake Minnetonka Considering Restrictions on Wake Surf Boats

Hello -

My name is Nick Culotti – I have lived on Lake Minnetonka since 2014. I’ve read numerous articles about the concern of wake surfing boats on Lake Minnetonka. I’m writing to you to provide my point of view and **support of Wake Surfing and Not regulating** the activity on Lake Minnetonka. Today, I received an email letting me know there would be a LMCD meeting holding a public hearing regarding the topic.

1. I think the Lake Minnetonka residential lake shore owners should all be made aware there is a public hearing being held. I was never email or sent a notice via mail. One of the biggest arguments against wake surfing is the lake shore erosion. Homeowners should all be made aware of this hearing. I feel the failure to proactively reach lake shore owners is not doing the public justice, especially as they are being used as the primary reason for restrictions. Their voices need to be heard, not just environmental activists in the community.
2. Has the LMCD completed a study to measure the linear footage of lake shore with Rip Rap vs. natural vegetation? I would argue over 60% of homeowners on Lake Minnetonka have Rip Rap vs. natural vegetation. For example, Wayzata Bay almost all homeowners have Rip Rap. The UMN study is not factoring in lake shore owners having Rip Rap vs. natural vegetation which is more vulnerable to wave energy.
3. I feel the UMN study has many variables not accounted for by the University of Minnesota:
 - a. What is the impact of waves on shoreline with rip rap vs. natural shoreline.
 - b. What percentage of Lake Minnetonka homeowners have rip rap vs. natural shorelines?
 - c. Wake Surfing boats are not the only boat that can create larger than normal waves, boats over 30 ft long traveling at 15 MPH or greater create significant waves which would create similar impacts and impede kayaking and paddle boarding and increase wave travel.
 - d. The researcher even states they need to do more research - quote from MN Post *“Jill Sims, manager of Great Lakes policy and engagement for the National Marine Manufacturers Association, said the research shouldn’t be used as justification for a large 500-foot or more setback requirement, especially considering it didn’t measure how wakesurfing waves actually impact shorelines when operated 200 feet away.”* – source MINNPOST
4. The argument that the public cannot paddle board or kayak due to Wake Surfing boats is misplaced and misleading. Lake Minnetonka has become very congested and popular with boats of all shapes and sizes which all create waves. All these waves impact kayaking and paddle boarding. To place the blame only on Wake Surfing boats is unjustified. The larger issue needs to be addressed, boating activity has increased significantly over the years and size of boats as well.
5. Limiting the hours and parts of Lake Minnetonka in which a boater can WakeSurf is **unjust** as it places priority on other lake activities. The LMCD should not create these restrictions. It would only be fair then to limit the hours all activities can be conducted, such as hours of operation and location of a larger vessel, sail boats, jet skis, fishing, paddle boards, kayaks on Lake Minnetonka. Or take it even further – only lake shore owners should be allowed to use the Lake. None of these restrictions would make sense, equal and equitable use of the lake is only obtained by not regulating water crafter activities.

6. Safety of other boaters due to Wakesurfing is misplaced. I believe there are more serious safety issues on Lake Minnetonka than Wake Surfing waves. The lack of wearing life jackets, alcohol related incidents and unsafe driving due to lack of boater safety knowledge. Boater safety should be implemented as part of registration and operation of any watercraft in Minnesota. Everyone needs to pass a test for a driver's license for a motor vehicle, the same should be true for boater safety and boats. This would force the education on water safety, boater etiquette, rules, and regulations.

Thank you for time and consideration of my arguments supporting NOT RESTRICTING WAKESURFING on Lake Minnetonka.

Regards,

Nick Culotti

LMCD

From: Mackenze Grunig <mackenzegrunig@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 10:41 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Boat Generated Wakes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I am writing to object to any blanket banning of boats that are designed to generate wakes. Unfortunately, wakeboard boats are becoming the scapegoat for much-needed boater regulation & boater awareness.

The boating industry has already provided much support for helping guide needed regulations. Please, refer to Minnesota Inboards for help.

While the U of M's research provided some type of information, it still fell short of real evaluation. How do wakeboard boats compare to wave damage from the wind, damage from ice-out, damage from large boats, etc?

Thanks. Mackenze Grunig.

LMCD

From: LMCD Website Form <lmcd@lmcd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 1:36 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Contact Us

Name

mike mergen

Email

mikemergen01@gmail.com

Phone

(612) 850-5584

Address

18005 Tamarack Drive
Minnetonka, Minnesota 55345
United States
[Map It](#)

Question or Comment

Good afternoon.

I'm writing related to making sure we have equal and fair boating on Lake Minnetonka. I'm a father of three girls and we have a wakeboard boat and have had hours of enjoyment on Lake Minnetonka. My entire family wakesurfs and it is our quality family time and we have lots of great memories that we would like to continue this summer and many more to come. I believe LMCD should leave the lake open for all users to enjoy instead of regulations and overburdensome directives. That being said I also believe that boat safety is very important along with boat etiquette such as playing music at a reasonable level. If shore line erosion is the concern I would recommend considering limiting no wake zone 200 feet from shoreline for ALL boats. Thank you for your time and please continue to keep the conversation going to engage all stakeholders prior to making decisions.

LMCD

From: Dan Malone <dptv23@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 1:11 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake Impact Listening Session comments

Greetings LMCD and to those whom it may concern,

My name is Dan Malone and I am a resident of Shorewood and active user of Lake Minnetonka and other area lakes in the west metro. We trailer our boat and launch 2-3 times per week throughout the spring, summer and fall months. We own a 21' direct drive ski boat (old school ski boat) and partake in all the water activities from skiing, wakeboarding, cruising, swimming, and shoreline meandering.

