

CORDRY-SWEETWATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
(Draft #2)
WAKE COMMITTEE MEETING
April 12, 2023

1. **Members Present:** Aaron Parris, Chair, Scott Casey, Barb Bowers, Jeanne Robinson, Marcia Harper and Sonia Leerkamp.
2. **Members Absent:** Brian Clancey.
3. **Also present:** Brittany Bay, Staff; Brent Keith, Boat Patrol.
7 Freeholders were also present
4. **Chair, Aaron Parris called the meeting to order.**
5. **Agenda Modifications:**
 - a. Sonia Leerkamp asked that consideration be given to officially adopting Roberts Rules of Order, as previously requested by Jeanne Robinson. There was some discussion clarifying what this might mean operationally for the Committee. The primary reasons for suggesting the use of the Rules would be to make sure that any motions are properly offered and seconded and that any measure voted upon would be done by roll call. The request was discussed and approved unanimously.
 - b. Marcia Harper then requested that some portions of her recommendations be specifically included in the minutes for March 8th, as had been done for Scott Casey. Marcia was able to point out to the Chairman the portions of her recommendations that she wished to have included into the minutes, Aaron copied and pasted those items into the minutes proposed for March 8th.
 - c. Scott Casey asked that a picture of the ruler he used in the discussion of his recommendations also be incorporated into the minutes of March 8th.

A motion to approve the Minutes with these Modifications was made by Sonia Leerkamp, seconded by Jeanne Robinson and passed unanimously.

6. Freeholder Concerns:

John Robinson, Ted Adolay, Mary Jo Lowe and Kathy Brown were among the freeholders expressing questions and concerns to the committee, including 1) the size of boats that engage in wake surfing and wake boarding activities; 2) that security plans to address ploughing or pushing water by boaters with 2 warnings for “too much wake” and 2 official citations and then the boat would be banned from the lakes for the remainder of the season; and 3) the fact that in 2015 a committee had addressed wake boating and had banned it when there were only 2 wake boats on the lakes (which were grandfathered in), but no one had bothered to enforce the rules and now we have 58 of these boats on the lakes. Safety and erosion were the primary concerns in 2015 and remain even more of a concern today.

7. Boat Patrol Insights

Brent Keith appeared before the committee to present his insights on efforts to enforce wake surfing/boarding concerns over the last 5 years that he has served on the Boat Patrol. His opinion was that wake surfing is safer than skiing and tubing, primarily because the speed of the wake producing boats is so much slower. He had no opinion on property damage or other safety issues that might result from the wakes produced by boats engaged in these sports.

Other members of the committee and freeholders questioned whether it would be safer to have the wake boats in a confined area in the middle of the two lakes on a specified course, whether it would be safer or more dangerous for tubers to have the large wakes produced by these boats, whether allowing a course will result in more wake boats on the lakes unless the numbers are curtailed, and whether just because a boat may be able to survive the pounding of going over the larger waves does not necessarily equate with safety or comfort for the passengers of those boats, let alone the safety and enjoyment of the people on the beaches, in the coves or in or on other watercraft.

8. Old Business

a. Setting a deadline for submission of recommendations to CSCD

Jeanne Robinson was asked by Aaron Parris to offer a suggestion on a deadline to present the Committee's recommendations to the CSCD. Jeanne's initial recommendation was May 15th. However, she conceded that that had been her original idea for a deadline, but that since so little of any substance had been accomplished to date, that it was probably not entirely realistic.

Barb Bowers added that she believes it is important for freeholders to know about this Committee, what the options are and get their input before sending any recommendation to CSCD. And that process could take some time.

A discussion then ensued as to whether a demonstration of several wake boat scenarios should be offered to the Committee members so that the effects and impact of the waves created by these boats could be assessed in real time. This discussion became somewhat heated and convoluted.

Sonia Leerkamp made a motion that we do the demonstration. Aaron Parris seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members present voting in favor, except Jeanne Robinson, who voted "no".

The Committee then went back to consideration of a deadline for submission to CSCD. Aaron Parris made a motion that the deadline be July 12th, and that if we were not prepared by then, we could vote to extend the deadline. The motion was seconded by Jeanne Robinson. The motion passed with all members present voting in favor, except Jeanne Robinson, who voted "no".

Barb Bowers volunteered to work on a questionnaire to be submitted to obtain freeholder input.

b. Review recommendations submitted by Jeanne Robinson and Aaron Parris

Jeanne Robinson began by highlighting some of her recommendations, including wanting real enforcement of any restrictions we come up with, no more wake boats

allowed on the lakes beyond those that are currently here, separate boat stickers to designate wake boats, inspections of all wake boats currently on the water to make sure they comply with all restrictions, that she is not in favor of wake zones, boat patrol logs to be maintained for public inspection, and all opinions and alternative ideas should be publicly represented until a final decision is made on the recommendations to be made to CSCD.

Aaron Parris advised that he felt his recommendations spoke for themselves and he did not feel the need to elaborate.

7. **Long Term Projects** - No discussion at this time.

8. **New Business** - No discussion at this time.

9. **Wake Committee Member Concerns/Comments**

a. Marcia Harper requested additional studies be included on the website for free-holders to review. It was decided she would send those to Brittany Bay to try to facilitate this request.

b. It was also requested that the maps created by Randy Brumfield be incorporated to the record/minutes of this meeting.

10. **Adjournment** - Marcia Harper made a motion to adjourn; this motion was seconded by Barb Bowers, and passed unanimously.