

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy
Wake Committee Minutes
May 10, 2023
CSCD Office

**** These minutes are not official until approved by the Wake Commission****
Amended 6/15/2023.

B Clancy announced recording of the meeting for note purposes

Present: A. Parris, M. Harper, B. Clancy, S. Casey, B. Bowers, S. Leerkamp, J. Robinson.

Absent: None

Guests: Chad Crimmins, Brittany Bay

Call it order: A. Parris called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

Agenda Modifications:

- President and Founder of Construction Fabrics and Grids out of Indianapolis, Chad Crimmins attended the meeting to speak on his experiences with the lakes and erosion, Chad stated he has about 30 years experience working in erosion control. Chad is also a freeholder with multiple properties at the lake and was once a prior board member. Chad has worked in the field since 1993. Chad stated the following: he has worked in many different positions while in this field. Chad stated our lakes are very deep lake compared to many and have a very different type of soil (rocky/clay). Stated he has see erosion mainly at the watershed, where the water is entering each lake, stating this is a natural occurring event. He stated he has not seen large erosion on the shorelines. Stated the dams should not be an issues due to the actual dam being on the backside of the dam. Stated Sweetwater dam was built 1962. Cordry dam was built 1959, he believes Cordry has more of an overflow issues due to maintain issues being overlooked over the past 50 years. Twice stated nothing last forever first in regard to rip rap and seawalls, second regarding dam spillways. (cfg-construction-fabrics-grids.com)
- Freeholder concerns via email, presented by Aaron. Will be attached to minutes.

Free Holder Concerns: (Limited to 3 mins)

- Sussy Cowen – Concern from boating last season where pontoon was swapped with water from wake boats. People on her pontoon boat had to run to back of boat to avoid waves. She has a handicap child and she stated she can not take him out tubing when there is any wake surfing activity due to the wake. She thinks the lakes are too small for the activity.

- Amber Nunez – Owns 2 boats, pontoon and wake boat. Has two kids that enjoy the activity. Very interested in safety and believes the exercise is safe compared to other activities on the lake. Stated she has not used any wake enhancing devices on CSCD, and against any being used by anyone and swift penalties should be used on those who do. Stated she has not used any wake enhancing devices on CSCD, but does on other lakes. Shared her boat can not be permanently disabled and she did sign the affidavit.
- Chris Buckman – Moved to CSCD for clearer water, lack of jet skis and lake rules. Has a wake boat and does not use wake-enhancing devices, uses it main for surfing. Does not support wake-enhancing devices on the lake. Stated he removed a fuse and electronically disabled wake enhancing equipment. He also signed the affidavit.
- Tommy and Nancy Quill – Main issues with wake boats is the erosion and any dam issues that may come up. Also asked how wide our lakes are.
- James Martin – Believes wake causes safety and erosion concerns. Spoke about how Grandview and Morse lakes has issues similar and had to make changes. Stated wake surfing may be safer for the surfer but not others on the lake. Wake boat went by (plowing) near the bouys... swamped front of his boat causing the children to scream and nearly fall off their seats
- Jim Chapman – Stated he had pontoon swapped by wake boat and stated he has observed wake boats using wake-enhancing devices before. Stated any time persons create big wakes is an issue. Has witnessed a boat emptying it's ballast on Cordry
- Tom Kuhn – Stated shoreline by dock has eroded away he believes from these activities, stating wake surfing is happening way less than 200 feet from his shoreline, worried about dam and who should pay for damage to freeholders or CSCD property. Stated current rule book refers to skiers being towed. Once they drop the rope, they are no longer being towed.
- Jay Thomas and Brittany Lane – Bought in August 2022 and before he stated he lived on Morse since 1996 but left due to the lake changing for the worse. Stated he loves surf boats but knows once you get multiple the lake is unsafe. He won't allow his kids to swim sometimes due to wake sizes. Moved to CSCD due to the restrictions.
- Chad Crimmins – Been around CSCD since 1978. Has seen lot of change over time. Stated jet ski death happened in 96-97, which brought forward that rule of no jet skis. Stated waves have always been an issue, but the beauty of the lake has not changed. Stated this wave/wake issues has come up at least 3 times prior since 98. He was on board for about 8 years. Stated there is always going to be waves on this lake regardless, the lakes are small lakes and deep lakes.
- Steve Hoover – Stated issue started in 2014, when only a hand full of wake boats were at CSCD. Stated he had wake from a wake boat swap his pontoon in past. Stated he still has damage on his boat to date from that incident. Worried about safety issues. Stated he has large waves at his dock that comes up his steps and worried about erosion. Added erosion...This does not happen when normal boats go by.
- Mary Jo Lo – Worried about erosion. Been at lakes since 1972 and stated she has seen a huge amount of changes and glad her kids are grown and gone due to the changes.

