**BOATING SAFETY TEAM SUMMARY**

**SURVEY INDICATIONS**

* 46% want additional buoys and better signage for no wake zones
* 48% said focus should be on conversation/education about rules instead of issuing tickets
* 48% said buoys do not need to be farther than 100’ from shore (vs. 39% farther from shore)
* 46% want additional buoys and better signage for no wake zones
* 34% satisfied with current level of patrolling & enforcement (vs. 22% more, 3% less)
* 33% want additional support for safety patrol enforcement of safety ordinances
* 23% want additional support for safety patrol equipment

Also many comments regarding enforcement, unsafe speeds, greater traffic, PWC’s, reckless boating

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**COMMUNICATION**

* Purchased 4 new channel markers and 50 buoys; recommend the Town of WW have an annual plan for replacements and lake maintenance items (found a DNR grant to pay half)
* Replace launch signs as needed; determine what wording updates are needed (Town pays for signs)
* Issue two-page safety flyer with common boating rules and lake map; laminate and hang on all boat rentals
* Issue two-page flyer; one page with State DNR rules and other with WW specific rules
* Purchased and will be installing 6 take one boxes at all launches with boater safety flyers. In addition, will stock the marinas, camps, ranger station and patrol boat.
* Would like to create an awareness campaign with the flyers and rules that can be posted on social media, the lake website, the LMD newsletters and the GWLPOA newsletters.

**ENFORCEMENT**

* The lake safety patrol officer was a part of this team. Will continue with the balance of education and citations.

**LEGISLATION**

* Consider an ordinance limiting speeds on weekends and holidays to 45 mph; requires a speed gun ($1,800-$2000 - there is a DNR grant to cover 100% with prior warden approval)
* Update WW ordinance of slow-no-wake from 150 feet from shore to 100 feet, consistent with buoy placement

**WAKES AND SHORELINE EROSION TEAM SUMMARY**

**SURVEY INDICATIONS**

* 86% said wakes will be a problem moving forward due to growing boat activity (59% major problem, 26% minor problem)
* Many comments regarding safety and size of wakes and wake boats

**EXISTING REGULATIONS**

Wisconsin law states:

* Motorized boats must give right of way to all non-motorized boats and vessels
* You are responsible for your safety, the safety of your passengers and crew, and all other users on the lake that your wakes impact

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**COMMUNICATION**

* Communicate “Own Your Wake” campaign regarding your rights and responsibilities in variety of ways to the lake community (see flyer)

**ENFORCEMENT**

* Work with safety patrol to heighten awareness of existing WI law regarding damaging wakes and highlight best practices for courteous operation of large wake producing boats

**LEGISLATION**

* Consider enacting appropriate ordinance if suggested measures are inadequate

**GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM SUMMARY**

Note: Only Whitewater ordinances were researched; need to research/work with Richmond Board as well.

**SURVEY INDICATIONS**

52% want time limits on fireworks, plus comments

43% want noise limit for music and/or watercraft engines, plus comments

35% want noise limit for properties, plus comments

35% of WW, 21% Rice Lake, 25% of non-rip. ‘strongly agree’ unoccupied homes are a problem

Respondents also added comments re short term rentals, waterfront ecology, pet control, trespassing, light pollution and building the lake community

**EXISTING REGULATIONS AND ORDINANCES**

* + Fireworks: County&WW require permits to possess or use; WW fines ($250) are lower than County ($1,000) or nearby towns (Lagrange $1,000); WW parents liable only if “knowingly permit” fireworks by minors
  + Excessive Noise: WI & WW prohibit unreasonably loud noise and violent, abusive, indecent, profane language; WI requires boats\* to have a muffler, underwater exhaust system or other noise suppression device; max 86 dBa; Delavan: max 50 dBa after 11:00 pm Fri, Sat, holidays
* Short Term Rentals: Can’t ban in WI but allowed to add local regs. (# days min, max; licenses, parking, insurance) and tax short term rentals; WW has not added regs or taxes
* Property: State, County & Township all prohibit unsafe buildings; WW does not allow “…junked, disassembled, inoperable or unlicensed automobiles…” without a permit
* Pet Control: (WW) Dogs can’t run off premises without a leash and (County) unlawful to keep a dog which “habitually barks, howls or yelps…”
* Trespassing: unlawful to trespass
* Light Pollution: for instance, Delevan has adopted a light ordinance

