

RESOLUTION PROPOSAL

DATE: July 11, 2010

SUBJECT: Swimming from Boats

SPONSOR: Mike Harrison, Treasurer

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In May 2009, the Board considered a proposal to allow swimming from boats in coves. This modification to PM 06.02 and PM 06.04 was defeated in a 5 against, 2 in favor vote of the board. The basis for rejection of the change was concerns over safety and lakefront property owners who did not want boats in their cove with swimming activities. The safety issues were on maneuvering by other boat owners around swimmers.

LMOA currently allows lakefront owners, members and guests to swim within 50 feet of their shoreline. Boaters are to be at no-wake speed within 50 feet of shoreline and at slow speed within 75 feet of shore and in the coves. Conditions already exist where boaters must avoid swimmers in the water. It is the responsibility of the boat owner to avoid swimmers in the water.

Data from the US Coast Guard shows that swimmers being struck by boats or their propellers are low compared to other accidents.

The majority of people in the water that were struck were from high-speed boats, many of which were

USCG Recreational Boating Accident Statistics			
	Total	Deaths	Injuries
2004			
Total	4904	676	3363
Skier Mishap	380	7	388
Struck by Boat	108	6	96
Struck by Propeller	64	5	61
2005			
Total	4969	697	3451
Skier Mishap	464	10	469
Struck by Boat	68	6	97
Struck by Propeller	100	6	97
2006			
Total	4967	710	3474
Skier Mishap	510	12	514
Struck by Boat	66	1	68
Struck by Propeller	107	8	98
2007			
Total	5191	685	3673
Skier Mishap	492	11	502
Struck by Boat	83	9	78
Struck by Propeller	80	7	75
2008			
Total	4789	709	3331
Skier Mishap	383	10	397
Struck by Boat	37	2	41
Struck by Propeller	83	5	80
Source: USCG Recreational Boating Statistics 2008			

hit-and-run events. Nationwide, less than 1 percent of all fatalities in recreational boating were a result of being struck by a boat or propeller of a boat.

Our current practices to allow towed activities on the main lake are more dangerous than swimming from boats. You are more likely to be injured in a towed activity than being struck by a boat while swimming.

Vessel Activity at Time of Accident			
Activity	Vessels Involved	Deaths	Injuries
Total	6347	709	3331
Recreational Cruising	1377	104	737
Swimming and Snorkeling	38	14	29
Towed Watersports	535	16	500
Source: USCG Recreational Boating Statistics 2008			

At Lake Monticello, boaters use an orange flag to indicate to other boat operators that there is a swimmer in the water. Likewise, for scuba diving or snorkeling, a dive flag is displayed. The flying of an orange flag to indicate swimmers are in the water helps the other boat operators meet their responsibility to avoid swimmers. Boaters are liable for collision with other boats and swimmers and this change in policy does not change that relationship.

Part of the overall family recreational experience is the ability to swim from your boat. Boats are designed with ladders for entry and exit, and a quick dip into the water is a refreshing part of the boating lifestyle. Swimming while the boat is at anchor provides another use for the boat as a swimming platform.

The experience of swimming from boats in Lake Monticello can provide additional recreation for families. Therefore, introduction of swimming on a test basis is proposed in the area of the lake west of the no wake buoy on the western end of the lake and east of Beach 5 (Van Buren Cove). This area has been selected because it is a wide channel with sufficient area for other boats to maneuver and areas on the south shore have houses high on the bluff. If swimming is well received in this area, then the area south of the no-wake buoy to the boat slips at Beach 4 can be considered (Jackson Cove).

PM 6.02 and 6.04 have been modified to provide procedures for swimming from boats that are consistent with comments received in 2009.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

PROPOSED FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

PROPOSED SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE:

N/A

POSSIBLE MOTION:

Move that the Board of Directors authorize, on a trial basis for the remainder of the 2010 and the 2011 calendar year swimming from boats in the area designated and with procedures defined in PM 6.02 and 6.04 as amended and presented in the August 2010 Board packet.

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOW-UP: General Manager