

Subject: Recreational Boating Working Group
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 9:37:39 PM Central Standard Time
From: Bill McNaughton
To: Chris Heim, Connie Shaffer, Ruth Hovey, Ron Tomczik, Therese Polum
CC: Sh Kennedy
Attachments: Ordinance 75 Redlines Wake Rules.docx, Map of No Wake Zone.docx, Surface Water Use Zoning JPA V1.docx, Outlook-rfzqhhjm.png

Please do not reply to all.

As you know Councilor Tomczik and myself have been participating in a working group that is reviewing recreational boat use on Medicine Lake. The working group is focusing on three primary goals,

1. Reducing recreational boat impact on the lake ecosystem
2. Increasing safety for all users of the lake
3. Where practical and feasible, accommodate all compatible recreational uses of the lake

The working group includes representatives from the city of Plymouth, Three Rivers Park District and the Bassett Creek Watershed District as well as Councilor Tomczik and myself. We have made significant progress over the last 6 months and have established three near-term actions that will have a significant positive impact on the lake and lake users.

1. Publish and distribute a survey to residents of Plymouth and Medicine Lake as well users of the lake. The intent of this survey is to determine how people use the lake, impediments to using the lake, safety concerns at the lake, interactions that they have had using the lake, etc. We expect to have this survey up and running in late May and will work throughout the summer to collect valuable feedback.
2. Installation of buoys on the east side of the peninsula that mark a 150-foot distance from shore. The intent of this is to help educate boaters to the impact of their wakes on the shore and other lake users. In addition, a buoy will be placed at the French Park landing to help make boaters aware of how far 150 feet is. Finally educational signage will be placed at the landing reminding boaters that they are responsible for their wake.
3. Drafted a JPA between Plymouth and Medicine Lake regarding surface water use zoning and a joint ordinance creating a no wake zone near the West Medicine Lake Beach. In addition to the drafts of the JPA and the Ordinance I have included a map with the group's initial thoughts on the location of this no wake zone.

Long term the working group intends to use survey and lake use data to determine if any additional actions need to be taken.

I personally have spoken to the head of the Hennepin County Sheriff Water Patrol, our local DNR Conservation Officer and Captain at the DNR Law Enforcement Division. The actions that we are suggesting are in line with the advice that they shared as we try to follow state law, specifically that where practical and feasible, accommodate all compatible recreational uses of the lake.

There, please include this email and the three attachments in the packet for February's meeting. The objective is to share this at the meeting and get initial feedback from the council. You can put it as a topic under my update. Our partners in Plymouth are beginning the process of working this through their system as well.

Best,
Bill

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CITY OF MEDICINE LAKE
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 75
[Operation & Speed of Watercraft]

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION AND SPEED
OF WATERCRAFT ON MEDICINE LAKE**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDICINE LAKE ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Medicine Lake; Special Provisions.

Subd. 1. Purpose. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 86B.201-205, 459.20, and Minnesota Rules Parts 6110.3000–6110.3700, it is the purpose of this ordinance to regulate the operation and speed of watercraft on Medicine Lake.

Subd. 2. Definitions. The following words and phrases when used in this ordinance have the meanings set forth below:

"*Operate*" means to navigate or otherwise use a watercraft.

"*Persons*" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, or any body of persons whether incorporated or formed into an association or not.

"*Slow-no wake*" means the operation of a watercraft at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage and in no case greater than 5 mph.

"*Watercraft*" has the meaning given in Minn. Stat. 86B.005, Subd. 8.

Subd. 3. Regulation (No Wake for High Water Level). No person shall operate a watercraft at greater than slow-no wake speed on Medicine Lake whenever the water level exceeds 889.4 feet and remained at that level for at least three consecutive days. The slow-no wake restriction shall remain in place until the lake level drops to 889.4 feet or below for at least three consecutive days.

Subd. 3.5 Regulation (No Wake in West Bay Entrance). No person shall operate a watercraft at greater than slow-no wake speed south of a line from the Plymouth West Medicine Lake Boat launch east the western most point of the City of Medicine Lake

Peninsula and North of a line from the south end of the Plymouth West Medicine Lake Beach to the western most point of the City of Medicine Lake Peninsula.

Subd. 4. Exemptions. Authorized resource management, emergency and enforcement personnel, when acting in the performance of their duties, shall be exempt from the provisions of this ordinance. _____

Subd. 5. Marking. The City Staff of Plymouth and Medicine Lake shall be responsible for informing the public, posting notification at all public accesses, and marking or buoying areas affected by this ordinance as necessary to give reasonable notice of the speed restriction of this section.

Subd. 6. Enforcement. Primary responsibility for the enforcement of this ordinance shall rest with the Hennepin County Sheriffs Department, including both licensed and special deputies. This, however shall not preclude its enforcement by other licensed peace officers.