# **RECOMMENDATIONS**

# **COMMUNICATION:** Establish a comprehensive communication strategy

* Joint committee of LMD and GWLPOA to coordinate info on specific topic each month
* Investigate spiral bound book like Lauderdale Lakes’ (published bi-annually; funded by Association dues, ads and donations; have sample); LMD/GWLPOA consider join support?
* Expand Welcome Wagon packet to address larger number of topics
* Update signage at all public accesses, Scenic Ridge, JNT and the State Park beach to include information on disorderly conduct, boat mufflers and fireworks

# **ENFORCEMENT:** discuss with appropriate authorities how to enforce existing laws

# **LEGISLATION:** Initiate a discussion with the Town Board regarding recommendations to strengthen ordinances as proposed:

# Fireworks: increase penalties for violations, owners responsible for all violations on property

# Short term rentals: no fewer than 7 days, no more than 180 days/year; add local taxes

# Sound: obtain permit for amplified sound on properties, with specific times (e.g., parties)

# Light pollution: evaluate ordinance for properties

**BOAT AND PIER DENSITY TEAM SUMMARY**

**SURVEY INDICATIONS**

Survey did not ask questions regarding boat and pier density, but several respondents offered comments on topics including increased boat traffic and congestion; number of lifts allowed; and unauthorized slips

**EXISTING REGULATIONS AND ORDINANCES**

Wisconsin DNR has long had regulations for piers and riparian rights

* Residential (R-1) properties allowed 2 slips per first 50’ plus one slip for each additional 50’
* Commercial properties and residential properties with three or more dwelling units are generally allowed twice the number of slips allowed for other residential
* Piers can be no wider than 6’
* A pier’s loading platform can be no greater than 200 sq. feet
* Piers may only be placed and maintained by riparian owner (other than certain easements before 1987)
* Most piers in place before April 2012 are grandfathered; can be replaced or maintained but not enlarged
* Pier permits are required for new or replacement piers unless they meet the above criteria (see full list)
* Riparian owners cannot grant riparian rights to others, beginning in 1994
* Restriction for granting riparian rights also extends to renting piers, at least if the rental is for >2 years
* DNR “math” for piers and slips doesn’t change if a riparian property is purchased by multiple owners
* A township may order the repair or replacement of dangerous, unsafe, or unfit piers
* DNR allows local ordinances as long as local regulations are more restrictive

Local Ordinances

* Piers can be no longer than 50’ (Whitewater and Richmond Township Ordinances)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Use a three-phase program (if necessary) over multiple years

**COMMUNICATION** First, use a multi-year strategy to educate:

* + All riparian property owners about DNR regulations and local ordinances for piers and slips
  + Pier suppliers regarding DNR pier permit regulations for new piers, including permanent piers

**ENFORCEMENT** Then proceed with possible enforcement strategies if the education strategy does not provide desired results:

* + Form a team to investigate and make recommendations regarding specific non-compliance issues identified in the Survey Team process, including Lake Island Drive
  + Work with law enforcement to understand options for enforcing DNR regulations and local ordinances for new or replacement piers going forward
  + Ask the lake safety patrol to write more citations for boating safety violations, including speed, noise, unsafe driving, alcohol usage, hazardous wakes, etc., given the high density of boats on the lake, particularly on weekends

**ORDINANCE** Last, consider a self-funded pier permit process if new piers are installed in violation of current DNR regulations and local ordinances.