There is a lot of discussion related to wake boats, waves, music, shoreline erosion and how busy the Lake Minnetonka boating scene is these days. Over the past 5 years of boating on the lake, the most extreme uncomfortable situations we have been put in are directly related to the wind and waves that come about when storms roll in or needing to go across a windy bay. No other boat comes close to what the wind produced waves create on Lake Minnetonka, even considering the 30-50' boats that frequent Lake Minnetonka. We do see a lot of families in newer wake boats on the lake, both surfing and anchored up enjoying the lake lifestyle. I have noticed certain scenarios in which I would like to see better educated drivers on the lake, to enhance safety and enhance overall enjoyment for all boaters and lake users (all types of boats, not just one type of boat).

Our family is NOT in support of trying to regulate certain type(s) of boats or recreation activities on Lake Minnetonka. We understand this is the busiest lake in the state, and understand education and being friendly to other boaters goes a long way to improving safety and everyone's enjoyment of the lake lifestyle here in Minnesota. The LMCD should not impose wake restrictions for distances from shore, or from certain types of recreation activities. Who is going to impose these regulations? Is over-regulation a slippery slope for future regulation which is not needed? Are boat waves more impactful on shorelines than 8 months/year of wind waves? These questions should be highly considered throughout the discussion, I believe.

Another area of concern for myself is the discussion of shoreline erosion due to waves. 100-200 years ago Minnesota lakes were lined shorelines of cat tails, bog, swamp, rocks, and natural shoreline materials. With the development of private property, home owners have stripped the shoreline of these natural elements that inherently prevent erosion, to enhance the 'look & appeal' of their shoreline. Only to complain of eroding shoreline due to waves. In my opinion, this discussion should be a common sense understanding that boat wakes and wind generated waves all create disturbances along shorelines, but it is ourselves eroding the shorelines due to our need for fancy sand beaches, pristine lakefront properties, and immaculate estates that lead to enhanced erosion.

Thank you for allowing these comments to be heard, and appreciate what your team at the LMCD does to help us all enjoy Lake Minnetonka. Both now and for the future of all boaters.

Thanks,
Dan
763-234-1154

LMCD

From: Christine Dufour Iverson <du4ivy@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 12:42 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake restrictions

Hello

As lake owner on another western Minnesota lake, I urge you to use caution in establishing overly restrictive boating regulations for your lake.

Wake surfing is an enjoyable sport that can be done responsibly. Wake responsibly provides reasonable guidance of 200 feet. Noise from any boat whether it be a party toon or a wake boat can be dealt with reasonably.

After decades of listening to irresponsible jet skiers even after the laws were passed, we are enjoying wake surfing responsibly on a ski boat.

I urge you to be cautious if you choose to restrict the rights of people enjoying Minnesota's short but beautiful summer.

Christine

Sent from my iPhone

LMCD

From: Eric Randt <erandt26@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 12:41 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Lake Minnetonka Wake Surfing

Good Afternoon,

My name is Eric Randt, I'm writing you all this message in regards to the meeting later this week considering the restriction of surf boats on Lake Minnetonka. While I am not able to attend this meeting as I run the baseball league in a neighboring community, I felt that it was very important for me to express my thoughts. I am very opposed to this form of action. To focus on a such a small cross section of the boats on the lake and to affect so many people who boat responsibly is borderline egregious. I am a responsible boat owner, surfing in the middle of the lake, low music, and I am to be sanctioned by this action. I am very much opposed to this and would ask you to strongly think the precedent this could create.

Thank you for the time
Eric Randt

Sent from my iPhone

LMCD

From: Randy Lee <randylee5099@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 12:08 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake Impact Listening Session

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about any setbacks being discussed for wake surfing or wake boats. Our family has only recently joined the wake surfing sport, but I can tell you as someone who grew up water skiing and tubing that this is the water sport that the next generation is interested in.

We live on Lake Minnetonka (Jennings Bay) and have observed more and more wake surfing boats utilizing our bay. For the most part, the boaters are considerate of the lakeshore owners by staying out in the middle of the bay and by listening to their music at an appropriate level.

Our family is looking forward to many, many hours on the lake enjoying this new sport.

Please take this into account as you think through any changes you're considering.

Thank you for your time,

Randy Lee
randylee5099@gmail.com
612-812-4622

LMCD

From: Vickie Schleuning
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 3:40 PM
To: Chad M VanHeel
Cc: LMCD
Subject: FW: Letter from Marine Retailers - Increased Notice for Listening Sessions
Attachments: LMCD Notice Final.pdf

Hi Chad, We received your comments and will compile with public comments. Thanks, Vickie

From: Chad Tokowicz <chad@mraa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 3:03 PM
To: Vickie Schleuning <vschleuning@lmcd.org>
Subject: Letter from Marine Retailers - Increased Notice for Listening Sessions

Vickie – I meant to email this to you last evening but it did not send. Please see the attached letter and note below. My apologies for the delay.

Good Evening Vickie,

I am sharing a letter on behalf of Lake Minnetonka Marine Retailers to ask that the LMCD provide, at minimum, one week notice to the public ahead of any listening sessions and other meetings that may impact recreational boating on the Lake or their businesses at large. We understand that it was not the LMCD to provide such short notice of the listening session but wanted to formally ask as spring is our busiest time of year and increased notice is needed to balance attending these important meeting and regular business operations.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and please do reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Chad Tokowicz
Government Relations Manager
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Cell: (978) 569-5127 | Chad@mraa.com



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June 6th, 2022

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
c/o Vickie Schleuning (vschleuning@lmcd.org)
5341 Maywood Road, Suite 200
Mound, MN 55364

Re: LMCD June 8th, 2022 Listening Session on Boat Generated Wakes

Dear Lake Minnetonka Conservation District Board Members,

On behalf of the undersigned businesses which support, foster, and cultivate the boating community on Lake Minnetonka, we respectfully ask that the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District provide at **least one week, or seven business days, notice ahead of future listening sessions and conversations which affect the marine industry and our businesses. Additionally, we request to be brought into the discussion for any potential ordinances that may impact boat use such as changes to existing use ordinances or creation of new ordinances regarding use on the lake.**

We appreciate engaging in dialogue surrounding boating on Lake Minnetonka and value the opportunity to connect with the LMCD Board in conversations surrounding boating access, safety and education on the water, and next steps toward ensuring those on and near the water are engaging in safe and responsible boating and towed water sports practices. This dialog, with input from all stakeholders who use and enjoy Lake Minnetonka, is imperative in creating a culture of safe and etiquette boating.

