

**Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District  
Dunn County, Wisconsin  
SLOW NO WAKE ORDINANCE**

This Ordinance shall take effect after its passage and posting as provided by law.

**Adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District,  
Dunn County, Wisconsin on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025**

\_\_\_\_\_ signature on file \_\_\_\_\_  
Al Brown (President)

\_\_\_\_\_ signature on file \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Bilse (Secretary)

\_\_\_\_\_ signature on file \_\_\_\_\_  
Grant Peissig (Treasurer)

\_\_\_\_\_ signature on file \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald Porter (commissioner)

\_\_\_\_\_ signature on file \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Zons (commissioner)

\_\_\_\_\_ signature on file \_\_\_\_\_  
Adam Mucks (commissioner)

\_\_\_\_\_ signature on file \_\_\_\_\_  
Chuck Tack (commissioner)

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ signature on file \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Batchelor (witness)

The TLRD secretary shall properly post or publish this ordinance as required under Wisconsin Statutes.

Published on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025 in the Colfax Messenger.

Posted and filed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025

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**Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District  
Dunn County, Wisconsin  
Slow-No-Wake Ordinance**

**Section 1 - Introduction**

**1.1 Title/Purpose**

The title of this Ordinance is the Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District TLRD Slow-No-Wake Ordinance. The intent of this Ordinance is to provide safe and healthful conditions for the enjoyment of aquatic recreation on Tainter Lake consistent with public rights and interests and the capability of the water resources.

**1.2 Authority**

The Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District (hereafter referred to as the “TLRD”) have specific authority to adopt this Ordinance under s. 30.77, Wis. Stats.

**1.3 Adoption of Ordinance**

The TLRD, by this Ordinance, adopted on proper notice with a quorum and by a roll call vote by a majority of the Board of Commissioners present and voting, provides the authority to regulate boating upon the waters of Tainter Lake specified as “Slow-No-Wake” and prescribing penalties for violation thereof.

**1.4 Policy**

- A. The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to the waters of Tainter Lake, within the boundaries of the TLRD.
- B. No person shall operate a boat faster than Slow-No-Wake at any time in the channel areas identified in the controlled areas map (see attached) and marked by buoys.

**1.5 Relationship to Other Laws**

State boating laws as found in ss. 30.50 to 30.71, Wis. Stats., are adopted by reference. The adoption and authorization for use of a citation under this Ordinance does not preclude the TLRD from adopting any other ordinance, or providing for the enforcement of any other law or ordinance, or providing for the enforcement of any other law or ordinance relating to the same or any other matter. The issuance of a citation under this Ordinance does not preclude proceeding under any other ordinance or law relating to the same or any other matter.

Proceeding under any other ordinance or law relating to the same or any other matter does not preclude the issuance of a citation under this Ordinance.

**1.6 Interpretation**

In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be held to be minimum requirements and shall be liberally construed in favor of the TLRD and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other power granted by Wisconsin Statutes.

**1.7 Severability**

If a court of competent jurisdiction adjudges any section, provision or portion of this Ordinance unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

**1.8 Repeal**

All other ordinances or parts of ordinances of the TLRD inconsistent or conflicting with this Ordinance, to the extent of the inconsistency only, are hereby repealed.

**1.9 Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall become valid and take effect upon passage and adoption by the Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District, and posting by the TLRD as provided by law. The TLRD secretary shall properly post or publish this Ordinance as required under s. 60.80, Wis. stats.

**Section 2 - General Provisions**

**2.1 Jurisdiction/Applicability**

The issuance of a citation by a person authorized to do so under subsection 2.6 shall be deemed adequate process to give the appropriate court jurisdiction over the subject matter of the offense for the purpose of receiving cash deposits and other purposes under s. 66.0113 Wis. Stats.

**2.2 Exemptions**

None.

**2.3 Disclaimer**

- A. **Multiple Jurisdictions.** All persons reviewing the provisions of this Ordinance should be aware that TLRD is only one of a number of governmental bodies that may have jurisdiction in the lake district. TLRD cannot make any representations on behalf of any other government body.
- B. **Binding Acts.** No statement or actions by any official, employee, agent or committee of the TLRD should be construed or taken as a binding act of the TLRD except a resolution, motion, or ordinance that has been adopted by the TLRD Board of Commissioners at a lawfully conducted TLRD board meeting, or by the TLRD electors at a duly constituted Annual Meeting. This includes, but is not limited to, interpretation of this Ordinance.

