

ORDINANCE 245

AN INTERIM ORDINANCE PLACING A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF WATERCRAFT FOR HIRE CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION

The Board of Directors of the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District ordains:

Section 1 – Purpose.

Pursuant to the authority granted under Minnesota Statutes section 103B.641, this ordinance imposes a moratorium on the issuance of certificates of registration for watercraft for hire.

Section 2 – Preliminary Findings.

1. The term “watercraft for hire” is defined as a watercraft carrying passengers for hire on the Lake. *LMCD Code §1-3.01, subd. 119*. Article 7 of the LMCD Code requires a certificate of registration to operate a watercraft for hire. That certificate must be renewed every year of operation.
2. Existing LMCD Code contains a number of requirements for watercraft for hire, including boat size, required equipment, maximum number of passengers, pilot’s license, mooring restrictions and so forth.
3. There are no exceptions to any watercraft for hire regulations for smaller vessels with six or fewer passengers.
4. There are no regulations concerning where a watercraft for hire may enter the lake or begin commercial use of the watercraft.
5. Existing regulations do not adequately address the varying needs of all applicants for watercraft for hire certificates. In order to address possible shortcomings in existing regulations while not exacerbating ongoing issues with continual issuances of additional certificates, a moratorium is needed to provide time to study the issues and develop changes to the Code.

Section 3 – Moratorium.

LMCD shall not accept or process applications for watercraft for hire under Article 7 of the LMCD Code for a period of three months following the effective date of this ordinance.

Section 4 – Study.

During the period of this moratorium, LMCD staff and the LMCD Board shall study and review issues related to existing watercraft for hire regulations. The LMCD Board may consider revisions to the LMCD Code as it pertains to watercraft for hire.

Section 5 – Effective Date.

This ordinance becomes effective from and after its passage and publication.

Adopted this 12th day of July 2023 by the Board of Directors of the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District.



Ann Hoelscher, Chair

ATTEST:



Mike Kirkwood, Secretary