Around Lake Minnetonka, boating is the primary economic driver for our community – generating a priceless impact to local businesses as well as generating tax revenue for local municipalities. As the primary businesses for selling, servicing, and storing boats for residents and visitors alike on Lake Minnetonka, the spring and summer months are without a doubt the busiest time of the boating season. Between repairs to keep folks on the water, commissioning vessels after winter storage, and dealing with day-to-day business operations there is always

something to be done – making it difficult, if not near impossible- to drop everything during this time and attend listening sessions which may significantly impact the way our business operates and communicates with its customers. Furthermore, this could potentially severely impact the very residents and boaters alike that the LMCD serves.

As businesses that rely on Lake Minnetonka's recreational boating heritage and provide valuable services to Lake Minnetonka patrons and communities, we hope that the LMCD will work to provide further notice to all stakeholders ahead of any future planned listening sessions to assure that the entirety of the Lake Minnetonka boating community be present and able to weigh in. It puts us in a difficult position to choose between delivering boats and providing customer service for Lake Minnetonka boaters or attending the listening session to protect boating access for all. We respect and appreciate the focus of the LMCD to assure that Lake Minnetonka is a safe and enjoyable body of water that provides recreational opportunities for all, from fishing and wake surfing to kayaking or sailing. We hope that the LMCD will continue to encourage input from all stakeholders and enact policies that support all recreational boating pursuits.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to make Lake Minnetonka safe and enjoyable for all.

Sincerely,

John Wooden
Founder and President
River Valley Marine

Jeremy Wahlberg
Promoter, Minnesota Wakesurf Championship
Promoter, Heroes Tour
Product Specialist River Valley Marine

Erik Forsberg
District President - Midwest
MarineMax

Michelle Mueller
CEO & Owner
Minnesota Inboard Water Sports, Inc

Matt Mueller
President & Owner
Minnesota Inboard Water Sports, Inc

LMCD

From: Christopher Fredin <cmfredin@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 10:55 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake

What really is too big of a wake on Tonka? Each lake shore size and depth being different. Each wake size and roll being different based on boat type, weight, engine and length... so really what wake is okay?

Tonka is the home of 30'+ boats that all create massive wakes but the focus is only on a certain type of boat because it's a easy target. Boats of all sizes and types come in and out of bays and channels some with larger wakes some lessor but usually the wake control is based on the driver versus the boat type. Either make the entire lake no wake or stop the madness of the whinny establishment of complainers. The lake shore is majority rip rapped with large boulders, the haters will hate is simply the truth. Like I said, allow this and where do you stop? Allow this and 30'+ is next, followed by 100hp and larger fishing boats or any out boards. Don't open pandora's box! FYI a similar debate about wave runners/jet skis back in the 80's and 90's took place, thank goodness common sense prevailed. Tonka is too big of a lake for silly exclusion rules. But if you want to buy my wake boat back for 150% of current value call me and we can make a deal, just tax the "acceptable" boats to cover the expense.

Chris Fredin. Sent from my iPhone

LMCD

From: Matthew Steiner <matthewjohnsteiner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 9:36 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: LMCD Wake Impact Listening Session

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I'm just hearing about the wake impact listening session and while not be able to attend tomorrow. I just wanted to share that I'm a responsible boater that's been boating for over 30 years. It's a pastime a way of life and something my family and friends are deeply passionate about.

We are very much sympathetic about damaging property shorelines as we look to purchase a lake shore property this summer. I always stay as far away from the shoreline as possible and other boats when possible and very much promote safe boating.

Please consider there are much larger yachts on Minnetonka that do way more damage and it's unfair to target Wake Boats specifically.

I'm all for strict fines if the rules are broken, but don't ruin this amazing past time for everyone because a few people can't follow the rules.

Matthew Steiner
952-240-8130

LMCD

From: Kyle Holland <holland.kyle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 9:08 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING BOAT GENERATED WAKES

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a homeowner on Lake Minnetonka, and I strongly oppose the uninformed regulation of boat generated wakes. As a steward of our lakeshore, I have not observed any noticeable shoreline degradation or riparian environmental effects from boat wake. Most of the shoreline degradation I observe is caused by fellow homeowners irresponsibly causing runoff of excessive fertilization.

Proponents of wake regulation argue under the guise of environmental protection, however their true interest is to limit competing recreational uses of the lake, recreational uses that they view as incompatible with their preferred recreational experience. I strongly urge the conservation district to rely on scientific facts rather than the loud voices of selfish individuals.

I do support scientifically informed regulation of boat generated wakes. The recent UMN study is a step in the right direction toward informed regulation, however it fails to measure the environmental effects of boat generated wake and is limited to the measurement of contrasts in the dissipation of wake energies across boat types. Further scientific study is needed on the *environmental effects* of wake generating boats before any wholesale regulation is imposed that limits recreational use and enjoyment of the lake.

Sincerely,
Kyle Holland, Ph.D.

LMCD

From: harrisonsbayassoc@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 8:51 PM
To: LMCD
Cc: Vickie Schleuning; bhalling11@gmail.com; bowmanphil@rocketmail.com; heathercoleann@gmail.com; Jane Anderson; jim_dustrude@yahoo.com
Subject: Boat Generated Wakes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear LMCD Board Members,

Thank you for holding the listening session regarding boat generated wake impacts. My name is Sheri Wallace. I live on Harrisons Bay in Mound and am also the president of the recently formed Harrisons Bay Association. Harrisons Bay is a shallow bay and is on the Impaired Waters List published by the MPCA.

