

**NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
TOWN OF CRESCENT
MINUTES FOR ENHANCED WAKEBOAT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M.**

Committee Members Present: Kyla Waksmonski, Marj Mehring, Jack Bertram, Stephanie Harrelson, Mike Henry, Todd Hehli (Zoom), 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 Bertram. All aye. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Henry to approve the minutes from the Enhanced Wake Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of January 30, 2025. Seconded by Bertram. All aye. Motion carried.

Presentation/Discussion/Q&A with Jeff Meessmann from Last Wilderness Alliance: Waksmonski welcomed Meessmann to the meeting. He commended the group for the development of the research questions. Meessmann shared some responses to research questions and presented additional information about enhanced wake impact on lakes including potential damage to lake bottoms, transfer of AIS, and more. He also discussed what area municipalities are doing for ordinances and other best practices including boat decontamination and advocacy at the state level for improved enhanced wake policy. The group discussed his findings and asked questions.

Q&A with William Banholzer, PhD from Wisconsin Watersports Coalition: Bertram introduced Banholzer to the group. Banholzer shared a presentation regarding the concern of the use of selective data and anecdotal claims that mislead and misrepresent the true impact of wake surfing. He stated that scientific studies consistently reveal that concerns related to wake surfing—such as shoreline erosion, lakebed damage, and the transmission of aquatic invasive species (AIS)—have been overstated and misrepresented. The group discussed his findings and asked questions.

Share and Discuss Aggregated Research Findings: Harrelson shared her consolidated findings from the research shared throughout the meetings to date and a comparison of much of the research conclusions. She encouraged the group to review the research on their own prior to the next meeting.

Discuss/Determine Next Steps: Waksmonski stated that there is likely four options to move forward that include: no ordinance recommendation, advisory ordinance and signage, an ordinance that either prohibits an enhanced wake or includes some compromise for where enhanced wakes are permitted, and providing education. There are also combinations of those for options, as well. The group should come prepared to determine which action to take by vote and work on that action, if applicable, at the next meeting.

Fifteen Minutes of Public Comment:

- Jerry Barnett – Shared that the group should use common sense. The weight of the boat and water displacement are a concern. Wake surfing, not wake boats are the issue. The bow up position of the boat is a concern.
- Mark Markee – Shared that four years ago Squash Lake was high and he had to use sand bags to prevent erosion. The waves were very rough as the boats passed the dock with an enhanced wake. Wake boarding is different than wake surfing.
- Dan Mehring – Shared that he lives in a bay. The bay catches all the extra debris. This has gotten a lot worse and he has noticed that the whole plant is now coming up into the bay. There is much more debris than there ever was and he is concerned about AIS.
- Carol Phillips – Stated that saw craters from where wakeboats were and notes that there are bass and fishing challenges. She encouraged the group to look at the science. She stated that she is concerned with how Banholzer portrayed his data. Phillips also shared that motors get hot and kill invasive species.

- Andrew Aslesen – Stated he is a hydrogeologist that lives in Southern Wisconsin. He is an avid wake sport participant. He believes it is important to come up with a compromise and that 200 feet seems reasonable with what other states have done.
- Donna Stone – Stated that she is the Crescent Lake Association President. The Association asked lake association members via survey and 70% would like enhanced wakes banned. She noted that taxpayers completed the survey.
- Mary Jung – Stated that the Town needs to look at what its responsibility is as it relates to WI Statute 30.77 and that any town can enact ordinances on lakes within its jurisdiction. The onus is on the town. She also noted that you can drown in data.

Adjourn: Hehli made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Corr seconded. All aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyla Waksmonski
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