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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~~ excessive wakes, 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 ~~500 300~~ feet from the shore, and to prohibit enhanced wake creation in waters shallower than at least ~~30 15~~ 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 12th day of February, 2024.

Commented [MS1]: Legislation has not been proposed to regulate "excessive wakes". SB 680 specifically refers to regulating "wakesurfing and wakeboarding". This resolution was developed to respond to SB 680.

Commented [MS2]: The Dept. recommends 'enhanced'.

Commented [MS3]: The Dept. recommends 'enhanced'.

Commented [MS4]: The Dept. recommends 20'.

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

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes _____ No _____ as reviewed
by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date: _____

Consent Agenda Item: YES _____ NO

Offered and passage moved by: _____

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

_____ Ayes

_____ Nays

_____ Absent

_____ Abstain

_____ Adopted

Adopted by the County Board of Supervisors this 20th day February, 2024.

_____ Defeated

Tracy Hartman, County Clerk

Scott Holewinski, County Board Chair