

Rock Lake Improvement Association



Date: 2/17/21

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From: Rock Lake Improvement Association

Re: Joint Rock Lake Committee Recommendation to Change Slow-No-Wake from Shoreline

We have reviewed this recommendation to change the Slow-No-Wake (SNW) from the shoreline of Rock Lake and fully support it.

In the 2018 management plan for Rock Lake, a large percentage of survey respondents expressed frustration with slow-no-wake issues. (see question 8 starting on page 127 of https://rocklake.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/2019/03/2018_ManagementPlan.pdf)

Our lake is experiencing more paddlers: canoeists, kayakers, and stand-up paddle boarders. In addition, more individuals are swimming along the shoreline. We especially agree that a 200 foot slow-no-wake zone from shore would enable these activities to be safer and lessen user conflict.

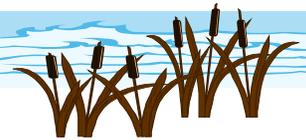
Although we understand enforcement will continue to be a challenge, we feel setting a universal SNW zone, rather than having it vary according to the type of motorized craft, would be easier to understand for everyone. In addition, many visitors from Madison, where they have a 200 foot from shore SNW zone, use our lake.

Finally, we agree that motorboat size has increased, and also with the environmental concerns expressed in the JRLC letter.

Sincerely,
The Entire Board of the Rock Lake Improvement Association



Joint Rock Lake Committee



Date: 2/3/21

To: Lake Mills Town Board

From: Joint Rock Lake Committee

Re: Recommendation to Change Slow-No-Wake from Shoreline

We believe that changing the Slow-No-Wake (SNW) from the shoreline of Rock Lake from the current multiple distances (100 feet for motorized boats and 200 feet for Jet skis) to 200 feet for all boats and jet skis will make the lake safer, reduce erosion, and simplify understanding and enforcement.

We find support for this recommendation from a variety of sources. Our neighbor Lake Ripley adopted the 200 foot from shore SNW ordinance (Town of Oakland) in 2002. The Madison Lakes also enforce a 200 foot from shore SNW. The Water Sport Industry Association recommends that wake boats stay 200' from shore. Recently a scientific study (2020) conducted on North Lake on the Oconomowoc chain showed the erosion damage caused by wake boats as close as 400 feet from shore.

In the Rock Lake Management plans of 2006 and 2018, public surveys indicate a high level of frustration with SNW rules being violated. Increasingly, we are seeing larger and faster boats on our lake as well as more wakeboarding. In addition, Rock Lake has seen an 80% increase in the number of paddlers of all kinds, and people swimming along the shoreline.

We believe a 200 foot from shore SNW would:

