

BONNER/KOOTENAI COUNTY SPECIAL MEETING NOTES
Waterways Advisory Boards –October 17, 2016
Bayview Community Center
Bayview Idaho

BONNER COUNTY:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Jensen, Jim Kelly, Lt. Ed Jochum, BCSO; Keith Sheckler

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Klatt Director, Parks & Waterways

PROPERTY OWNERS: Rick & Jennifer Cramer, Gary & Laurie Williams, Linda Koskenmaki, Jasmin Osterlund

KOOTENAI COUNTY:

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Condon, Jim Aucutt, Norm Blakney, Ray Bradley, Craig Brosenne , Terry Werner.

STAFF PRESENT: Nick Snyder, Director, Parks & Waterways; Lt. Stu Miller, Sheriff's Office Recreation Safety Division
Sgt. Will Klinkefus, Sheriff's Office Recreation Safety Division; Ranell Schwartz, Recording Secretary.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Brady, Idaho Department of Lands, Dave Dahms, Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation; David Claycomb, Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation; Molly Mc Cahon, Lakes Commission; Sgt. Jason Speer, Valley County Sheriff's Office; Sgt. Mike Gladheart, Clearwater County Sheriff's Office.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

WAKE BOAT & BUOY PLACEMENT DISCUSSION

Bonner County:

Parks & Waterways Director Steve Klatt:

The Bonner County Advisory Board has received multiple requests for no-wake buoys in front of private residence on the Ponderay River and requests to extend the no-wake zone or ban wake boats on the river. The existing ordinance is difficult to enforce and frustrating to the property owner. He stated that if the counties don't come up with some enforcement tools they are allowing degradation to the shorelines and the environment. Any solution they come up with will be met with opposition by various groups and it also must be enforceable by the Sheriff's Office. He feels if they do nothing they could end up in a class action law suit with property owners and be required to do something under court order. He is hoping to get input from those in attendance to solve these issues.

Property owners have requested no-wake buoys and banning wake boats due to destruction to the shoreline. Property owners are frustrated by the increase in damage and the cost of repairs. They have proposed an ordinance change to designate the wake boat activities to designated areas. Their research show that wake boats will continue to produce bigger wakes.

Kootenai County:

Property owners have requested no wake buoys or placed them without proper permits. The new County Land use code does allow for property owners to get permits to protect their shorelines with bank stabilization such as rip rap.

The Advisory Board is seeking solutions which may include education, enforcement and waterfront property owners protecting their shoreline. This board has made a recommendation to the BOCC to enforce a 500 foot no wake zone on all county waterways. The BOCC is requesting more information.

Parks & Waterways department has sent a survey to boat launch pass holders and boat dealers regarding the proposed 500 ft no wake zone and mandatory boater education in order to provide public opinion to the BOCC.

Law enforcement staffing is limited due to lack of qualified candidates. There is already an ordinance that bans skiing on the Coeur d'Alene River. Wake boats are not the only ones causing wakes. Cabin cruisers and PWC are also an issue. Community involvement is encouraged by providing pictures or video of the boats and being a witness on a citation. The Sheriff's staff will respond to these reports. Next year they plan to set up traffic emphasis areas with educational buoys.

Idaho Department of Lands: Jim Brady does not believe 500 feet is enough distance to protect the shoreline from wakes caused by wake boats. Incorrect bank stabilization is the cause of some of the failure. A recent press release regarding the removal of illegal no wake buoys was not published by any of the multiple agencies that received it.

Valley County:

They have also seen a lack of education and user/home owner conflict. Their focus has been an emphasis on more tickets, warnings and boat inspections. As a result, citations and home owner complaints gradually went down. They feel any waterways ordinance should be county wide. The no wake zone is 300 feet on Payette Lake and there are 187 regulatory markers. Community involvement has been useful and they have created emphasis areas. Regulatory buoys have been permitted to various agencies around the lake.

Clearwater County:

They have one marine deputy along with seasonal intern college students. The public is involved by taking pictures has been very helpful. They have a 200 ft. no wake zone. Citations have gone from 126 down to 50.

Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation:

Dave Claycomb stated that waterfront property ownership is unique to North Idaho. Their emphasis has been on lifejacket safety but said that no-wake issues could be their next area of focus. The Idaho Recreation Council represents user groups at the state level.

Dave Dahms said the cost to deploy and maintain buoys is prohibitive. WIF Grants are available to assist with the costs.

Boater education uses a national standard. Idaho is one of seven states that do not have mandatory boater education. Boat rentals do not require any education. PWC rentals require a short education presentation. In 2008 mandatory boater education went before the legislature in conjunction with a fatality but did not pass.

They recommend ordinance changes and more enforcement.

They will share the information from the Boise State University economic impact study that shows how much the boater impacts the individual counties. They will also reach out to other states to see what has been successful.

Lakes Commission:

Molly McCahon agrees that an active outreach campaign by Bonner and Kootenai is a good idea and would have an impact on shoreline protection. She suggested the sign: "Ride the core, not the shore"

Another suggested sign: "Watch your Wake".

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

No decisions were made by either board.

Respectfully submitted,

Ranell Schwartz

Recording Secretary