- Mary House – Stated she is anti wake boat, stated they are fearful to take kids on pontoon on weekends due to it being unsafe due to wake activity.
- Kay Gaither – Stated she is anti wake boat and doesn't going out on weekends, unable to bring grandchild on boat due to safety issues.
- Ron Condra – Stated he just purchased a wake boat, daughter enjoys wake surfing. Stated he has no problem at his property with erosion. Believes owners have obligation to maintain their land to help stop erosion. Would like to see pictures as proof of erosion freeholders are describing.
- Sherry Condra – Stated enforcement needs to be more, believes boat violations should not be via warnings it needs to be tickets. Stated people need to be hit in pocket book to help hit issues. Stated they have been here for 21 years and installed rip rap to help maintain their property.
- Craig Caldwell – Stated he has a wake boat. Been at CSCD for 17 years, stated does not enhance wake. Brought up point that he has not seen a study provided while not using wake enhancing devices. Stated heavy boats such as Cobalts can make wave just due to weight. Concerned if rules change and he needs to pull boat off lake to wake surf else where which brings up zebra mussel issues.
- Cindy Tribble – Worried about safety. Worried about grandkids due to wake. Our lakes are so careful with the use of yellow and red lights but not careful about large waves from wake boats.
- Steve Burke – Has pontoon and speedboat. Lives in a cove so he doesn't see wake as much but is worried for those on main body as he knows the wakes are large. Worried over safety concerns for young kids.
- John Glover – Stated his house is on a point with 270 degrees of waterfront and he sees everything. Stated all boats speed down lake and turn near his property creating huge wakes, this is all boats just not wake boats. He installed rip rap and maintains property to fight erosion. Stated he has a wake boat but does not use it for wake surfing. Worried about banning all wake boats. Stated he believes the amount of wake is larger based off how people drive/operate their boats.
- Kelly Glover – Invites anyone to her house to ride their wake boat to learn more about it. Stated current boat has a no wake feature. Stated they don't wake board but just enjoy the boat. Stated wave hitting their property sounds like an ocean due to location near dam but has rip rap and only replaced it twice in 30 years and does not see anymore erosion over that time.
- Jayne Handerhan – Does not want to restrict activity and wants everyone to enjoy lake. Is more worried about tubers than wake boats.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Minutes from 4/12/23 with edits approved by all present at the prior meeting; A. Parris, M. Harper, S. Casey, B. Bowers, S. Leerkamp, J. Robinson. Clancy did not vote, as he was not at prior meeting.

Old Business:

- Sweetwater Test - Wake Boat Committee to conduct a live test with multiple boats (Wake boat, Pontoon, Speed, Fishing ...Etc) to observe wake created and the wake dispersion.
 - June 1, 2023 at 2PM
 - Lake will be placed in yellow
 - Ask for CSCD Board for approval to use wake-enhancing devices to observe wake created from boats with devices engaged.
 - Vote to move forward on test conducted: A. Parris, M. Harper, S. Casey, B. Bowers, S. Leerkamp, Clancy voted yes; Robinson voted no.

- Committee Member Recommendations
 - B Clancy (Sheet attached) – Restrict/Ban the activity of wake surfing not the boats themselves.
 - Community Voice needed maybe a vote
 - Education to community is needed.
 - CSCD Rules Be a Living Document that updates as need be
 - Enforcement/Follow Through
 - Transparency
 - Asked Parris to recuse himself from future votes due to what could appear to be a financial interest.

 - B Bowers (Sheet attached) – Ban/restrict the use of weight and wake surf boats
 - Ban would only be of new boats current boats would be grandfathered, strict penalties for using wake enhancing for those grandfathered.
 - Education
 - Responsibility to communities
 - Community voices - decision should be made via vote by freeholders not board.
 - Questionnaire for Freeholders

New Business: Motion by Harper, and seconded by Robinson, a recommendation to the board until final recommendations are made there is not to be any wake surfing while hugging the buoys and it only be done toward the middle of the lake. Voted and passed unanimously.

Member Concern/Comments: Harper spoke about rulebook noting boaters would get 3 tickets not warnings. She asked that members create a list of what other items could be added to Sweetwater test on June 1, including wake from down surfer when a boat stops. Harper also created and provided a list of all Wake Committee member recommendations in an organized sheet. A draft of it was provided to committee members to ask if they saw any value in including the document. (Document attached)

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Robinson seconded by Clancy at 8:31 PM. Motion passed

Next Meeting: June 7, 2023, at 6 PM at CSCD Office

Respectfully Submitted by: Brian Clancy

May 1, 2023: Barbara L Bowers

I volunteered, which I rarely do, to be on the Wake board committee due to the many concerns voiced by neighbors and friends.