We have spent the last year holding neighborhood meetings to understand the concerns of the residents. It is these concerns and love for our bay, that lead to us creating the Harrisons Bay Association. Two weeks ago we held our association kickoff at Back Channel Brewing. We were thrilled that roughly 200 neighbors showed up. Our mission as an association is to maintain, protect, and improve the water quality, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, fishery, and recreational capacity of the bay and have some fun while we do it!

Based on the current research by the University of Minnesota it appears that the current 150 feet ordinance is not appropriate to protect lakeshore, boats, docks and non-motorized recreation. Our bay is very narrow and shallow. We would encourage you to heed the results of this research and increase the distance required from shore and boats when creating a wake. Additionally due to the shallowness of our bay we are concerned that wake surfing boats are releasing large amounts of phosphorus from the bottom of the bay. After a weekend of boat use our bay is murky and the algae blooms have become more frequent with the appearance of dangerous blue algae. It is our hope that LMCD will partner with the U of MN to understand not only the distance from shore required but also the depth of water needed to safely maintain our water quality. Defining acceptable wake boat areas within Lake Minnetonka bays will help us to protect the lake.

The Harrisons Bay Association board will be working over the next several months to define our associations priorities and collect the voices of our over 225 lakeshore property owners. We would be happy to share specific information as it is gathered. We appreciate the support LMCD has provided to us in treating our AIS this year. We look forward to working together with LMCD in taking care of this wonderful lake, and the people who love it.

Best regards,

Sheri

Sheri Wallace
President
Harrisons Bay Association
763.234.6016

LMCD

From: O'BRIEN, JOHN J <JO9302@att.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 5:58 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Surf Boat Owner

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I made the investment in our surf boat back in 2018. I have family and friends who enjoy the use of my boat. I always try and stay away from other boaters to the best of my ability. When surfing we are traveling at a very slow speed so what appears to be a clear area to surf some times changes in the middle of our run. Other boats are traveling faster and they may at times get into our wake. Like I said I try and respect the other boaters when surfing. The other boaters need to do the same. We all should be able to enjoy the lakes together. Weather conditions some times limits the locations that you can surf at. So that might put several boats in a area which means we should be respectful of all boaters. I try and do that when I am out on the lake.

John O'Brien

LMCD

From: Tom Venable <tvenable@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 5:22 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake Surf Boards

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I would to voice my opinion both as a lakeshore homeowner and the owner of a Malibu wakeboarding boat since 2005. I live on a small bay, Priest's Bay, but taught my kids wakeboarding in the 00's before we moved onto the lake. During those years we always tried to stay on large bodies of water as I was trying to respect the homeowners as much as possible. This was before surfing became the rage and the wakes were not nearly what they are today.

While I respect the sport of wake surfing, it wrecks havoc on shorelines and docks especially on small bay like ours where there is not enough space between boat and shore for the giant waves to dissipate their energy. And the loud rap music that is played is very really rude to home owners. That point is not debatable. It is very frustrating to sit on your dock on a nice calm evening, only to have that peace pierced the sounds of offensive music and rolling 2 foot waves rocking the dock sections.

I would offer two compromise options:

1. Restrict wake surfing (or better yet all wakes) to certain bays on a rotational basis. Pick 5-6 bays each year to be deemed "no wake" for the entire year, then rotate the next group of bays in the year after that. This would give small boats and people who just want peace and quiet, someplace to go each year and give the homeowners a year off once and a while.
2. Restrict wake surfing to larger bays and the open waters. Not sure what the right acreage is, but I am sure someone smart has thought of that.

Thank you.

Tom Venable
Co-Founder, Minnetonka Labs LLC
Mobile: +1-612-735-0176
www.minnetonkalabs.com

Schedule a Meeting with Me Here: [Tom Venable's Calendar](#)

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LMCD

From: Alexa Score <alexascore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 4:59 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Loving Our Lakes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Alexa Score, and I'm a Minnesota native now living in the Lake Minnetonka community. I've spent much of my life enjoying Minnesota lakes and recreating in many different ways - waterskiing, wakeboarding, wake surfing, tubing, fishing, etc. After growing up on the water in Spicer, Minnesota, I went on to ski professionally at the age of 16 and from there became a professional wakeboarder at 21. I was taught at an early age both the written and "unwritten" rules of watersports along with the most appropriate and respectful ways to enjoy them. Since returning to Minnesota in 2018, I've spent the majority of my "water time" on Lake Minnetonka. I own my own boat, and use much of my personal time, money, and knowledge to share my love of watersports with friends, family, and those who may not have access to such activities. I'm involved with multiple organizations that help underprivileged youth and disabled individuals get on the water, creating positive experiences and lasting memories for those individuals as well as myself. In my 32 years of life, some of my best memories have been on the water, and I've seen watersports bring families and communities together on a regular basis. I absolutely support increasing education and awareness surrounding the sport of wake surfing on lakes such as Minnetonka. However, I do not support adding more rules. Without education, rules/restrictions/regulations do not work.

Wakesurfing is a fun, safe, and positive activity, and when done respectfully, poses no more harm to shorelines or lakes than any other type of boating. This is not a "create more rules" issue, but an "educate and enforce the current rules" issue. I'm happy to provide my expertise and time to generate awareness and help promote the current rules in place. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

Sincerely,

Alexa Score
Professional Wakeboarder, Television Host, Cancer Survivor

LMCD

From: Smitty <ksmittyhouse@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 8:06 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Public comment: power boat wave generated impact review

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Boar Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the impact of wave boats and large cruisers on the use and enjoyment of Lake Minnetonka.

I am a resident of Minnetonka but I do not have a home located on the lakeshore. However, I am an avid fisherman with a fishing boat stored at a marina in West Arm Bay. I spend hundreds of hours on the lake each year fishing the bays, channels and main lake structures. Over the years I've witnessed the environmental impact of many culprits.

