

LWA Board Zoom Buoy Meeting Minutes February 1,2023

Present: Glen Goodwin, Ron Reich, Susan Tyra, Jim Patterson, Mark Wolf, Ross Lindmeyer, Scott Erickson, Kathy Pfaff, Pat Maranda, Vicki Lipstreuer, David Patterson
Absent: Janis Judd, John Clausen, Charlie McGlynn

Scott having trouble joining via zoom will be joining ASAP
Discussion held – survey results were emailed to all board members.

Susan asked if all votes were counted or if it was one vote per property – Glen said he counted all votes.

Vicki shared the history of comments made by one property owner regarding water safety patrol and high water, property owner is misrepresenting his discussion with Sheriff's Dept. he claims to have talked to Sheriff regarding LWA water safety patrol - but he has not contacted the Cass Co Sheriff. Deputy Brad will write a water safety article for newspaper. Sheriff is willing to address the association, will have a face-to-face meeting with all water safety patrol volunteers and wants to help us settle any issue peacefully.

Meeting called to order at 7:13 pm by Ross

138 survey responses, 58 took time to write responses.

Scott shared that there seem to be four trains of thought: 1) slow, no wake zone would be a good thing; 2) support no wake zone but feels middle ground or alternative needs to be looked for; 3) no vote – but related to some boats definitely needing to slow down; 4) no vote – adamant this is overreach.

We would need to make a presentation before Cass Co. Commissioners board meeting to get a no wake zone done but might be divisive in that property owners who are opposed would attend meeting and make it unproductive.

Scott feels we should take another approach. Take the long view, share articles about safety and the science around shoreline health for a couple boating seasons and see what effect that approach has.

Ron feels we should definitely invite the Water Patrol Deputy Sherriff Brad Ritgers to our LWA membership meeting this spring. Maybe this would help the whole lake thinking about this at the same time.

Kathy shares that education is our best bet at this time. Get the information out there – hopefully people will finally figure it out.

Scott feels we should publish the results of the survey, not necessarily the comments – the comments could be kept within the knowledge of the board. The board feels the next best step is education and communication for the next couple of seasons.

We still could still request red/green channel markers for the narrows. Funneling boats through a narrower space might lead to slowing down boat traffic. But Scott feels this would not be the best approach right now – do the education approach first for a couple seasons.

Susan shares we can reach the people that live on the lake with communication – maybe we need to post information at the boat landing to reach the group that just ‘visits’ the lake.

Vicki thought of asking the VRBO property owners to share this education piece with people renting their homes in the packet the home owners provide for VRBO renters. Pelican Lake had a really big sign at their boat landing listing what all buoys meant.

Scott thanked everyone for their thoughtful comments. He is drafting a summary email blast communication; Glen suggests it should 1) thank everyone for participating; 2). Outline the results of the survey; 3) outline the steps the board plans on taking- indicate getting the Sheriff involved to teach about boating safety, educate everyone about boat safety/courtesy.

Scott will work on his draft again with these points in mind - He will share the draft with the board by this weekend – give everyone about a week to review and get comments back to Scott.

Susan stated this clearly calls for some kind of communication plan on the part of our board, what will our timing be?

David commented that we should approach it as a lake health issue as opposed to presenting it as a ‘rules’ issue – historically people respond well to improving lake health but get riled up when someone mentions ‘rules’. In the long term we don’t want to lose 25% of membership over this issue.

Ross suggested we post a large sign at the boat landing – approved by DNR of course, speaking of no wake.

Susan shared that we would have an easier time influencing the people focusing on the safety issue.

Scott shared that in the past 5 years he has observed more fast boat traffic in the narrows area. We should talk about both subjects – courteous boating safety and lake health overall. Be aware of the wake your boat creates – be courteous.

Scott feels we shouldn’t get a negative reaction to some simple messages regarding safe boating courtesy – approach from two fronts: Sheriff presentation, educational articles.

Vicki agrees with Dave we seem to have more impact/buy in with lake health issues; but in this case we can't neglect the water safety portion of this issue.

Jim commented "what is LWA competent to do – education is what we should do and can do." So we have to be guided by what is an unopinionated way to share the message about boat courtesy and the science of shoreline damage caused by boat wakes.

Glen then clarified that Scott would amend his email draft, forward to himself (Glen) and Susan for comments, then forward to entire board.

Vicki asked if we want to bring in the Sheriff for June meeting – he will do a 15 minute talk, with 15 minute time for questions and answer period. We could direct the Sheriff to address water safety, courtesy, and then lake health. Ron & Pat support having Sheriff attend June meeting.

Ron clarified we would still be continuing the email blast messages and Spring newsletter articles as education pieces – Glen said they will be sprinkled throughout the Spring/Summer boating season with other events we email blast about to keep in the forefront of everyone's mind.

Ross shared he will be emailing the board the new procedure for CLT and Cass Co. to cover boat inspector hours for this coming summer. Ross will need everyone to vote immediately to get the applications off to Dana on behalf of LWA for boat inspectors hours and boat landing coverage.

Scott thanks everyone for their input.
Board thanks Glen and Scott for all their work on this also.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Judd - Secretary