Full disclosure:

- I do not own a wake enhancing boat
- I have a deck boat with 115 hp outboard
- I do not ski or tube
- I live off of a deep Cove on Cordry since 2017... not on the main body
- Primary residence full-time with visiting grand children
- I felt I could give an unbiased opinion, listening to others who voiced their concerns. I feel their concerns far exceeded my worst trepidation.

The research done by each member of this committee has been exceptional. I requested our corporate research department do a broad search on the topic, which produced the same articles, proving little research has historically been done on this topic.

1. Multiple reputable scientific studies have been presented with comparable sized lake outlining and provide non biased scientific based information
2. shore erosion
3. disruption of the Lake bottom leading to diminished fish population
4. disruption of the Lake bottom leading to diminished fish population
5. increased algae growth main body of water
6. I feel more comparison scientific studies would be particularly advantageous when it comes to the potential damage of our shoreline, dams and ecologic viability of our lakes.
7. Decreasing depth of the water at our shoreline and in the coves

1. **Concerns: Trepidation**
2. This committee was formed as a smokescreen: my belief, the decision has already been made by the CSD board.
3. All board members should be fully vetted prior to voting on this referendum

at least two board members have financial/monetary gain to allow wake surf boats and should abstain from voting

Example's

A. New sales of homes would go up exponentially **WIN**

- great sales pitch: Wake Surf boats now allowed on Sweetwater & Cordry
- Enjoy ALL water sports to include wake surfing on a Private lake
- Only Private lake in Indiana to allow Wake Surfing

B. Existing home sales increase WIN/WIN

- financial loss depreciation from shore erosion
- expenditures from sea wall repair: concrete and/or rift rap
- boat repairs from large waves knocking boats against docks
- boat lift installation to help prevent boat damage
- freeholders feel they can no longer enjoy the tranquility
- fishing/floating/swimming/standup boards in coves no longer safe or enjoyable on weekends due to magnitude of waves

1. Initial inequity of posted studies (order of listings)*known fact people will only read the 1st posted study and will only read the impression or findings found in the last paragraph*

A. The Boat sales study produced compelling skewed and biased information to increase boat sales period

STUDIES FROM: WATER SPORT INDUSTRIES, June 3, 2020, M M A (National MarineManufactures Assoc., Nicki Polan); MRAA (Marine Retailers Assoc. of Americas, Best Practices); New Hampshire The Wake Responsibility Campaign; Lake Sunapee Protective Assoc. (June Fichter); D R

- grafts can be skewed and information bent to fit their agenda: " sell expensive wake surf boats"
- this study should be removed from the listing of studies as it provides no accurate information: *merely an advertisement*

B. Post ONLY scientific based, non-biased studies, like the University of Minnesota/ St. Anthony Falls Laboratory Healthy water initiatives...which tested 4 boats under a range of speeds, weight and other conditions

- The findings revealed: wake/waves produced by Wake surf boats during wake surfing are not only higher but they also require greater distance to decrease to the same height as wake waves from other typical recreation boats.
- Multiple reputable scientific studies have been presented with comparable sized lakes outlining and providing non-biased scientific based information
- shore erosion

- disruption of the Lake bottom leading to diminished fish population/increased algae growth
- Vector for invasive water species
- All of these studies recommend at least 200' or more from shorelines or structures and 100' from other boats/swimmers
- ALEA Marine Patrol Said that 80% of all complaints stem from wake/waveboats surfing

1. Dam damage

A. My Major Trepidation: Both dam's integrity if a course is set up in close proximity due to intense concussive waves

- The damage and cost will go up expeditiously as the number of boats increase each year(We only have 58 now , could you imagine our lakes in 2030?)
- Expensive Cost of dam repair will be shared by every freeholder/not just the wake boat owners
- I could not find studies addressing damage on comparable dams from wake surfing/enhancing boats

Our very first meeting, the tactic of indoctrination, telling us we would not get our way...that some people would not be happy... that we all had to give-and-take. The truth of the matter...we have to put our personal preferences aside and honestly look at the health and viability of our lakes. Back in the 50s when these lakes were born, powerful weight enhancing wake boats did not exist on paper or in the minds of any freeholder. However, we now are task with looking out for the future generations that will hopefully enjoy these Lakes for many years to come. With that being said my recommendations are as followed:

1. My Recommendations to the CSD BOD: Ban/restrict the use of weight and wake surf boats utilized to enhance ocean sized waves

I feel we have more than compelling evidence from presented SCIENTIFIC BASED STUDIES delineating potential damage of our shorelines, dams and ecologic viability of our lakes from powerful, heavy and/or wake enhancing boats

These may seem unwavering and perhaps even harsh, but in my experience people do not believe the rules are for themselves only for others..