**2.4 Coverage**

No person shall operate a boat faster than slow-no-wake at any time in the waters as described below and illustrated in the attachment.

- 1. Beginning at the North end of the center channel between Upper and Lower Tainter Lake and ending at the South end of the center channel as marked by buoys.

<b>Buoy Code</b>	<b>Lat</b>		<b>Long</b>
#1L	44° 57.996 N	-	91° 52.636 W
#1R	44° 58.004 N	-	91° 52.652 W
#2L	44° 58.212 N	-	91° 52.216 W
#2R	44° 58.231 N	-	91° 52.234 W

2. Beginning at the North end of the channel between Upper and Lower Tainter Lake and ending at the South end of the Northern channel as marked by buoys.

<b>Buoy Code</b>	<b>Lat</b>		<b>Long</b>
#3L	44° 58.291 N	-	91° 52.002 W
#3R	44° 58.304 N	-	91° 52.016 W
#4	44° 58.431 N	-	91° 51.844 W
#5L	44° 58.531 N	-	91° 51.778 W
#5R	44° 58.534 N	-	91° 51.794 W

3. Beginning at the NW entrance of the Hay River Bridge channel and ending at the SE end of the channel entering Tainter Lake as marked by buoys.

<b>Buoy Code</b>	<b>Lat</b>		<b>Long</b>
#6	44° 59.461 N	-	91° 50.776 W
#7	44° 59.611 N	-	91° 50.885 W

## **2.5 Ordinance Amendment or Repeal**

If the TLRD proposes to amend or repeal this Ordinance, the TLRD must hold a public hearing on the issue at least 30 days before the amendment or repeal would take effect. Amendments will not take effect until the TLRD renders the Ordinance valid in accordance with s. 30.77, Wis. Stats., adopt the amendments.

## **2.6 Issuance and Service of Citation**

Since the entire slow-no-wake areas regulated by this Ordinance fall within the boundaries of the TLRD, the TLRD is responsible for enforcement of those slow-no-wake areas.

- A. TLRD Board Members will cooperate with and encourage the Dunn County Sheriff's Department and the Department of Natural Resources, or a qualified trained patrol employed by the TLRD to issue such citations.
- B. Citations, in addition, shall specifically be issued by enforcement official(s) identified in Section 2.7 below.

## **2.7 Penalty Provision**

Wisconsin state boating penalties as found in Wis. Stat. 30.80, and deposits as established in the Uniform Deposit and Bail Schedule established by the Wisconsin Judicial Conference, are hereby adopted by reference and all references to fines amended to forfeitures and all references to imprisonment deleted. Any person, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that fails to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction, forfeit the amount designated by the citation issuing authority. Citations shall be issued to the party violating this Ordinance by the Dunn County Sheriff or Deputy, Department of Natural Resources Warden, or designee of the TLRD Board of Commissioners.

## Section 3 - Definitions

### 3.1 Word Usage

For the purposes of this Ordinance, words used in the present tense include the future; the singular number includes the plural number; and the plural number includes the singular number. The word "shall" is mandatory and not directory.

### 3.2 Definitions

Definitions for certain words or phrases used in this Ordinance, in particular where this Ordinance references another town ordinance, can be found in the referenced ordinance. Definitions for other words or phrases can be found in the Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 30 and 66. For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following definitions revise, supplement, or are in addition to definitions contained in the above referenced documents.

1. **DNR.** Department of Natural Resources.
2. **TLRD.** Means the Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District.
3. **Peace officer.** Means a state, county, city, village, town, town sanitary district or public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district officer, agent or employee charged under statute or municipal ordinance with powers or duties involving inspection of real or personal property, including buildings, building premises and building contents.
4. **Board of Commissioners** Means the elected and appointed board of commissioners for the TLRD and includes any designee of the board authorized to act for the board.
5. **Wis. stats.** Means the Wisconsin Statutes, including successor provisions to cited statutes.
6. **Slow-no-wake.** Means that speed at which a boat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steering control.

