



April 28, 2025

Sandy Hinkley
Town of LaFollette - Clerk
PO Box 322
Siren, WI 54872

Subject: Ordinance Review Letter – Town of LaFollette Wake Enhancement Ordinance

Dear Town Clerk:

On 04/28/2025, the Department received your proposed ordinance to regulate boaters on the waterway in the Township of LaFollette, Burnett County, specifically regarding wake enhancement equipment on all town lakes. Thank you for being concerned about the safety and welfare of the recreational users in Wisconsin and the protection of its natural resources. This letter serves as a review of your proposed ordinance as required under ss. 30.77, Stats.

The proposed ordinance is not entirely consistent with ss. 30.77. The ordinance is consistent with this chapter as it is seeking to address safety concerns for recreational users, specifically citing the danger of enhanced waves swamping other boats or knocking down swimmers, skiers, and the occupants of other boats, as referenced in the condition report. Furthermore, you cited an increase in user conflicts and water accidents if this ordinance is not passed. You also reference preserving the State's natural resources including shoreline erosion, sediment disruption, preserving wildlife nesting areas, and reducing the chance of the spread of aquatic invasive species if this ordinance is passed.

As stated the proposed ordinance, as presented, does not meet all of the requirements under ss. 30.77, Stats. There are a few concerns to address:

1. In the first paragraph: Boating regulations are encompassed from ss. 30.50 through 30.71 Stats.
2. Section 2 (2): I suggest defining what an "artificially bow high manner" is. Slow-no-wake and planing speed are well defined. The new term puts ambiguity on operating in between slow-no-wake and planing speed when not trying to achieve planing speed.

As a reminder, the following must occur upon final approval of the ordinance:

1. After the ordinance is signed, a copy must be sent to your Recreation Warden
2. Notice of the ordinance must be posted at all public access sites.

If you have not already done so, it is advised you consult with your local law enforcement official(s) regarding enforceability of the proposed ordinance, seek public input, and to consult with your legal counsel should you have any legal questions.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance, please e-mail me at peter.wetzel@wisconsin.gov or call me at 715-371-8220.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter A. Wetzel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Wetzel
Recreation Warden
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources