

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
TOWN OF CRESCENT
AGENDA FOR ENHANCED WAKEBOAT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M.
CRESCENT TOWN HALL - 3231 GOLF COURSE RD, RHINELANDER
Zoom Call-in or Video Option - 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 881 4696 0748 Password: 133132
Zoom is being offered as a convenience for this meeting. If zoom functionality drops,
the meeting will continue in-person at the location listed above.

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

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

Roll Call: Waksmonski had committee members introduce themselves.

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

Robert's Rules of Order: Waksmonski discussed that the committee will follow Robert's Rules of Order. She shared the purpose and process of the framework.

Open Records Reminder: Waksmonski reminded the group that as a committee of the Town Board, they are subject to open records laws. This includes any committee business conducted on any platform including email, text, etc. She also shared that quorum rules apply. A quorum will be five people for a committee of 8. Committee members need to also be mindful of a walking quorum which would consist of a smaller group of committee members discussing committee business. She reminded the group that no committee business should be discussed outside of the committee.

Ground Rules for Discussions and the Group: Waksmonski shared ground rules for the group and expected conduct. She discussed the expectation that dialogue will remain respectful and that members be mindful to listen actively and without interruption; focus on ideas, not individual; and seek common ground and respect differing perspectives. Waksmonski stated that unless needed, the goal is for the meetings to be no longer than one hour.

Overview of the Scope and Objectives of the Enhanced Wake boat Ad Hoc Committee: Waksmonski emphasized the advisory group's role: Provide a well-researched, balanced recommendation to the Town Board. She also stated that there are many perspectives. There are concerns that include things like environmental impact, spread of invasive species, shoreland damage, and more. There are supporting viewpoints that include recreational and economic benefits of wake boats and more. This group's goal is to sift through research and information to make a balanced recommendation to the board.

Discuss and Determine Process to Move Forward (to Include Research Questions to be Answered, Additional Community Input, Timeline, and Any Other Critical Considerations): Waksmonski opened the agenda item seeking group input regarding the process to move forward. Hehli asked how the presentation on enhanced wake impact came about at a Town Board meeting last year. Harrelson suggested the group conduct individual research and sharing for 10 – 15 minutes at the next meeting. Waksmonski suggested the group develop and affirm research questions to be answered through the committee's research. The group discussed and drafted the following questions to be explored all while understanding the questions are relative to other (non-wake boat) watercraft on the lake:

- At what distance do wake boats have an impact on shoreline damage (that would be similar to other watercraft)?
- What depth is needed to avoid phosphorus kick up?
- What impact does the enhanced wake have on the lake bottom? To what extent do they disrupt vegetation and fish beds? Including disturbing phosphorus and mercury. [relative to other watercraft]
- What precautions can be taken to prevent the spread of invasive species specific to wake boats?
 - Is the water that remains in the ballast a risk?
- How many of these enhanced wake boats are actually moving lakes? How does it differ from fishing boats that move from lake to lake?

- How does lake size impact wake boat use/damage? Shape, depth, distance from shoreline to shoreline.
- What is the economic benefit of wake boat use?
- How would an ordinance be enforced?
- What nearby communities have created an ordinance? Has it been successful?
- Research what compromises might look like for an ordinance?

Waksmonski shared that the committee will need to consider other items that include opportunities for community input at future meetings.

Discuss/Determine Next Steps and Assign Roles, as Applicable: Waksmonski introduced the agenda item and the group discussed. The group will research the brainstormed questions and bring their findings to the next meeting. The group determined that the next meeting would be held on January 30, 2025 at 6 pm.

Fifteen Minutes of Public Comment:

- Lonnie Harrelson – President of the Lake Julia Lake Association. Would like the committee to consider defining terms like wake boat and enhanced wake.
- Paul Frey – Would like the committee to consider implications of an ordinance or no ordinance and if that will change boat traffic on Town lakes if other lakes do not allow enhanced wakes.
- Kim Eckmayer – Lake Julia. Would like the committee to consider the operating area of a lake, the impacts on loon nesting, and the disruption of weed mass.
- Linda Horwath – Would like the committee to consider getting information relative to wake boats optimal performance and what conditions are desirable.
- Mark Markee – Would like the group to consider safety of enhanced wakes. Stated that large waves produced by wake boats make it unsafe for his grandchildren to play and that considering the distance for these activities from shoreline is important.

Adjourn: Harrelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hollands seconded. All aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyla Waksmonski
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