

Lakes Committee Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2018

DRAFT

1. Meeting called to order at 9:03 by Cris Neff
2. Committee Members in Attendance: Cris Neff, Rick Rehl, Tony Bauer, Linda Mackley
Board members in Attendance: Chris Webb, Tom Emerson (joined at 10:10)
3. Motion to approve the agenda – Linda Mackley, Second by – Rick Rehl. Motion carried.
4. Motion to approve November 14, 2018 meeting minutes – Tony Bauer, Second by Linda Mackley. Motion carried.
5. Public Comment Period:
 - Ted Eastlund provided comments along with a handout of waterskiing and jet skiing watercraft violations and incidents of state law between 2016 through early summer 2018. (The handout will be filed with the minutes for public record, to save space here)
 - Carol LeBreck inquired about the status of the selection/appointment of the 5th committee member. She suggested that since the Lake Resources are a Town Concern that the Lakes Committee be a permanent, year-round citizen committee. She also recommended that the education aspect also include the wellbeing of the lakes and environment as well as safety. When educating individuals the reasons for the laws should be included, rather than just listing the laws, to promote understanding and better compliance.
 - Paul Laliberte from Lower Eau Claire confirmed that he had witnessed violations especially people not observing or obeying state laws, driving at high speeds close to docks and the shoreline. He noted that our lakes are spread over 3 communities and if we do not work to protect our joint Water Shed it will be destroyed.
6. Introduction & Presentations by DNR's Mark Little (Recreation Warden) and Matthew Koshollek (DNR Warden) and Bayfield County's Jeff Kistner (Recreational Officer) and Paul Susienka, Bayfield County Sheriff.

Summary of most frequent Enforcement violations in the last 1-3 years:

- Matt – 100' & 200' distance violations; lighting violations, OWI issues.
- Mark – Distance violations, unsafe behavior, OWI, registration issues. Mark also responded to a comment from Carol LeBreck and he verified that Barnes has been unique in the amount of problems that have surrounded it's Ordinance. Mark stated that he works with many Towns and Villages with similar Ordinances and none of them have the issues with their Ordinances that Barnes does. Mark also noted that not all of Ted's issues presented during the public comment session are State violations.
- Jeff – Number one citation issue is life jacket violations; primarily no PFD on board for paddle boards, kayaks and canoes. Distance violations, which can be hard to enforce and judge, and people riding on the decks and gunnels of pontoons. Most of his time is spent talking to individuals. He said that he patrols

where he thinks he will do the most good but some is complaint based, reactive vs. proactive. Mark and Paul reported at the previous meeting that calls and complaints help them target the lakes where the most help is needed. They said they would rather spend time on those lakes where they can be the most effective.

- Paul - "Road Rage" on the lakes coming from citizenry enforcement. Enforcement needs to be handled by County and DNR officials.

Matt discussed Operation Dry Water which usually takes place around holiday weekends. Matt also offered to do boat inspections in Barnes on a busy holiday weekend such as the one leading up to the 4th of July and assist with education days. (Could be held at a boat landing or the Barnes Ranger Station, etc.)

Further discussion on reporting incidents – if it is an emergency or if you need a response quickly, call 911. Otherwise, use the tip line (1-800-TIP-WDNR/ 1-800-847-9367). In the case of Harassment any Deputy can handle the call. For Lower Eau Claire Lake both Counties have jurisdiction to patrol the whole lake.

When asked for input or recommendations from their experience:

Jeff brought up the challenges of the newer Wake Boats that are becoming popular. He spoke about their internal bladder and that they can take in several hundred gallons of water and can't be sure they are completely dry when traveling from lake to lake, making the ability to detect and prevent the spread of AIS extremely difficult. This causes additional challenges to boat landing monitors and the program's (CBCW) limited hours at the landings. He also recommended that we encourage Wake Boaters to use the center of the lake to try to reduce shoreline property damage.

Mark Little spoke about a Big Picture Solution. He said that many of the towns and lake communities that he works with have Year-Round Committees to promote engaging folks in education of the laws, safety, health and welfare, preventing shoreline property damage and wildlife preservation. He recommended that our Committee make the recommendation to the Town Board that an ongoing committee be formed to meet on a monthly basis. This would give the public a place to voice concerns and the committee would be able to be proactive instead of reactive in reviewing and recommending action with regards to increased violations and safety concerns on the lakes.

7. Discussion

Tony made a motion to address citizen's concerns; second by Linda Mackley. Motion carried.

1. Recommend the Town of Barnes formally request a commitment of increased law enforcement presence and education this coming summer by WDNR & Sheriff's department
2. Town of Barnes participate and support Operation Dry Water.
3. Utilize public media – print, social media, to educate users about WI State Boating Laws and encourage all users to take the WI Boater Safety Class. The program is available online.

4. Coordinate with CBCW monitors at boat landings to place a buoy at 100' and 200' distance at a minimum of the Memorial Day and 4th of July weekends, and distribute or have available educational media.
5. Educate and Encourage wake boat users to utilize the center of the lake while creating large wakes as a courtesy to other users.

Post links to the WDNR website to support self education and Sheriff/WDNR phone numbers on Barnes website. Provide this information to individuals at boat landings in the form of a card.

Consider participating in the 4th of July parade. Include all boat types and what their primary offense is; 100' and 200' examples....

Post cards with bullet items mailed to all land owners around the lake.

8. Next meeting is Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 9:00 AM.
 - Everyone is tasked with bringing ideas to make the lakes safer; provide bullet points for reaching out.
9. Motion made to adjourn meeting by Tony Bauer, Second by – Rick Rehl. Motion carried.