**Summary of concerns and comments from public hearing of 9/2/2023**

Comments come from public hearing, written statements, and personal observations of board members

**Boulder Lake**

Enforcement concerns of people operating at speed after no wake goes into effect

Fishing quality has gone down and loosing habitat. Weed beds in center of lake are gone due to bottom scouring

Invasive species (IAS) concerns

Wolf River sent a letter (maybe) to Doty. Doty didn’t receive it.

Lake is shallow and bottom is being scoured

High turbidity of lake following weekends

No shoreline erosion concerns, only bottom scour.

Many pontoon boats on lake. Also, many non-motorized users on lake. Motor boats are common on weekends. One permanent ‘wake boat’ present

Loons present in already protected (slow-no wake) bays in north west quadrant

**Bass Lake**

Only “free” FS launch site – Conversation with FS in Lakewood indicates that people should pay, but there was never a pay box present, instead a sign instructed people to pay at Boot lake – **sign is missing for years and nobody pays to use launch**

Seepage lake with large level swings year to year. About a 5’ change from historical low to high. Lake has lost about 2’ since 2020

Main concern is shoreline erosion vs bottom scour. Erosion is largest concern where lake floor slope is the steepest

Non residents (BnB users) are the biggest source of discomfort due to “lack of respect to lake and other users.” Many jet ski users do reckless things (jump boat wakes, operate too close to boats, etc). **DATCP has no licensed BnB’s listed as operating on Bass Lake (or Boot Lake). This issue will be pursued separately.**

IAS concerns for ballast and live wells – Bass Lake is a NR-102 exceptional water quality lake and has no known IAS. Residents want to keep it this way.

One permanent resident with wake boat that uses it solely on this lake

Loons present in south shallow bay. Area has snags and obstructions, so it is a defacto no wake area

**Boot Lake**

Shore line erosion is a big concern – many trees and boulders have been undercut and have fallen into the lake

Shore line erosion is worst in the “ankle” part of the lake since it is narrow and shallow. Area leading to the ankle has steep underwater topography

IAS is a concern – a resident did checks at boat landing and found that **many people’s boats live wells had water in them from some other lake.**

There are 6-8 “wake boats’ on lake (I didn’t record if they are transient or permanent) that have caused damage to docks and rafts and the wakes have prevented people from taking their boats out

Loons are present on an island near the southern shore of the lake. Due to its location, it is unprotected and motor boats have been operating at speed in a ~300’ channel between the island and lake shore

**General**

46 People attended the hearing. This included the “wake boat” owner/operators from Boulder and Bass Lakes.

23 resided / owned property or recreated on Bass Lake

Of those people 16 wanted an ordinance change, 7 wanted it to stay the same (2 to 1 want change)

The Bass Lake assn prior to the hearing sent out a questionnaire to 87 members and others. Due to the website they used for the survey, only the first 40 responses were recorded. 57 of 74 people replied. 31 wanted a change, 9 wanted it to stay as is. (3 to 1 want change)

10 resided / owned property or recreated on Boot Lake

Of those people 10 wanted an ordinance change, 0 wanted it to stay the same (all want change)

The Boot Lake assn did not send out a survey prior to the hearing

16 resided / owned property or recreated on Boulder Lake

Of those people 15 wanted an ordinance change, 1 wanted it to stay the same (15 to 1 want change)

The Boulder Lake assn prior to the hearing sent out a questionnaire to members and others. 63 people replied. 49 wanted a change, 14 wanted it to stay as is. (3 to 1 want change)

Two members of the town board (on separate occasions) rode with a Bass Lake resident who owns a wake boat. He showed the board how he operates the boat and what he does to mitigate interference with other lake users and minimize shoreline erosion (his boat has the ability to create an asymmetrical wake and the strongest part of the wake is directed towards the center of the lake, away from shore). Other lake residents at the public hearing confirmed that he always operates this way and it wasn’t just a show for the board.

Members of the board also observed lake operation on a holiday weekend from the boat landings. No wake boats were observed, but there was heavy motor boat traffic (pulling skiers and tubes) as well as jetski traffic. **Many reckless acts were observed by various operators.**

Board members rode along with in a sheriff department patrol boat during the week on Boulder Lake. The lake was observed to be very turbid. This was after no wake hours had started. There were a few boats out on the lake, mainly fishermen. They stated they haven’t caught anything. One motor boat operator was stopped for exceeding the slow-no-wake speed limit and was issued a written warning by the sheriff’s department. The majority of boats moored on the lake are pontoon boats.

The Bass Lake Assn biggest concern is erosion and scouring caused by non residents

The Boot Lake assn wants a smart comprehensive ordinance to address scouring and erosion

The Boulder Lake assn wants more restrictions on enhanced wakes