Soil erosion from the lack of a buffer zone, power boats, aquatic plant removal/spraying, man-made cribs and other unnatural uses have a detrimental effect on the ecology of the lake. But I've noticed the erosion has become more acute in the era of wake boats. As I said above, wake boats are not the only culprit but are most certainly part of the problem. The plant life, bottom structure and contents are changing and the fish are suffering. Spawning beds are destroyed before fry are developed. Bottom structure provides seasonal and daily migratory routes for fish to move up for feeding. As the bottom structure erodes and changes, these migratory routes get blocked and the fish stop using them.

Lake Minnetonka historically was one of the best fishing lakes in the Midwest; bringing dollars and economic boom to the area. Fishing was the #1 reason for visitors to the area. Along the way the lake became a place to develop expensive homes, marinas and restaurants. The shift from a fishing lake to a recreational lake has created an imbalance and the fishing has been disproportionately effected.

There should be a balance between the use of the lake for all competing stakeholders (homeowners , retail, recreation and fishing). I suggest a few common sense proposals:

1. Limit the use of wake boats and large cruisers to an area of the lake at least 500' from shore.
2. Require an adequate buffer zone around the entire perimeter of the lake.
3. Consider making all small bays "no-wake" zones.
4. Require a no-wake zone 500' from shore on the entire lake from ice-out until after the spring spawning season.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments.

Ken Smith
Minnetonka, MN

LMCD

From: Michael Hubbard <mphubbar@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 9:35 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: LMCD Wake Impact Listening Session Comments

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a Mound resident on North Arm Bay and have been on and around lakes all over the country all my life.

I understand the desire by a few to blame wake surfing for issues on the water, because of the expensive, flashy, and often loud boats typically associated with this activity; however, of all the lakes I've been around I've never experienced the overall level of boater incompetence and selfishness that I've experienced on Lake Minnetonka.

It is not the fault of one type of boat or boater. I've witnessed fisherman cause an accident at the North Arm Launch due to sheer refusal to wait in line for their turn. I've witnessed drivers of large vessels push smaller boats into the walls on channels because they did not want to wait their turn. I've seen jet skiers cause confusion and perilous situations around channels trying to catch large air. I've been cut off by fishermen (while towing a skier) who drive their boats as if the fish might escape the lake. Not to mention the numerous accidents at various boat ramps and channels around the lake over the last two years.

It astonishes me that a boater safety course is not required to register a boat in this state. It is despicable to me the overall level of disrespect most boaters have for swimmers, paddle boarders, kayakers, skiers, wakeboarders, wake surfers, sailors, (really anyone in the water without a motor).

It is clear most boaters do not know, understand, or care about the standard right of ways or standard boat safety.

The specific complaints against wake surfing are a symptom of a much larger problem. Please focus on the actual problem, which is boater incompetence. The focus should be to maintain safe and fair access to the water for all boaters and more importantly all people who are on the water.

Please contact me with any questions.

Thanks!
-Mike

Michael Hubbard
319-631-3027
michaelphubbard@gmail.com

LMCD

From: Todd Sterner <todd.sterner34@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 9:36 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Boat Generated Wake Input

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 watercraft.** I have been an avid boater on the Lake Minnetonka chain for the last several 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 a little ironic that wake boats are specifically targeted and there is little to no mention of the large cruiser boats that create an even larger wake and have stereos twice as loud cruising along the shore lines. In addition if you go out on the lake anytime after 10am it's constant chop / waves regardless of what type of watercraft is operating. The typical complaint I hear from anti-surf boat advocates is that their shore lines are being deteriorated specifically from wake boat usage, but no mention of any of the other constant waves being created by wind or other watercraft. Was shoreline erosion not happening before wake boats? I do want to make the point that I feel everyone on the water 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, Todd

Todd Sterner
todd.sterner34@gmail.com
612-578-2512

LMCD

From: Ben Stori <bstori@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 11:04 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake Surfing Lake Minnetonka

Hi LMCD

My name is Ben Stori. I live in the Metro and I enjoy being able to enjoy boating on Lake Minnetonka with friends and family. It should not matter what kind of boat you have or what activities you would like to do, it's the Minnesota way to have fun and share the lake. There are bigger boats (Yachts) on Lake Minnetonka that can cause just as much of a wake issue than a surf boat if you even wanted to call it out as an issue.

We should not be brought down with regulations and overburdensome directives while trying to enjoy our time on the water. Water sports of all kinds generate memories for years to come and even tubing can cause big waves as boats twist and turn and go back over waves to make bigger ones, so again why continue to put a spotlight on wakesurfing? Wakesurfing is something anyone and everyone can enjoy. Not all people can wakeboard, ski or even kneeboard, but they can surf because it is not hard on your body.

Education and boating safety initiatives are really important to ensure those on and near the water are safe. Marinas and dealers have long been good stewards of Minnesota's waters by educating consumers on the importance of sharing the water and respecting those around them, while wakesurfing at least 200 feet from shore which is shown to have minimal impact on shorelines.

I urge you to keep an open mind and keep the conversations going. Allow all stakeholders input into this before making a decision. You are setting up lakes all over Minnesota to take the same action as this and it would really hurt more than just people on or that use Lake Minnetonka to see this fun and enjoyable sport get banned.

Thank you for your time,

Ben Stori
bstori@gmail.com

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LMCD

From: Stacia Bank <staciabank@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 10:37 AM
To: LMCD
Subject: Support of Wakesurfing and CURRENT ordinances

Good Morning,

As a reasonable person, I always try to step back and consider debates from both sides. I am a Lake Minnetonka lakeshore owner (2600 West Lafayette Rd) and I don't want any boat buzzing my dock at close distance either. And I can understand excessive noise concerns, we often have cruiser party boats coming by at 2am. But I am not suggesting all cruiser boats be banned or further regulated. I apply common sense and recognize that not all cruisers are violators of the rules. Therefore I support the EXISTING ordinances that already address distance and noise. I support ticketing the violators but not further restricting the those who follow the rules.

I'm not sure where to start in addressing the proposal to limit wakesurfing on certain bays and restrict times. For starters, again, applying common sense, this would only cause excessive congestion during allowed times/bays. This is the equivalent of suggesting a solution of only driving on 394 from noon until 4P due to some bad drivers. This would never happen- we just ticket the violators who don't follow the rules rather than penalize all.