Subd. 7. Penalties. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. Effective Date. This ordinance becomes effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

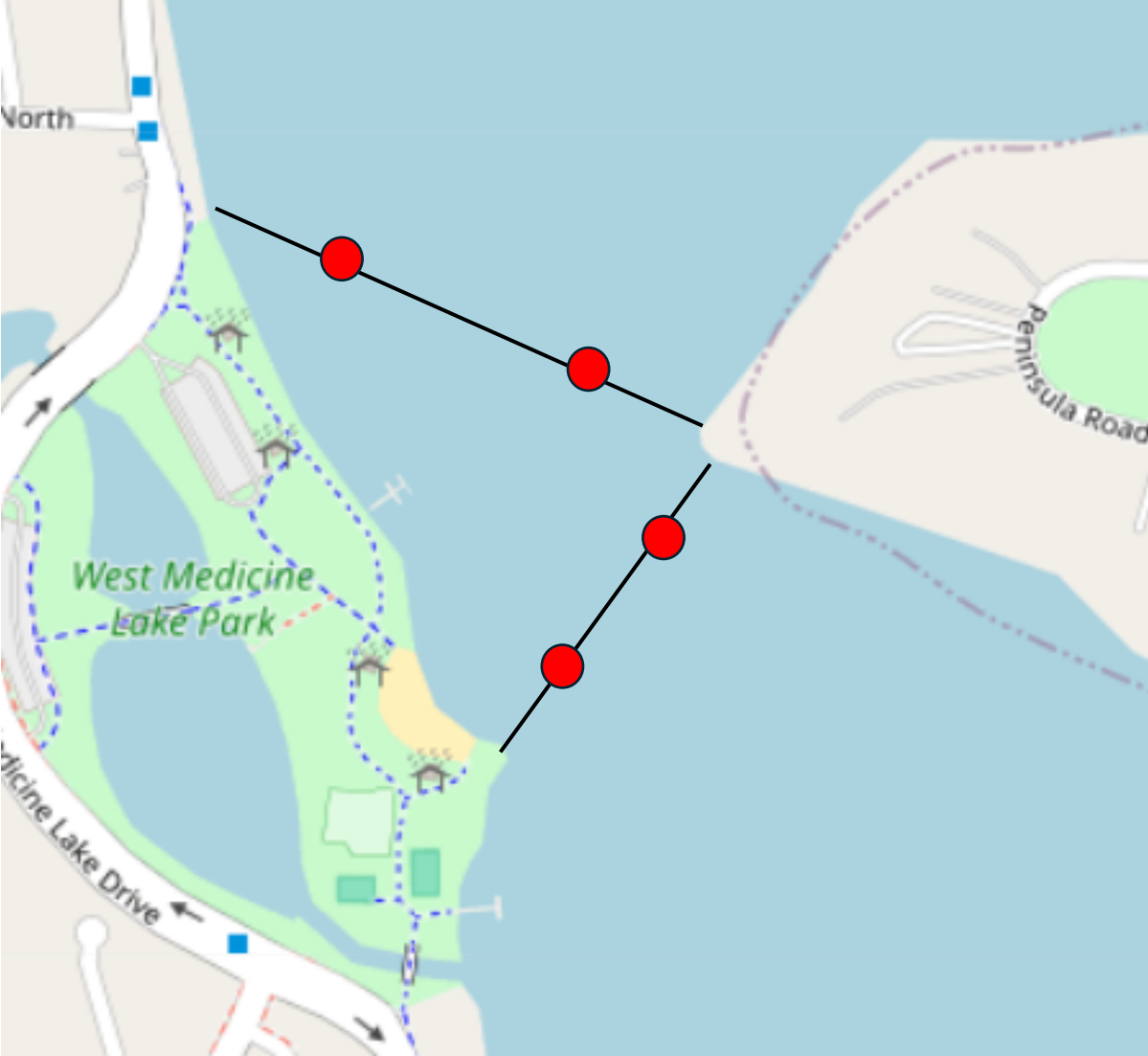
SECTION 3. Ordinance 74 is hereby repealed.

ADOPTED by the City Council of Medicine Lake this ~~65th~~ day of ~~May~~~~rch~~, 20~~24~~~~01~~.

~~Thomas J. Schrader~~~~Chris Heim~~, Mayor

ATTEST: ~~July Deitte~~~~Therese Polum~~, City Clerk

Subd. 3.5 Regulation (No Wake in West Bay Entrance). No person shall operate a watercraft at greater than slow-no wake speed south of a line from the Plymouth, West Medicine Lake Boat launch east the western most point of the City of Medicine Lake Peninsula. and North of a line from the south end of the Plymouth, West Medicine Lake Beach to the western most point of the City of Medicine Lake Peninsula.



Surface Water Use Zoning Joint Powers Agreement

AGREEMENT made this 1st day of February 2024 between the City of Medicine Lake, Minnesota and the City of Plymouth, Minnesota pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 471.59.

I. GENERAL PURPOSE. The general purpose of this agreement is to regulate the speed and wake of watercraft utilizing that portion of Medicine Lake all for the safety and general welfare of the public utilizing said waters.

II. METHODS. The Cities of Medicine Lake and Plymouth may hereafter adopt such ordinances and regulations as they deem fit to implement the general purposes referred to herein. Any such ordinances adopted by the Cities shall be identical in nature so as to provide uniformity in enforcement and regulation.

III. ENFORCEMENT

Subd. A. The Cities of Medicine Lake and Plymouth shall be solely responsible for notifying the public by official notification, posting and buoying all areas to be regulated as described herein.

Subd. B. The Cities and all appropriate law enforcement agencies are authorized and entitled to enforce the provisions of any regulations or ordinances adopted pursuant to this agreement.

IV. TERMINATION. Either party may terminate this agreement by giving 60 days of notice to the other party of its intention to do so. Furthermore, this Agreement shall automatically terminate if the ordinances adopted pursuant to this agreement are modified to such a degree that they are substantially different in their terms or in the event State Law supersedes local authority to regulate the activities referred to herein.

In witness whereof, the parties have signed this Agreement the day and year first above written.

City of Medicine Lake

By Mayor Chris Heim

City of Plymouth

Mayor Jeffrey Wosje