

# **LMCD Listening Session**

## **June 08, 2022**

# **Boating Community Concerns**

**Chad Tokowicz, Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA)**

**Jill Sims, National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)**

**Lee Gatts, Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA)**



# The Boating Community



- Minnesota ranks **2<sup>nd</sup>** in the nation for recreational watercraft and has **the most boats per capita**
- Lake Minnetonka is home to many marine businesses, including **5 marine dealerships** and **many marinas and boat clubs**
- The boating community is represented by trade associations, plus local associations:
  - **Marine Retailer Association of the Americas (MRAA)**
  - **National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)**
  - **Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA)**

# Boating By The Numbers



Boating is a key economic driver and supporter Minnesota & the Lake Minnetonka community through:

- 1500+ jobs in MN-03
- 80+ marine businesses in the area
- \$397M+ in economic impact in MN-03
- Minnesota consistently ranks in the **top 5 for powerboat sales**
- On average, Minnesota accounts for **11,000 unit sales**
- In 2021, Minnesota received **\$14.6M** from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund

# The Economic Impact of Boating

Not only does boating support marine businesses, but other Lake Minnetonka community businesses and transactions.



Lake Minnetonka Magazine  
The Wayzata Art Experience Welcomes Artists from Around ...  
The event is set from 10 a.m.–7 p.m. on June 25 and 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on June 26 along Lake Street between Broadway and Barry avenues.  
4 days ago



The Business Journals  
Lake Minnetonka home closes for \$5.19 million after days on ...  
Listing agent Drew Hueler said the home, which received multiple offers, attracted so much attention because the home displayed an extremely...  
19 hours ago



## Rock the Boat: The Moguls and Private Concerts of Lake Minnetonka

June 27, 2018

by Steve Marsh



View from the cheap (free!) seats at the private Tim McGraw concert in Smithtown Bay.

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### NEWS \$15 million home is MN's most expensive listing

The home, which was listed by Lake Sotheby's International Realty agency this spring, has a list price of \$15,795,000. Yes, that's \$877 per square foot.



It was the weekend before Labor Day at Palmer Pointe, on Lake Minnetonka's Smithtown Bay, and country music superstar Tim McGraw was about to close his set with the 1995 hit "I Like It, I Love It."

# What is Wakesurfing?



Wakesurfing is family friendly activity where a rider trails behind a boat, with or without a rope, on its wake approximately 10-15 ft behind the boat

The typical boat in surf mode is moving between 7 – 12 mph



# Key Facts About Wakesurfing

-  Boat wakes dissipate quickly and have little impact on shoreline erosion compared to wind-driven waves.
-  Wake boats operating in 10 feet of water while in surf-mode have no impact on waters' bottoms.
-  Sedimentation caused by boat traffic or wind-driven waves is significantly less than the amount of sedimentation that flows naturally through lakes' watersheds.
-  Boat wakes can increase oxygenation, which is beneficial for aquatic ecosystems.
-  The wake created by a wake boat in surf-mode dissipates faster than the wake created by a typical boat.



# Wake Responsibly

## WAKE RESPONSIBLY

- 1 Always operate 200+ feet away**  
from shorelines and docks, and steer clear of parked boats and smaller watercraft.
- 2 Play music at reasonable levels**  
and have respect for your surroundings. Consider time of day and be mindful that music lyrics may offend others.
- 3 Minimize repetitive passes**  
along residential shorelines.

wsia



## WAKE RESPONSIBLY

### 1 Stay at least 200 feet away

from the shoreline, docks, or other structures.

### 2 Keep music at reasonable levels.

Sound travels well over water. If it's loud enough to hear at 80 feet back, it is likely loud enough for homeowners to hear, too.

### 3 Minimize repetitive passes

on any one portion of shoreline. Once you've run the same line for a while, move on to another area.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR WAKE

**wsia**  
WATER SPORTS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
"To Promote & Protect"



# Boater Education Efforts

The boating community proactively supports boater education by:

- Promoting the Wake Responsibly campaign through events & education
- Working with dealers to provide direct on water education to customers who purchase surf boats
- Working with LMCD and stakeholders to deliver tailored education to Lake Minnetonka community
- Establishing a coalition to draft and lead legislation through 2022 legislative session with widespread bipartisan support



February 01, 2022

Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

CC:  
Commissioner Sarah Strommen, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Environment and Natural Resources Finance Chair  
Senator Carrie Ruud, Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Chair  
Representative Rick Hansen, Environment and Natural Resource Finance and Policy Chair  
Policy Advisor Rachel Ganani, Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

Honorable Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and leaders in the lake and recreational boating communities, we respectfully request your support for a mandatory recreational boating safety education program in Minnesota.

MPRnews Sections Members More

ON AIR 0:00  
The Takeaway with Melissa Harris-Perry

## Amid rush to Minn. lakes, calls to require boater education get louder

Kirsti Marohn Nisswa, Minn. February 15, 2022 12:00 PM

Community Voices is generously supported by The Minneapolis Foundation; [learn why.](#)

## Boater education legislation is about safety and responsibility on the water

It is about time we update the outdated boater education program that only focuses on youth operators.

By Deb Kind



## Minnesota House of Representatives

Get bill info HPIS Home Session Daily Photography TV/Video Publications About Contacts

March 8, 2022 4:34 PM

## Environment committee approves proposed boater safety course, permits

By Jonathan Mohr



House Environment and Natural Resour... Watch later Share

House File 3787  
...or safety education and permitting required.  
Watch on YouTube Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Minnesota consistently ranks as one of the nation's most active boating states, with about one registered boat for every six people, and with all that time on the water comes risk. The Department of Natural Resources says [last year was the deadliest since 2005](#), as 18 people lost their lives in boating-related accidents and drownings.

# Next Steps

*As a community we ask to LMCD to:*

- Carefully consider impacts of any regulations on the marine community, in addition to the ripple impacts on the local economy, residents, families, tourists and visitors.
- Keep all Minnetonka and Minnesota families boating by maintaining access for all users to Lake Minnetonka by not implementing any further restrictions.
- Advocate for boater education efforts through the state legislature, which would include information regarding wakes and impact of boat use.
- Engage in direct dialogue with the boating industry and community to help make informed decisions regarding lake use.
- Host a session regarding the industry study and University of Minnesota study inviting both researchers to present their research and answer questions to best inform the LMCD board.





Thank You!





# RIVER VALLEY

**Power & Sport • Marine**

RED WING | ROCHESTER | LAKE MINNETONKA

## Meet Jeremy Wahlberg

I started working with River Valley shortly after I retired full-time from the Army National Guard as a 1SG with 28 years of military service. I was a customer who enjoyed time on and around fresh water. I grew up on a lake waterskiing, wakeboarding, and tubing. It wasn't until after our kids introduced wake-surfing to us, that we really became passionate about being on the water as a family. We are now involved with all aspects of the sport and would love to share our passion with you.

River Valley's Centurion Heroes Tour is a "Salute to Service" event tour that provides military, law enforcement, fire, first responders and their families with access to water sports. We believe by doing so, we can help heal the emotional wounds of our greatest warriors and their families.





***WATER SPORTS***

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