There is reference made to wakesurf wakes harming shoreline in reference to the UofM study. Again, this argument does not stand as A) It is one study and there are others that show wave dissipation rates are more than adequate to preserve shoreline; B) The study did not include any other make of boat including large cruiser boats waves which generate FAR MORE ENERGY than any wake boat. All boats should maintain current regulated distance from shore and other boats. We have lived on Lake Minnetonka for years and our shoreline has been fine from all wakes, however, it was decimated this spring by an aggressive ice out.

It is my opinion that this restrictive agenda is being pushed by a few who are more concerned about their personal agendas without considering others. It is suspicious that they live on the bays they'd like restricted for wakesurfing but when approached about driving their larger cruiser boats at speed, they have full intentions to do so. They also mention sharing the lake with SUPs and kayaks. I participate in these activities also and have no problem doing so. Again, I apply common sense and don't venture out on a Saturday afternoon in main bays but I have done so during this time inside shallow water buoy markers or during the week.

Now on the subject of wakesurfing: What an amazing family sport. It's slow, everyone can participate, kids are off their phones and invested in quality family time. I spend a lot of my summer educating new boat owners on wakesurf driving etiquette, safety, etc. They are respectful and follow the rules. Our family loves to wakesurf together. We respect the current rules and regulations and have never had a complaint about our operation.

I likely spend more time on the water than most people do. I see it all. I would suggest maintaining and enforcing the current ordinances and let the deputies focus on safety. I have had scary experiences on the lake. One involving my son (7yo at the time) who was almost run over by a rental pontoon full of people not paying attention. This was a Monday afternoon and we were the only tow boats operating in North Arm. Another involving a jet ski that was following too close and didn't see me fall. I yelled and held up my board but ended up needing to swim down. The jet ski turned, soaked our boat, ejected himself and the passenger, and when I surfaced I was directly under the jet ski. Another was when I was pulling my other young son waterskiing. My mom was in the boat with me and other young kids. I saw a runabout coming pulling a tuber and the driver was looking back at the tuber. I started yelling and honking but in the end had to make the decision to cut the throttle and brace for impact hoping he would hit our boat and not my son in the water. He saw us at the last moment and cranked the wheel sending his tubers into the side of our boat. Terrifying!!! I ONLY pull my kids until 10am for any watersport on the weekend on Lake Minnetonka and we anchor and swim next to the boat anytime after. We need to focus our attention on having ALL water vessels maintain alertness and proper distance from shore, docks and other vessels rather than further debate wake boats. Safety should be the focus!!!!

In closing, I support safe and respectful operation of all watercrafts. I encourage boater education and support citations for distance and noise violations. The lake has always been my favorite place. I would love to see everyone be respectful so we can enjoy this blessing together.

Kind regards,
Stacia Bank

Ps. Would love it if you can read this letter at the meeting tonight.

LMCD

From: Lindsey Kuehl <lgkuehl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 12:09 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Opposition of WakeSurfing restrictions.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Lindsey Kuehl and my partner Tyler Larson and I own lakeshore property on Cooks Bay. We own a Malibu Wakesurfing boat. Using this boat has provided many hours of fun and an active healthy lifestyle. Instead of having a party boat to go to the Big Island area and drink too much alcohol, be a nuisance, and drive unsafely putting themselves and innocent others at risk, we choose an active and healthy fun lifestyle for us and our many visiting guests on our boat.

Surfing is an adventurous healthy alternative to partying and consuming too much alcohol. Drunk driving is a very problematic thing on our lakes and I would love to see more people enjoying their time in a safe and healthy way.

We have many guests coming to stay to enjoy the sport of surfing. We are constantly supporting lakeside businesses like Al & Almas, Lorde Fletchers, and Maynards. With the restriction of wakesurfing boats, many of these businesses will suffer, and overall there will be an even larger alcohol and party culture on the lake than there already is.

Surfing can be done without being a nuisance to others, it can be done 200 feet away from the shoreline, and it provides a healthy sober activity that many really enjoy.

Thank you for your time,
Lindsey Kuehl
6123632937

LMCD

From: Puls, Bret A. <bpuls@foxrothschild.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 12:57 PM
To: LMCD
Cc: Lindblad, Christine N.; Gregg Thomas
Subject: Re: LMCD Listening Session Regarding Boat Generated Wakes

Dear LMCD and LMCD Board:

I and my wife Christine Lindblad were made aware of the Listening Session related to boat wakes and boating access to be held this evening at Wayzata City Hall, and wanted to share some perspectives and thoughts as long-time lake shore owners and boat operators on Lake Minnetonka.

We and our family have been Lake Minnetonka residents for over twelve years, and have spent time on the lake for much longer than that. For two years we lived on the western part of the lake, on Hardscrabble Point, and for the remainder have lived in Tonka Bay on Lafayette Bay.

For the first eleven years, we owned and operated a 33 foot Sea Ray SLX and last year moved to a Malibu LSV. During our years as lake shore owners and Lake Minnetonka boat operators, we have had the chance to enjoy all that Lake Minnetonka has to offer, and have seen and experienced some of the challenges related to Lake Minnetonka's size, popularity and the changing styles of boats and watercraft recreation. For the most part, we have enjoyed and observed appropriate, respectful, friendly and conscientious watercraft operation on the part of individuals and families operating all kinds of watercraft, including wake boats. In fact, in the time wake surfing and wake surf-specific boats rose in popularity, we enjoyed watching this interesting and new (to us) activity, and found most of those boats and boat operators to be careful, conscientious and respectful of shoreline, shoreline owners enjoying the water near their docks, and other watercraft, either under power or anchored.

