

Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District
Bouy & Regulatory Committee
Meeting Minutes
held 2/7/2024 at Pioneer Grill and Saloon

Present: Pete Heimdal, Julie Lammer, Bob Batchelor, Jim Zons

Jim Zons Calls meeting to order 5:00 pm

Jim indicates that having meeting minutes by a week after meeting would be helpful.

A. Approval Of the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting

Julie Lammer moves and Pete Heimdal seconds acceptance of agenda and last meeting minutes

B. Recognition of visitors and visitor comments

No visitors were present.

C. Discussion and Action

1. Additional discussion of existing Tainter Lake ordinance and DNR Rules regarding No Wake Zones And Buoys

2. Discussion of Possible Changes to Existing Ordinance, or Creating New Ordinance

Jim presented a copy of an email from Al Brown which included an email from Al to Eric Olson and Eric's response which mentioned that creating a new ordinance is easy but enforcement is more problematic. Eric suggests that this committee should be represented by at least one member at a hands-on workshop entitled 'Building A Boating Ordinance Conception to Enforcement' being held in Stevens Point on Friday April 12 at 2:14pm - 4pm. Jim said he would find out a location and let us know.

Julie did the work of presenting sample ordinances from Town Of Lake Holcombe, Town Board Of Maple Plain regarding Lake Chetek and the Town of Stanley regarding Prairie Lake.

Pete and Jim agreed that more safety verbiage should show up in any new ordinance we develop and more explicit signage should be provided at boat landings. Bob felt that this was not necessary since what's there is within feet of where people must stand when launching and boating rules regarding no-wake zones are well spelled out in boating regulations provided when receiving their tags. And lack of faith that offenders are likely to even notice anything that we can put up.

Jim mentions that verbiage in current Town Of Tainter ordinance mentions no-wake zones are in effect May-September when in fact no-wake zones are permanently in place year round.

Pete brings up his discussions with the sheriff's office and DNR Recreational Warden that deputizing members to enforce would be discouraged and members shouldn't get involved in confrontation situations with the attendant lack of training and liability issues. However, he received some unanimous committee agreement and perhaps even excitement about an organized network of witnesses with gps and screenshots. He had good information about tiplines and the ability of online reporting. Bob suggested overall combination of reporting into a single depository to help in attempts to identify habitual problem makers. Someone mentioned that currently the sheriff should be providing 80 hours/summer to cover Tainter, Menomin and Lake Eau Galle which didn't seem like a lot. Bob suggested that along with total patrol hours/summer word would quickly get out if enforcement wrote a number of no-wake violation tickets early in the season and that would make a big difference.

3. Boat Landing Discussion

Although it seems like many committee members feel that increased signage would make a difference, there was probably little likelihood that the district might take landing over. Bob expressed his opposition to launching fees indicating that he thought the amount of money raised would not be worth the effort and that seeing how Lake Tainter was widely regarded as a marginal lake, it would have the tendency to greatly reduce recreational use and the attendant reduction in business for businesses on the lake.

Jim thought AirBnBs should be provided literature and perhaps required signage to their customers to increase visitor awareness of the no-wake zones. Julie added that there were currently 20 AirBnBs on the lake.

4. Additional Items.

Julie expressed that she felt that getting expanded no-wake zones as soon as possible would go a long way to demonstrate that the new district was accomplishing good things and increasing enthusiasm for the district. Bob suggested that not all members would see expanded no-wake zones a universally good thing.

Bob informally proposed that the committee recommends to the board that we take over the existing no-wake ordinance with some small budget number and once we succeeded in passing that, that we begin tackling the fraught issue of placement. Otherwise, he said he felt that we would be splitting our voting response with many different placement issues and that he felt we would be risking a negative vote on the ordinance takeover and then be left with what currently exists.

Pete and Jim felt that we could concentrate on selling a takeover of the ordinance with a slightly larger budget than that which would be required to carry on operations as are currently set and accommodate more buoys if required by expanded zones. That way the board/committee could tackle fraught placement issues without annual meeting approval. They felt that approaching things that way the district would gain a greater understanding of what members felt during the required meetings and hearings.

Pete expressed worries about how fast we should be developing recommendations to the board. Jim responded if we were not bound by meeting once a month and if timing required it there was no reason we could hold additional working meetings. Pete suggested scheduling the next two meetings as discussed below.

5. Next meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee of Tainter Lake No-Wake Zones.

a. Place and time.

We scheduled next meeting for Wednesday March 6 at 5pm. And Pete was suggesting that after our early April meeting we should try to squeeze in a meeting the day before the April 18 full board meeting on Wednesday April 17.

Interest was expressed in moving the next meeting to Elk Point or failing that Jakes.

Jim volunteered to check at Elk Point to see if there was any big event there on March 6.

Otherwise, he was going to check with Jake's, feeling that there was almost certainly going to be room in that big back room. Next meeting location to be determined

b. Future Agenda Items

There was no discussion of future Agenda Items.

D. Adjourn

7:10pm Pete motions for adjournment and Bob seconds motion. Meeting Adjourned.