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RESOLUTION #

Resolution on Enhanced Wake Regulations

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Conservation and UW-Extension Education Committee

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, Oneida County has over 1,100 lakes, rivers, and streams, and contains one of the highest concentrations of natural lakes in the world, and

WHEREAS, Oneida County recognizes the importance of the quality of our waters to its citizens and local economies, and

WHEREAS, the lakes of Oneida County, Wisconsin are integral to the recreational base of the economy in Oneida County, and

WHEREAS, legislation has been proposed to regulate wakesurfing and wakeboarding, and

WHEREAS, the legislation as currently written fails to set minimum standards for the protection of private property, public safety and enjoyment, and aquatic environments, and

WHEREAS, towns in Oneida County have already set or are in the process of setting standards that use evidence from aquatic and engineering studies which protect shorelines of lakes in Oneida County from erosion by these enhanced/excessive wakes, and

WHEREAS, the legislation fails to include a standard related to wake depth that would protect water quality in lakes from scouring by enhanced/excessive wakes, and

WHEREAS, the legislation also fails to address the transfer of AIS through ballast water tanks and/or bladders,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors does recommend that the Wisconsin Legislature engage in meaningful discussions to pass standards that balance the right of everyone to recreate on waters of the State of Wisconsin, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wisconsin's local governments deserve local control to set their own standards beyond state minimums, of at least 500 feet from the shore, and to prohibit enhanced wake creation in waters shallower than at least 20 feet in depth, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Legislature address the transfer of aquatic invasive species through ballast water tanks and/or bladders for the protection of water quality that drives the economy of Oneida County.

Approved by the Conservation and UW-Extension Education Committee this 11th day of March, 2024.

51 Vote Required: Majority = _____ 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____
52

53 The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes _____ No _____ as reviewed
54 by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date: _____
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56
57 Consent Agenda Item: YES _____ NO
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61 Offered and passage moved by: _____
62

63 _____
64 Supervisor

65 _____
66 Supervisor

67 _____
68 Supervisor

69 _____
70 Supervisor

71 _____
72 Supervisor

73 _____

74 _____ Ayes

75 _____ Nays

76 _____ Absent

77 _____ Abstain

78 _____ Adopted

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Tracy Hartman, County Clerk

Scott Holewinski, County Board Chair