Subsequently:

1. Ban/restrict further boats that are capable of wake enhancing devices or have strict penalties for abuse
2. grandfather current boats if they can show proof that the ballast, trim tabs and weight of the boat is compliant and under the maximum limit
3. Strict harsh penalties for those that do not adhere to the mandates/One strike you're out (they have already signed an affidavit)
4. Need to have some type of identification for Boat patrol
5. Possibly a letter before/after the lot number to identify Wake Boats
6. Educate Boat Patrol on how to ascertain properly disconnected apparatus
7. Include a clause on the wake surf boat affidavit that states boat patrol may board the boat to check for infractions
8. Restrict weight of boats 4,000lbs.?
9. Enforce current weight limit
10. Penalty for adding additional weight of the boat in any fashion: be it people, cement blocks or ballast

Thoughts:

- Have we done such a great job on Zebra mussels only to destroy the lakes from powerful heavy boats complete with ballast that are vectors.
 - With that said: I do not feel we should open our lakes for destruction
 - wake surfing or wake enhancing boats
 - wake producing or for that matter, heavy powerful boats.
 - These lakes are simply too small to safely handle boats capable of producing large wake producing/enhancing waves
1. Class Action Law-suits against the conservancy
 2. Numerous case reports of lawsuits brought against wake surf boat owners responsible for shoreline damage/erosion along the Mississippi river
 3. Current freeholders are suffering astronomical cost to build/repair sea walls and/or rip rap to prevent soil erosion and loss of lakefront property
 4. The Conservancy will be held responsible if the current rate of damage/destruction continues for the pleasure of others
 5. We have a current ban on wave runners/which in my mind is no different than the argument Mr. Adolay presented stating home sales will go down if we do not allow wake surf boats. No one thought about home sales going down when they banned wave runners?

1. In Truth: A decision of this magnitude that affects hundreds of freeholders should not rest in the hands of the current board.
2. A ballot vote should be had allowing every freeholder the right to voice their intent
3. I feel this would be the only fair/just resolution for constituents

B.Bowers NP-C

On May 4, 2023, at 11:00 PM, Aaron Parris <aparris@cscd-in.org> wrote:

B.Bowers NP-C

Questionnaire for freeholders:

1. Have you had shoreline damage/erosion from massive waves?
2. What do you feel is the cause of large waves?
 - Weather/wind
 - Tubers
 - Boats utilizing trim tabs
 - Wake surf boats
 - Boats going too fast and/or zigzagging
 - Too many boats on the lake
1. Do you feel the lakes are too dangerous to enjoy on the weekends?
2. Do you think the lakes are too small to allow Wake Surf boats?
3. Do you think it should be allowed for free holders to take pictures to include lot numbers and report others for infractions? Or perhaps an anonymous hotline
4. Would you be in favor of a wake surf course set up at the dams where the lakes are widest
5. Do you think the day should be split up in two hour increments
 - no wake 7-9
 - Wake surfing 9 to 11
 - Skiing 11 to 1
 - Tubing 1 to 3
 - Free for all 3 to 7
1. Do you have recommendations that would improve safety, shoreline erosion, or viability for the lakes?
2. Are you aware wake surf boats have ballast that may be vectors for invasive, aquatic species, i.e. zebra mussels
3. Your Vote: to include address, lot # and signature
 - #1. Allow all wake surfing boats designed to increase waves to include weight and devices designed to shape/enhance massive waves
 - #2. Ban future wake surf boats making certain previously signed affidavit's are being followed stating the wake surfing devices are rendered permanently disabled
 - # 3. No opinion

***please **VOTE** and place in sealed envelope: sign with lot# and mail, drop off at CSD office or place in water bill drop box by Sept 01, 2023 ***