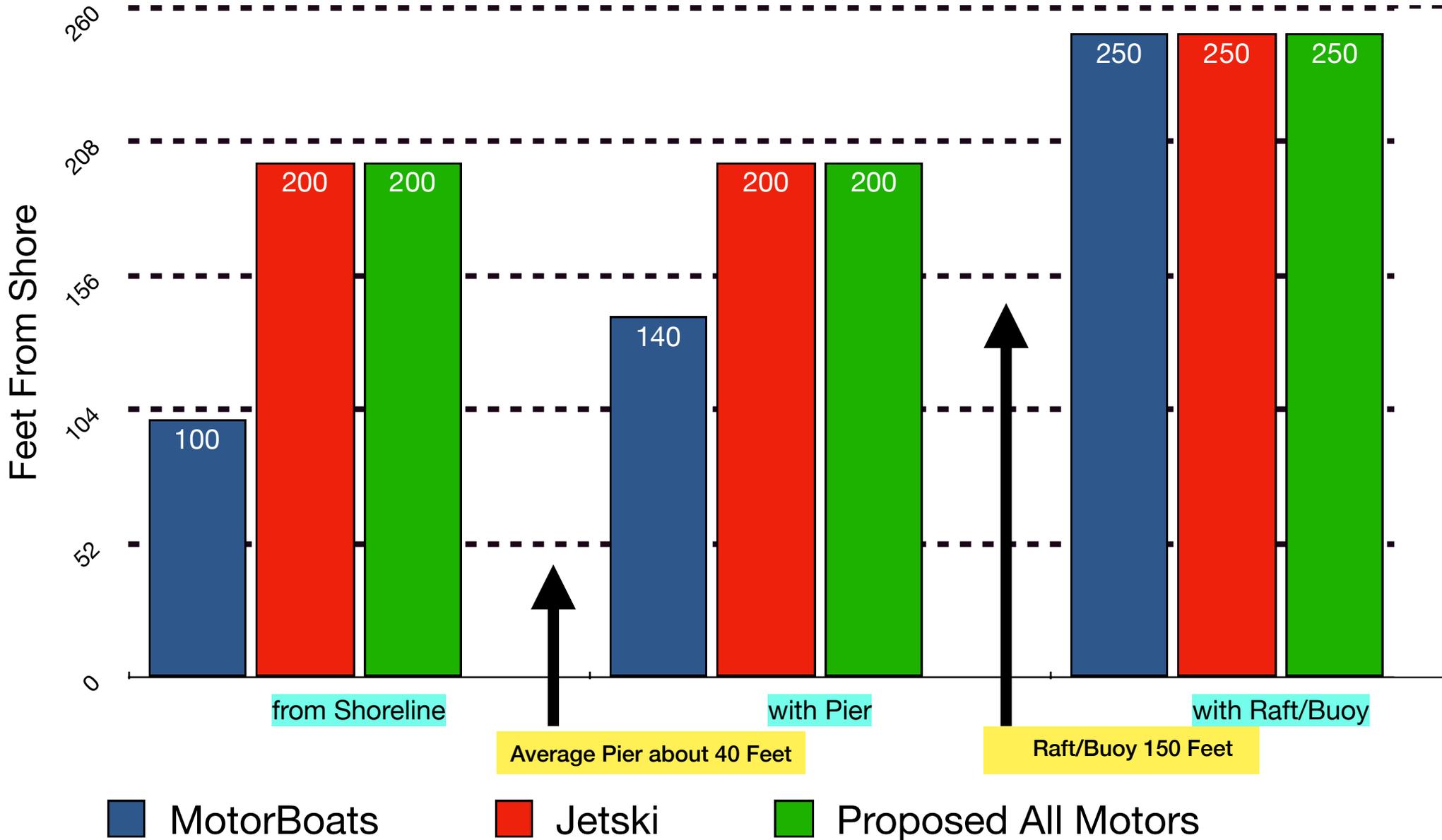
1. *Protect public safety.* Fast-moving boat traffic and wake boarding is directed away from near-shore areas where shallow water depths, piers, moored boats, swim rafts and other hazards can pose significant dangers. User conflict is minimized by creating a reduced-speed refuge for swimmers, anglers, paddlers, wildlife and operators of slower-moving watercraft.
2. *Reduce shoreline erosion and churning of the lake bottom.* Boat wakes and turbulence can damage erosion-prone shorelines, stir up the lake bottom, reduce water clarity and destroy shallow aquatic habitat. A 200-ft. speed buffer minimizes these adverse impacts.
3. *Promote rule consistency.* Wisconsin state law already applies the 200-ft.-from-shore no-wake rule to personal watercraft (i.e., Jet Skis), but allows motor boats to travel at high rates of speed within 100 feet of the shoreline. Under the proposed change, ALL motorized watercraft would need to obey speed restrictions in near-shore areas for the same safety and environmental-protection purposes.

There are two attachments to this memo to illustrate issues related to this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted by,

the full Joint Rock Lake Committee

200 foot from Shoreline Slow-No-Wake Comparison



NOTES:

1. Not many non-pier areas exist. Tyrannea and near the trestle would qualify.
2. Distances are only for Slow-No-Wake (SNW). Boats can still motor up to shoreline anywhere at SNW.
3. 100 feet is added to distance for piers and for raft/buoys.

