



LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Process to Review Boat Generated Wave Impact on Lake Minnetonka

Background

The advent of wakesurfing and other types of boats capable of making larger waves on Lake Minnetonka has initiated discussion on what impacts the larger waves have on the ecology, shoreline erosion, safety, and conflicting uses. The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) Board of Directors has received a number of public comments at their meetings both expressing concern about and support of wakesurf boats. To help address these questions the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) issued a report in February 2022 entitled "A Field Study of Maximum Wave Height, Total Wave Energy, and Maximum Wave Power Produced by Four Recreational Boats on a Freshwater Lake." The LMCD Board has been waiting to review the study results before determining what, if any, action to take. At its February 9, 2022, work session, it was agreed to develop a process for moving forward recognizing the divergent views.

Process

The LMCD Board will use its work session at a regular Board meeting to receive input from the public and stakeholders. Because this is an issue of interest to many, the first listening session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2022 beginning at 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. when the regular Board meeting begins. At this time, it is unclear if additional work sessions will be needed for public comment. Please note there is an occupancy limit in the room where the Board meetings are held based on Minnesota Fire Code so entrance into the room will be managed accordingly. The LMCD Board Meetings are held in the Wayzata Community Room, Wayzata City Hall, 600 Rice Street, Wayzata MN.

Individuals representing organizations with differing viewpoints, and receiving prior authorization from the LMCD, will be invited to address the Board and will be given adequate time for their comments. Speakers not representing an organization will be asked to limit their comments to 3 minutes. To move the process along, speakers will be asked to not repeat points made by previous speakers. Written comments will also be accepted. 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.

The listening session part of the work session will be videotaped. Background information and any updates will be provided on the LMCD website on or shortly after Monday, June 6, 2022 and for subsequent updates.

After receiving input and reviewing relevant reports, the Board will discuss what action, if any, to take. A decision will be made at a future LMCD formal meeting after the listening sessions are concluded. Options will include:

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

Principles

1. All participants will be respectful of others. Participants should be clear and succinct and do not need to repeat themselves.
2. If a speaker wants to agree with a previous comment, the speaker should simply state the agreement and not repeat the points.
3. We should focus on the activity and the results of the activity, not the type of boat.