B.Bowers NP-C

Wake Boat Committee Recommendations - Brian Clancy

1. **Main Recommendation - Restrict the activity of wake surfing.**
2. **Community Voices/Education -**
 - a. **Just like the vote was done with the Interlocal Agreement, we need to hear from the community on this matter. We need to listen to the masses and not be driven by the few/owners of said boats who use for the activity of wake surfing. Many freeholders have already shown their displeasure for the activity of Wake Surfing, with many saying they left larger bodies of water seeking a smaller lake to get away from the activity that plagued their old lakes.**
3. **As CSCD rules already read, follow all Indiana State DNR/Boating laws. Thus follow any lead from the state or any bill that happens in the future regarding wake boats.**
 - a. **IN State House Bill #1305, this bill was proposed again this legislative session (2023). Last year it passed one chamber (the State Senate) via vote 40 -6 on January 2022. So the bill passed the Senate side once and this session is now being introduced by the House side. Which shows there is interest from both legislative bodies to make this a law. This bill not only brings forwards common sense safety issues related to wake boats but most importantly has a common sense provision that would amend Indiana Code (IC) 15-15-2-10 that would add "an individual may not operate a motorboat on a "small lake" for the purpose of wake boarding or wake surfing."**
 - b. **Current Indiana IC 14-15-3-1 defines a "small lake" as - a body of public water having a surface area that does not exceed three hundred (300) acres.**
 - c. **We already know our lakes are both under 300 acres and even smaller when you only take into account when removing non wake areas.**
4. **Enforcement/Follow Through - regardless of the outcome of any decision made on wake boats/wake surfing, any rules must be strictly applied -**
 - a. **The fact that many people are outwardly breaking the rules, is honestly very heart breaking to me. As a newer community member I recently also bought a boat, a pontoon. That boat was used and came with a 115HP motor (illegal here at our lakes). I had numerous people tell me to just change the sticker on it to show 90 HP. I held myself to a higher standard and did not. I traded that motor in at a local dealer and purchased a brand new 90HP motor incurring thousands of dollars of service to have the new motor installed. But I did the right thing following the rules that are in place.**

- b. Knowing that rules are so blatantly being broken with no fear of punishment is a disservice to our community and our lake itself. The records show there has not been much enforcing of the rules. That needs to improve.
 - c. A three strike rules has been in place already, but I feel an edit to that rules needs to be made. If someone breaks a rule and are provided their first official violation (i.e. using illegal wave enhancing devices) if caught a second time, that freeholder should lose privileges to that boat or any additional boats they attempt to register from that boat class for 365 days. Not just the rest of the season. If that freeholder were to incur a second boating violation, (i.e. not following CSCD boating rules like 3 tubers). That would count as just their second overall violation. But giving two free passes basically for the same violations shouldn't be allowed.
 - d. Records also show that many free holders lied under penalty of perjury on their current boat affidavit, this is a MAJOR issue of integrity and down right illegal where prosecution and criminal charges could happen... Whether persons like the form written the way it is or not is irrelevant. That form, I'm assuming as everything else, was passed by vote of the executive board and our/a lawyer before it was ever issued. People have lied and/or just omitted answering the questions while many didn't even sign the affidavit but still got stickers.
 - e. Next season all freeholders should be made to sign a new affidavit stating they understand the law rules and ordinances, with new language giving CSCD employees or CSCD designees to have the right to board/search a boat for any CSCD violation they have reasonable suspicion is taking place. (i.e. fishing, using illegal devices)
5. Transparency –
- a. Create a transparent shared excel/PDF on CSCD that lists **ALL** boating violations. You can view any ticket issued to any civilian by a law enforcement officer in the state for traffic violations and see what disposition happened in the case on a free state website called Mycase.com . Freeholders should be able to see what violations have been issued, to whom and for what reasons and mostly what action was taken by CSCD. This is not just related to wake boats but to all boating/lake activity.

From: Christopher Buckman <boiler_buckman@yahoo.com>

Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 10:13 AM

To: Aaron Parris <AParris@cscd-in.org>

Subject: Wake Committee

Aaron,

I am sending this to you as you were identified as the Committee Lead of the wake committee and also a board member. As such, I'll leave it to you to determine whether these comments/concerns should be sent to the committee or board for consideration.

As the record will show, I attended the Wake Committee meeting on May 10th, 2023. As I understood the intent of the committee was to research the impact of "wake boats" on Cordry and Sweetwater Lake. My intent was to listen in on what the committee was finding and share my perspective. The following are my thoughts and concerns on the committee and situation:

