

# **DRAFT**

## **Twin Lakes Boater Safety/User Conflict Committee Meeting**

**Saturday April 26, 2025 – 9:00am**

**Village Hall Community Room, 105 E Main St, Twin Lakes, WI**

### **Roll Call – All Present**

- Bill Slominski
- Susan Bradley
- Jim Burke
- Howard Dakoff
- Nadine Fabish
- Phil Godin
- Pat Koslowski

### **Lake District Overview**

Bill Poetker – Chair of the Lake District opened meeting and overviewed the Lake District structure of Commissioners, Committee Chairs and Sub-Committees.

In addition, he indicated that this meeting is to discuss the proposal for a 2025 trial/pilot program to change Slow/No Wake rules from 9am to 7am on weekdays (not weekends or holidays).

Committee will receive comments focused on this proposal only, not for other issues.

### **Survey Presentation**

- Presented by Katy Cobian
- Survey results posted on Village website

### **Summary of Public Comments related to the proposal**

70 people (outside of the committee) attended the meeting. Seventeen (17) comments were presented by public (some individuals commented more than once).

- Criticism was expressed regarding the survey sample size and perceived bias towards only including Lake Elizabeth lakefront owners. In addition, there was a challenge to whether or not the 115 lakefront parcels that did not respond actually received the survey.

- A question was raised regarding Slow/No Wake lift time ordinances for other Wisconsin lakes near Twin Lakes, indicating Geneva Lake is not a relevant example.
- Comment made that existing ordinance has been in place for decades and no need to change. Opinion expressed that evening hours on weekdays often offer calm winds and are sufficient for waterskiing sports and are available within existing ordinance.
- Requests were made for peace and quiet and no noise in the morning hours. There were expectations expressed that an early start time will draw too many boaters and jet skis to use the lake as is often experienced beginning at 9am and through the day on weekends/holidays.
- Opinions were expressed that kayak, SUP and fishing boaters want calm/no waves as it negatively impacts their activities.
- Opinions expressed that this change will entice early morning use by non-typical Lake Elizabeth boaters. Three examples: marinas/boat dealerships using the lake to test and demonstrate boats, high water communities coming to Twin Lakes to use their boats when they cannot on their own lakes and a rumor that a ski school would come to use the lake.
- Concern expressed that an earlier start time will place burden on water safety patrol staffing and result in increased taxpayer costs.
- Concern for environmental impact – for the swans, fish, migratory birds and wildlife.

### **Committee Comments**

On behalf of the Committee, Bill Slominski thanked Katy and her group for bringing forward data from survey and presenting today. Thanks were also expressed to the community in attendance for their comments.

- Phil Godin made a motion to deny the proposal. Susan Bradley seconded that motion.
- Jim Burke – does not want to rush to a decision, the data is not enough and would like a pilot program. Noted lack of boat traffic on Lake Mary during weekdays.
- Nadine Fabish – 71 families are in support of a pilot, 115 families did not express a strong opinion either way and/or take action to participate in survey. Indicated this was enough for supporting a pilot program.
- Howard Dakoff – Wake hours have been in place for over 50 years, do not see a compelling interest to change statutes.

- Pat Koslowski – Opposed to proposal. Concern about a proposal for change on 1 lake not both. Expressed concern boaters from other communities will drop in lake and increase traffic. Concerned for increased safety patrol monitoring.
- Susan Bradley – shared her personal social media post received 45 comments – 44 No and 1 Yes. Expressed her opinion that pilot programs do not work. Expressed concern that Lake Mary is already too wavy.
- Bill Slominski – Based on survey results, public opinion and the need to change to benefit the greater good, the data does not provide a compelling reason to change what has been in place “forever”.

**Motion to deny pilot program was carried**

- Slominski, Bradley, Dakoff, Godin and Koslowski voted YES
- Burke and Fabish voted NO
- Meeting adjourned.