Once we decided to try ownership and use of this kind of boat, and experience the sport of wake surfing, we found this to be even more true. I credit much of this to the wake surf boat sellers, and in particular Minnesota Inboard from whom we purchased our boat. Even though they understood that we had lived on the lake for more than a decade and had thousands of hours of experience operating boats on Minnetonka and elsewhere, they spent a great deal of time explaining the physics of wake surf boats, how the wakes behind them travel through the water, and proper operation and etiquette and rule compliance near shores, in bays, around other boats, and around other forms of recreation (fishing, paddle boarding, kayaking, canoeing, etc.). They stress to each new owner the need to be particularly conscientious to make sure that all enjoy the lake with as little reasonable disruption to one another. Since the time of our boat purchase, we have worked with MN Inboard and others on the lake to teach ourselves, our children, and our family members and friends how to surf and how to operate our boat in a manner that complies with rules and which is respectful of our neighbors and others who are on the water. When we are on the water, or on or near our dock, I have experienced the same courtesy from nearly every other wake surf (or wake board/ski) boat and boat operator with whom we interact.

All of that said, at times, we have experienced water craft operation that has been extraordinarily disruptive to our enjoyment of swimming, floating, etc. on our own shoreline and while anchored in many bays on the lake. We have likewise observed and had close calls with dangerous, disrespectful and inappropriate watercraft operation that have caused wakes disruptive to boats that are anchored, docks and shoreline enjoyment. This has not been limited to any specific boat type or recreational activity. The change in watercraft manufacture, and in particular the advent of powerful "tower" speakers, has also driven an increase in watercraft music levels that can, at times, be extraordinary

disruptive to homeowners on the lake in the evening and at night. We can share from firsthand experience that these activities are not led by, driven by or predominantly caused by wake surf boats or their operators. Much of the wake disruption we have experienced has been caused by larger, wider-beamed boats operated between cruising and planed-out speeds (i.e. “plowing”). This is likewise true of many types of boats (deck, cabin cruiser and others) pulling kids on tubes and creating large waves for the tube to jump. The same is true of larger boats creating a wake for jet ski operators to jump. And the same true for large boat operators who simply choose to plow along at 15 mph regardless of the wake they cast because they neither want to plane out nor cruise along at only 6 mpg. I have seen the studies that imply cruiser boats only cause these larger wakes for the limited time of accelerating to plane, but I can tell you with certainty living on Lafayette Bay, and spending plenty of time on Lower Lake, Upper Lake, and Crystal Bay, that it is more than common to see cruisers plowing along at 10-15 mph and casting as large or larger wakes than a surf boat, for longer period of time in more dense boat traffic. We can say from our own experience that, when “plowing,” our former Sea Ray cast just as high a wake as our Malibu does in surf mode.

We have also frequently seen various types of boats come far too close to our dock or our anchored boat at unreasonable speeds and casting a disruptive wakes—but rarely if ever a wake surf boat with a surfer behind. Relative to the sound issues, many cabin and deck boats now have “tower” speakers and high output marine speakers installed that can drive music volume levels that are far too loud. Those, which have been disruptive particularly in the evening and at night, have tended to be larger cabin boats with a large number of occupants. We have also experienced large wakes and dangerous operation resulting from individual operators who may not own the boat they are operating and simply do not know (or do not care) about the rules, regulations or etiquette.

We have also, of course, been disturbed by wake surf boats and their operators who have not followed rules, who have not exercised appropriate etiquette, and who have operated their sound systems and disruptive and unreasonable levels. But those have certainly not been the majority, and our observations and experiences of improper boat operation, lack of etiquette, and experiences with lake shore and boat disruption due to large boat waves have been caused by all kinds of boats—not wake surf boats specifically. **Any boat operator on a boat with sufficient draw and beam, and with a sufficiently loud audio equipment, can cause disrupt the enjoyment for and cause negative experiences to others who live on and use the lake.** Whether it is a lake shore owner, someone who brings their own boat to the lake via a launch, marina renter or boat club member, it has been our experience by far that it is the **individual operator** not the specific boat or recreational activity.

The bottom line of what I am trying to say is that the encouragement and, if needed, enforcement of existing boat operating rules (including the existing 150 slow/no wake requirements), use of the “Own Your Wake” initiative, continued efforts by industry participants such as the surf boat sellers to encourage education and compliance with existing rules as well as additional voluntary “rules” of etiquette expected by operators of recreational boats should be the focus of all involved. This is consistent with the stated mission and authority of the LMCD. Additional rules and regulations focused on one recreation and one type of boat, in our viewpoint, are not. Below are our thoughts on the options stated as potential proposed ordinances listed in the LMCD June 2, 2022 Update:

- a. Distance from shore that boats must operate at low wake -- **I believe the current rules on this point suffice when observed and enforced.**
- b. Whether this distance should be the same for different types of boats – **I do not believe it would be fair or appropriate under the LMCD mission to single out any particular type of boat or activity as subject to different rules. Distance is measurable, and low wake is low wake, regardless of the watercraft.**
- c. Whether certain smaller bays should have different restrictions than larger bays –**Same comment as above, with the addition that restricting smaller bays simply has the effect of privatizing those bays to those who live on them, and pushing more traffic onto the larger bays. This, in effect, prioritizes owners on certain bays over others and can have further significant unintended consequences.**
- d. Whether there should be restricted hours or days for some recreational boating activities – **Again, this would be single out specific boating activities and prefer one type over another. For instance, if we are concerned about wakes, any regulation would need to be applied equitably. Why would a wake surf boat be precluded from casting a wake when a deck boat or a large, wide-beamed cruiser is not. If wakes are the issue, then any**

new regulation would need to be applied to all. To that end, on the noise issue, noise level restrictions applied to all water craft audio systems during specified hours would be welcomed in my mind as a lake home owner.

e. Other? – As stated above, Lake Minnetonka already has additional rules and regulations that are not required on other lakes (spotter rules for towed activities, for instance). The existing rules and regulations related to distances from shore, docks, boats, divers, etc., if followed and respected by operators, are sufficient. Perhaps boat operation education and/or permitting requirements for any individual operating a watercraft on the Lake Minnetonka would make sense, though the cost of implementation and enforcement would likely be preclusive.