- There was a clear lack of understanding regarding what a "wake boat" is. I left feeling that those that want to see a change are simply opposed to chop that makes their experience of the lakes less desirable. While I understand their concerns, that seems to be incredibly variable and certainly way too subjective to manage through regulations.
- I heard from home owners that had been on the Lake for years, many long before wake surfing and wake boats were even a thing and owners of properties that are located on lots that experience the highest wave activities, indicate that they have experienced no erosion on their properties and have not noticed a change in wave activity.
- I heard from folks that are in the erosion business, and also lot owners, describe the lake as one that does not have an overall erosion issue and also shared methods for proper shoreline protections that are in place and effective and have been so for years. They described the challenges with concrete seawalls and maintenance that are present on all lakes. Our property once had a seawall that was since replaced with rip rap due to challenges with seawalls and we experience no issues at all.
- I am sympathetic to those that are experiencing issues at their shoreline. We are just a couple houses inside a cove and while not on the main body, we are not protected much. On crowded lake days it becomes much more difficult to dock the boat, swimming and floating off the dock becomes more challenging, water crashes up against our deck, etc. As I indicated above, our rip rap under our dock prevents erosion but the situation isn't ideal. I have never been able to attribute this chop to wake surfing or wake boats. It is simply a function of a crowded lake on a busy weekend.
- The studies that were included on the website for review included lakes that are much different than Sweetwater and Cordry, but more importantly, included boats that are prohibited by current lake regulations and clearly not applicable to our lake situation. There are definitely public concerns over wake surfing but these concerns are around big wake boats with complex wake enhancement devices creating monster wakes. Not boats less than 20' long and under 4000# prohibited from using wake enhancement devices. Relating the situation on Sweetwater or Cordry to those on an unregulated lake seems disingenuous and more an effort to reduce normal, safe lake activities on an already regulated lake to something even less to address concerns over normal chop on a busy weekend.
- There seemed to be an overwhelming perception amongst those that want to see a change that any time they see a boat creating a wake they believe is too big, that boater must be "breaking the rules", especially when there is a surfer behind the boat. While I am sure there are situations where folks are breaking those rules, as someone who has a boat that includes wake enhancement devices and knows many that do, I do not believe this is a systemic problem. I am not aware of a single instance of the people I know using those devices. Furthermore, I support the regulations prohibiting their use.

- As the meeting went on, there seemed to be a shift from concern over wake boats, to a concern and desire to ban wake surfing. Wake surfing can be done with a rope behind any boat, with or without a wake, provided it can travel at a speed great enough to keep the surf board afloat. Usually 9 mph minimum and greater speeds for larger riders. Boats create larger wakes when traveling at lower speeds above idle...that is the nature of boats. You can't regulate that an approved boat can't travel at speeds that generate their largest wake so you regulate displacement by regulating boat size as is the case currently. The more crowded the lake, the more wakes are generated, the slower the boats travel due to congestion and you have choppy situations. That is normal for any lake.
- I heard concerns over pontoon safety due to folks experiencing waves coming into their boats. We have experienced that with our pontoon a couple times as well. Pontoons don't handle chop very well by design and on rough days you have to be careful where you take your pontoon. While certainly frustrating, this situation existed long before wake surfing was around. A quick search of the internet will describe concerns around pontoon safety in choppy waters. The situation is more prevalent with smaller pontoons which is the case on Sweetwater and Cordry with the size limitations. I don't have official study results but I feel that smaller/lighter HP motors on larger pontoons, also regulated, creates a lower front that exacerbates the situation even more on Sweetwater and Cordry. Again, certainly frustrating but banning wake surfing will not change the situation on Sweetwater or Cordry.
- All lake activity comes with risks. I believe there was an overwhelming concern regarding how wake surfing creates dangerous situations for pontoon boats and tubers, but virtually no recognition that those that surf indicated they do so because it is much safer than tubing. That is the sole reason we initially tried surfing. I was not comfortable with tubing when the lake was crowded do to the erratic patterns, high speeds, and danger of recovering a downed tuber in crowded waters. We tried surfing and found it to be much safer than tubing. I believe the feedback from lake patrol supports that surfing is safer than tubing as well.

We purchased our home in the summer of 2020. Water quality and the safety that comes with a private lake, regulated boat size, and no jet skis was the draw for us. We have no plans to leave and hope that our children will keep the place after us. We want to be responsible residents, we take great care of our place and invest in it. We were part of the COVID lake house buyers that helped raise property values for existing residents and we could not be happier with our decision. With that said, **BY FAR**, the most concerning thing I heard at the committee meeting was the suggestion that someone who is concerned about the desirability of Sweetwater and Cordy Lakes and the associated property values ought to recuse themselves from voting on this issue. I could not disagree more with that concern and hope that anyone voting will take safety, the health of the lake, and impact to property values into consideration. Banning wake surfing activities when there are already strict regulations limiting the size of boat and prohibiting the use of wake enhancing devices will have an impact on property values. Sweetwater has the reputation of being a highly regulated lake. That is one of the reasons we chose it. We made our decision based on regulations that were in place and we comply with those regulations. I believe banning an activity that will limit what lot owners can do on the lake but will not have an impact on individual's concerns is a bad idea.

