

**NOTICE TO RESIDENTS  
TOWN OF CRESCENT  
MINUTES FOR ENHANCED WAKEBOAT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025**

**Committee Members Present:** Kyla Waksmonski, Marj Mehring, Jack Bertram, Todd Hehli, Stephanie Harrelson, Mike Henry, Chris Corr (Zoom)

**Committee Members Absent:** Dave Hollands

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Waksmonski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Crescent Town Hall.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Mehring to approve the agenda. Seconded by Harrelson. All aye. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Henry to approve the minutes from the Enhanced Wake Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of January 9, 2025. Seconded by Hehli. All aye. Motion carried.

**Share and Discuss Findings of Proposed Research Questions:** Waksmonski opened the discussion and reminded the group to be open minded and curious. Each group member shared research findings to questions they prioritized and the group engaged in discussion.

Bertram discussed wake sports, boat design, and purpose and care of ballasts. Also discussed distance from shore and St. Anthony's Falls study. Bertram provided the group with videos that he and others created that demonstrate the impact of waves near the shore. Also shared example of Balsam Lake in Western WI – there is a surf club that has an online course and boat users that complete receive a sticker indicating that they understand the guidelines/rules. Bertram stated that six towns are being sued as of today as a result of the ordinance that the last wilderness alliance supports.

Harrelson shared a presentation with links to validated research. She indicated the St. Anthony's study is the only one that has been peer reviewed. Harrelson stated that a Minnesota study is scheduled to come out Q1 2025. Water depth and distance from shore are the two critical pieces. She shared that there should be a balance on restrictions so that it's not more strict than motor boats. She recommends 200 – 300 foot distance from shore and a Quebec study indicated a 16 foot depth.

Hehli discussed study of phosphorous; resuspension of phosphate in 5 feet or less and none was noted in 10 – 15 feet of water. Mehring reminded the group that the phosphorous sample is taken from one of the deepest points of the lake. Hehli also discussed his research of what other municipalities are doing and also looked at Oneida County's resolution. He stated that distances and depths are all over the board. Hehli cited Dr. William Banholzer, PHD engineer, formerly Madison, presented to Vilas County and shared what is happening with enhanced wakes and science behind it. Hehli also stated that there needs to be education when you own a wakeboat.

Henry stated the impact of prop wash on the lake bottom and plant life. Discussed concerns and research findings regarding lake bottom disturbance and potential increase in phosphorous; also of note is that we may not be seeing long term effects of wake boats yet since they are so new. He cited a Western Colorado Study and Carroll University Study (WI) – all last wilderness resources. Henry also discussed lake shore erosion and the concern that wakeboats have waves of 6-12x power of a ski boat. There is the additional concern of residual AIS spread due to ballasts and the addition of antifreeze to ballasts. He discussed the concern with residual water in ballasts there is potential for zebra mussels and other AIS being transferred in equipment. Finally, he discussed safety concerns with the way wakeboats operate in the water and potentially obstructed vision along with the economic concerns of jeopardized fishing and other water recreation. He cited the urgency to develop an ordinance.

Mehring shared her work with sampling for phosphorus. She also shared visuals of water depths for each of the lakes and the distances from shore.

Corr shared that he reviewed the Green Fire Study and Journal on Water Research. His findings have already been shared and discussed through the presentations of others. He noted that doing this research demonstrated that there is polarization. He emphasized the importance of a common sense view and that the danger is in the operator, not the

boat. It's in the operator and having a responsible line of sight. He shared that he hopes the committee will come up with education around how to operate and where to operate on the lake.

**Discuss/Determine Next Steps and Assign Roles, as Applicable:** Waksmonski asked for recommendations on the next steps for the ad hoc committee. Harrelson offered to compile the research and put together the information around study distances and depths so the group can discern more meaningful information around enhanced wake impact.

The group also discussed beginning to look at ordinance language. Henry stated that it may be beneficial to bring two options for an ordinance forward to the town board. The next meeting will take place on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 6 pm at the Crescent Town Hall.

**Fifteen Minutes of Public Comment:**

- Daryl Mack – Recommended that the committee check with other ordinances to determine the process for development and enforcement.
- Jeff Meessemann – Last Wilderness Alliance. There are currently 36 ordinances. He has resources that he is willing to share the information. He will send information to pass through.
- Marybeth Mack – Stated that an ordinance of some sort is important. She believes people will likely self-enforce.
- Mark Markee – Shared that he is concerned about Squash Lake and a shallow pass through.
- Lori Markee – Reminded the committee that the Town of Woodboro is also involved on Squash Lake.
- Connie Anderson – Stated that wakeboats are such a small percentage of the lake. She shared that once damage is done, there is no going back. The ordinance has been long overdue. She is concerned that it's behind schedule already. She emphasized the group should not recreate the wheel and that something should be documented, whether it is highly restrictive or a compromise.

**Adjourn:** Hehli made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Corr seconded. All aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kyla Waksmonski  
Supervisor 1