The issue here relates to individual boat operators and lake shore owners ensuring rule compliance, respect and etiquette. The best course for the LMCD is to work with boat sellers, boat owners, and lake shore owners to encourage cooperation and understanding, including that this is a busy lake, that this is a recreational lake, and that the waters are not privately held by those owning property on certain bays or areas. At the same time, boat operators, particularly those engaging in recreational activities such as tubing, jet skiing, wake boarding, skiing, wake surfing, and even fishing or anchoring and listening to music, all have an obligation to think, observe, and be conscientious toward other operators and lake shore owners.

Thank you for your consideration and work to keep Lake Minnetonka safe and available for all of us.

Bret Puls and Christine Lindblad, 90 Interlachen Lane, Tonka Bay

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LMCD

From: Joe Lynch <Joe.Lynch@castle-peak.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 12:41 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: LMCD Wake Impact Listening Session

Hi LMCD,

My name is Joe Lynch and I currently live on Lake Minnetonka. I have been using my family's wake surfing boat on the lake for the past 3 years. During my time on the lake, I have never once received a complaint for any reckless behavior including being too close to the shore, playing music too loud, or completing repetitive passes while wake surfing. I have noticed that the number one used boat are surf boats. I constantly see people enjoying their time while respecting the rules that have been put in place for surf boats. I understand the small group's opinion that these boats can be detrimental to the shore, however the effects of banning wake surfing boats on the lake would be far greater. According to boattrader.com, Minnesota collects the tenth most revenue out of all states from boating. Due to our high number of lakes and shoreline, Minnesota has found a way to crack the top 10 besides having nearly half the amount of time to use a boat compared to rivalry states. Wake surfing boats are one of the more commonly used boats on the lake, and just from an eye test, I would say that they are the most popular. Banning wake boats would ultimately lead to a far less influx of people towards our lake. People in cities that are near/on Lake Minnetonka would no longer use our lake as there are 10,000 other lakes to choose from. Cities that are on/near the Lake would ultimately suffer the consequences. With less people coming to the lake because of a ban, the local businesses and communities would greatly decrease their revenues and overall crash Lake Minnetonka's economy. For example, one of the biggest hotspots on the lake is Excelsior. Many people dock near Excelsior Docks and Cinema and explore the local businesses such as Maynards, Lake Effect, Yumi's, and others. They enjoy their time there and are willing to come back to feel the Lake Minnetonka Experience. Banning certain boats would be a catastrophic hit to businesses like these as far less people would travel onto the lake. People are constantly moving onto this lake because of the hotspot that is Lake Minnetonka. People want to be on this lake and see the numerous different people that traveled far and wide to see what the Lake Minnetonka Experience really is. Banning wake surfing boats would ultimately destroy the culture that has been brought through time on this lake and cease the high number of people on the Lake Minnetonka dismembering the entire Lake Minnetonka experience. Once again, I understand that wake surfing boats can be detrimental towards the Lake. However, it is my belief that the majority of people that actually live on the lake, not just a small group of activists, represent Lake Minnetonka and their voices should be heard including my own.

Thank you,

952-913-4529

Joe Lynch

LMCD

From: Brandon Grady <gradyx9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 1:26 PM
To: LMCD
Subject: Wake Impact

Hello,

My name is Brandon Grady and my wife and I live on Lake Minnetonka and own a wakesurfing boat. I would like to provide my input on this topic as it very much affects our day to day in the summer. We specifically bought our home to have the ability to wakesurf, it's a great sport that's low impact and fun for almost all ages. The wakes themselves are not a new issue to Lake Minnetonka, the large 30' plus boats put out incredibly large wakes as well and have been on this water for many many years. I believe the nuisance factor is the largest issue we're facing today and I'm in support of mitigating that.

There are an incredibly large number of boat drivers on this lake, particularly on the weekends that do not obey rules, are unsafe, and are the main reason we are seeing so much damage to our lake. I believe the 200' rule is more than adequate and there are studies to support that, but I do not believe that rule is followed very closely. I am fully in support of better regulation and am even more in support of a better education system for boaters. We do not even use our boat from 11am to 6pm on the weekends as we've deemed it too unsafe. That is largely due to the number of boats, the number of uneducated drivers, and the amount of alcohol consumed at places like Big Island.

Property value is also another huge consideration, when we chose which lake to purchase our home on, the amount of regulation on boating clearly weighed heavily on home values. The more restrictions, the less valuable the property. Absolutely no one wins when property values decline.

I think we need to make access to this lake more difficult for individuals who are not educated. That will likely lower the overall number of waves to be concerned with in general and will likely keep the waves produced at a minimum of 200' away from the shore. The residents of this lake have much more to lose than those who drop in from time to time to use it. I hope we can learn to share this lake equitably and all enjoy the recreation of our choice on the lake while not disturbing others.

Thank you,

--

Brandon Grady

Phone [615-663-8863](tel:615-663-8863)

LMCD

From: Douglas Smith <douglas@smith4.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 1:13 PM
To: LMCD
Cc: Roban Smith
Subject: Written comment regarding Boat Generated Wave Impact on Lake Minnetonka

Hello,

I live on West Arm and have the following three comments:

- 1) As I see it on West Arm, the existing buffer is somewhat mute because there seems to be zero or close to zero enforcement. A few tickets and the Wakeboarders would get the message to keep away from the shore. Whatever is decided, if it be new rules or if we keep the existing rules, the rules need to be enforced otherwise this is all a waste of time.
- 2) As it stands today, why would there be a 300ft buffer for PWC, but only a 150ft buffer for minimum wake? Wakeboarding as we all know kick up a much higher and more destructive wake than PWC. Why is Wakeboarding allowed closer in?
- 3) I know of no other sport that is as destructive to others' personal property, as noisy (the music – we all listen to it all evening), or as intrusive to what is supposed to be a peaceful, scenic and safe environment.

This needs to be brought under control.

Douglas Smith
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