Chris Buckman
SW164

On 5/10/23, 6:47 PM, "Amy Keusch" <akeusch1993@gmail.com
<<mailto:akeusch1993@gmail.com>>> wrote:

To Whom It Concerns,

It is my understanding that there is a meeting to discuss concerns regarding wake boats and other boats with wake-enhancing capabilities on the CSCD Lakes. I am unable to attend the meeting in person but I am sending my comments via email for your consideration.

I am a free-holder at Lot 27 on Sweetwater Lake and have been increasingly concerned about these types of boats on the lakes. Our lakes are simply not large enough nor wide enough to accommodate the wake created by these types of boats. The amount of wake created in the main body of the lake causes unsafe boating conditions. If several of the wake enhancing type boats are on the lake at one time, the amount of turbidity makes the lake not only unpleasant but difficult to navigate. Many times, I have returned to my dock because the enjoyment of boating on the lake was diminished by the amount of increased waves and turbidity of the water created by these boats. It's not fun nor safe to have passengers being tossed about in the boat by the excessive height of the waves and increased wave activity. I also don't want the hull of my boat smacking against the surface of the lake when trying to boat in the lake when wake boats are out on the water.

I have noticed a definite increase in the amount of wave turbulence back into our cove. Waves usually subside considerably before reaching our dock, however, it is apparent when these boats are out on the water because the size of the waves reaching back into the cove and the disruption in the shoreline is much greater than waves created by non-wake enhancing boats. I am concerned for the integrity of the seawall because the increase is causing faster deterioration of the structure.

I would like to see wake boats and boats with wake-enhancing capabilities prohibited on our lakes. Our lakes are simply not large enough to accommodate them safely.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Keusch
Sweetwater Freeholder - Lot 27

n 5/9/23, 10:44 PM, "Jayne Handrahan" <jaynehandrahan@gmail.com
<<mailto:jaynehandrahan@gmail.com>>> wrote:

For the record, I am against outlawing Wake Board Boats: wakeboarding; wake surfing. Families enjoy the lake in many different ways. Let's not stifle that enjoyment.

Jayne Handrahan

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jim Leach <jimleach@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 10:33 PM
To: Aaron Parris <AParris@cscd-in.org>
Subject: Wakeboard committee meeting

Hi Aaron,

I am writing you on behalf of my wife and myself. We have lived in the lake since 2005 and are in complete agreement wake boats have gotten out of hand and need to be band. The first several years we were here there were about 5 Mastercrafts total on the entire lake. Now almost every other boat is a wake boat. The lake is simply not big enough or wide enough to handle the wakes. Not only the damage to the shoreline but these wakes make it impossible to ski or wakeboard (on normal boats) and dangerous to tube when these wakes are created. These boats needs to be controlled.

We have seen many of these boats dump their ballast (even though the ballast system was supposed to be permanently disabled before being allowed on the lake). Even without ballasts, these boats can go so slow and create large wakes, but it is clear when they have their ballast full. Lake patrol does not enforce anything around wake boats nor even have a desire to enforce any rules.

Perhaps banning wake surfing would be a great start as that is what causes the largest wakes that disrupts the lake for everyone else.

Then require ALL wake boats to be inspected annually and ensure the ballast is truly removed / permanently disabled. Not just turned off temporarily. In addition, lake patrol should be allowed to board any wake boat that even appears to have a ballast for inspection. And it should not be a 3 strikes and out rule, it should be a single ballast violation results in the boat being banned permanently.

Only extreme penalties and enforcement will have the desired effect and get this wake boat issue under control before it gets even worse. We need to act and we need to act now to protect the integrity of the lake, the safety of all boaters and residents and keep the lake a safe and fun place for everyone....not just the few wake surfers that wreck the water for other users and create a higher level of erosion than other types of boats.

The time to act is now, with a serious response that is impactful and enforceable.

Thank you,
Jim amd Jeanette Leach

From: Chris McFarling <cmcfarling09@LIVE.COM>
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 10:03 PM
To: Aaron Parris <AParris@cscd-in.org>
Subject: Wake committee meeting

Hi Aaron,

I'm interested in what is happening with the wake boat committee but I can't make the meeting tomorrow unfortunately. Can this meeting be recorded and posted on the CSCD website?

As a wakeboarder and skier, I'm concerned that unnecessary restrictions could be imposed. My understanding is that there are two more meetings before the wake committee makes recommendations to the board. I'm curious if any recommendations have begun to materialize at this point, and if so, what that bullet list might look like. There's clearly a lot of anti "wake boat" sentiment swirling around, mainly on the CSCD Facebook group. I've seen discussions with people calling for the outright banning of wake boats. I recall from the minutes when this committee first got started a few months back that there was talk of banning V-drive boats in general at one of the meetings.