## Section 4 – Town of Tainter Responsibilities

### 4.1 Compliance with State Statute and DNR Requirements

The Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District (TLRD) shall be responsible for complying with all State Statute and DNR requirements associated with this Ordinance.

### 4.2 Buoy Placement and Maintenance

Since all controlled areas covered by this Ordinance fall within the TLRD boundaries, the TLRD shall be responsible for enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance and all costs associated with buoy placement and buoy maintenance.

**Attachments**

**1 Tainter Lake Slow-No-Wake Controlled Area Map**



**Tainter Lake, Dunn County, Wisconsin** (see 2004 Dunn County platt book page 46)

## **2 Slow-No-Wake Condition Report**

### **TAINTER LAKE CONDITION REPORT February 20, 2025**

#### **Purpose**

The following is a record for the justification for continuation of a slow-no-wake ordinance in the channels of Tainter Lake (see attached controlled area map). The primary purpose of the ordinance is to ensure public safety in the channel areas of Tainter Lake in Dunn County, Wisconsin, with an added benefit of reduced erosion of the lakeshore.

#### **Local conditions for continuing the slow no-wake regulation:**

The existing state statute restricts boats to slow-no-wake to within 100' of any docks, rafts or piers (see ss. 30.66(3) Wis. Stats.). The prior Town of Tainter slow no-wake ordinance was enacted in 2007; therefore boaters on Tainter Lake have had 18 years of marked slow no-wake control zones on the lake. Prior to the ordinance being enacted in 2007, boaters commonly operated their watercraft at full throttle down the center of the channel.

The channel areas on Tainter Lake are highly populated. Residential lots along this shoreline typically range from between 100' to 150' of channel frontage and high percentages have docks, piers, boathouses or swimming areas. The watercraft using these channels includes both motorized and non-motorized craft e.g. fishing boats, speedboats, pontoons, PWC, canoes, sailboats, kayaks, paddle boats, etc. It is a popular fishing and recreational lake for both residents and non-residents which become apparent with the significant increase in watercraft on weekends and holidays. The narrow width of the channel; the high concentration of shoreline residents and the high volume of watercraft on weekends and holidays make these areas prone to safety issues. The potentially unsafe conditions in these channel areas are substantiated by shoreline residents during local Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District meetings.

#### **Ordinance Positive Effects:**

- 1) Continuing a slow no-wake ordinance in portions of the channel areas of Tainter Lake would continue reducing watercraft speeds in these narrow corridors therefore improving the public safety in the channels.
- 2) The buoys authorized by the ordinance would heighten the awareness of boaters in the areas to the relationship of their craft's speed to the public safety in the area.

#### **Ordinance Negative Effects:**

- 1) The channel between upper and lower Tainter Lake is lengthy; restricting boat traffic to slow no-wake for portions of this distance does increase the time it takes to get between the two main areas of the lake.

**Impact on Public Safety if Ordinance is Not Adopted:**

Like most lakes in Wisconsin, boat traffic continues to increase on Tainter Lake, as does the number of residences on the shoreline. If the ordinance is not adopted, it is highly unlikely the risk to public safety in these areas will decrease. There is a greater likelihood the risk will increase due to the increasing congestion in these areas, and the fact that a slow no-wake ordinance has been in effect since 2007.

**Summary of Ordinance Opposition:**

Because the Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District is essentially taking over an already existing ordinance, opposition is almost non-existent. Primary opposition to the ordinance revolves around jurisdictional issues (“why can’t the ordinance stay with the Town of Tainter?”) and budgetary (“let’s not spend the money”) as opposed to any restrictions imposed by the ordinance itself. Outside of a few comments during our public hearing to discuss adopting the ordinance, there have been no other opposing comments at subsequent TLRD board meetings or subcommittee meetings.

**3 Waterway Marker Application and Permit – Controlled Area # 1**

**4 Waterway Marker Application and Permit – Controlled Area # 2**

**5 Waterway Marker Application and Permit – Controlled Area # 3**