Here are my questions and comments that I would pose if I could attend the meeting tomorrow. Most require some additional discussion so I'm hoping to make then next meeting to get face to face feedback.

It seems there is a lot of generalization going on and with all of this discussion of banning things, I'm wondering if the committee has clearly defined what it is that may potentially be banned. What exactly constitutes a wake boat?

There are already rules in place that require wave enhancement technology to be disabled before a boat can be registered on the lake. Are those rules not sufficient and if not why not? I hear claims that some people ignore these rules and enable wave enhancement tech anyway. Is there any evidence of that being the case?

The focus seems to be on wave size (amplitude) produced by certain types of boats but I've heard nothing on the amount of waves being generated (frequency). While certain types of boats do make slightly larger wakes than others, the number of purpose-built wake boats on the lake at any given time is considerably smaller than standard runabouts, speedboats, etc. And when many of these other types of boats are pulling tubes simultaneously, often times in zig zag patterns, there is a high frequency of waves being produced. Wave interference then amplifies the waves, creating a barrage of waves that far outweighs anything being generated from so called wake boats. I don't think any discussion will be complete, or any decisions can be made, without taking into consideration all factors contributing to excessive wake. I think that should also include looking at the effects of shoreline structures such as concrete seawalls, which reflect wave energy, preventing the energy from dissipating into the shore.

With that said I'm not advocating that anything goes. Wake surfing is the one activity that requires a substantial wake. While the existing rules make it more difficult to do since ballast tanks and wave shapers cannot be used, some people still do it, although relatively few. In my time on the lake the last few years, I would estimate that only 3-4 boats in a weekend are engaged in wake surfing. And when they are out it's not for an extended period. As overall contributors to wake concerns, I'd say these wake surfers aren't contributing much. One possible option to minimize the effects of wake surfers

though is to limit their area of operation. Perhaps restricting them to the south end (widest section) of the lake would be possible.

As I mentioned, I'm a wake boarder and skier, and I don't have a "wake boat" by the way. I actually would like the same thing that many opposed to wake boats want to achieve, which is smoother water. In fact, when skiing or wakeboarding, you want the water to be as smooth as possible. In my experience on this lake, it's not wake boats that are the problem, it's all of the other boats, primarily the ones pulling tubes non-stop from green light to red light. That's not to say I'm anti-tubing, quite the opposite. It's an activity that nearly anyone can do and is a lot of fun for many kids and adults. It can also be done when waters are rough, which makes it the go to activity on weekends. I think looking into the benefits of limiting tubing on weekends is equally relevant, if not more relevant, to looking into limiting wake boats. Consider a scenario where tubing is not allowed until later, say 12pm for example. The period from green light to 12pm would see fewer boats on the lake thereby reducing overall wake for at least a couple of hours. While likely not popular, and with some enforcement issues to work out, I think this would have a bigger impact than targeting wake boats.

To summarize, here are the items I would propose for discussion to the wake committee:

- Keep existing ban on wave enhancement tech
- Limit wake surfing to south end (widest section) of the lake
- Look into limiting hours for tubing

Regards,
Chris McFarling
6250 Grosbeak Ct
Lot 458

From: Jon Knight <jon.knight@fairwaymc.com>

Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 4:12 PM

To: Aaron Parris <AParris@cscd-in.org>

Subject: Wake Boat Meeting

Aaron –

My wife and I are unable to attend, but as Freeholders we wanted to make sure that our opinion was noted/recorded as it relates to allowing or not allowing wake boats on Sweetwater / Cordry.

Unfortunately, there is no way to adequately enforce the current “disabling” of the ballast rules with modern wake boats. Well intended, but not realistic at all. The conservancy doesn’t have the staff to do so, nor should it being burdened with that responsibility. Wake boats should NOT be allowed to operate on the lakes for a multitude of reasons (lakes are too small, waves created make the lakes un-enjoyable & unsafe on weekends, shore erosion, etc....) This should be handled in two ways moving forward in our opinion:

1. Current wake boats must prove that they have permanently removed their ballast systems / portable weight bags before being provided with renewal stickers. These boats will be “grandfathered in” – similar to the jet skis of the past. Failure to comply by a set date will result in a fine of \$250 for the first offense on the lake and \$500 for a second offense operating on the lake. The third offense results in the loss of lake privileges for 12 months from the date of the last violation. Revenue from fines can go to pay for erosion efforts.
2. Setting an “effective as of” date that clearly states that wake boats will no longer be approved to operate within the conservancy unless previously grandfathered in.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Knight
Senior Loan Officer
NMLS# 175955

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