

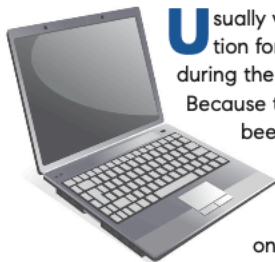


LICA ASKS CITIES TO REVISE SLOW/NO WAKE TRIGGER LEVEL

ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED

COVID-19 has unfortunately forced the postponement of the Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for April 11. We're planning to re-schedule the meeting for later this spring – watch for an announcement of the new date. We're hoping our speakers (Brian Vlach from Three Rivers and Kristen Maccoroni from the DNR) will be available on the new date. In the meantime, this newsletter will bring you up-to-date on LICA's recent activities.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF LICA BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE ONLINE



Usually we hold the election for Board Members during the Annual Meeting. Because the meeting has been postponed, we are going to have the election online. Long-time

Board member Pat Wulff is up for re-election and two new Board members, Craig Olson and Angie McLaughlin, need to be confirmed. There are two openings for additional members. If you'd like to volunteer or you'd like to nominate another member, please email robinreid@lakeindependence.org by April 1. The full list of candidates and instructions on voting will be emailed to members by April 8 and voting will be open until April 15.

As everyone knows, 2019 was one of the wettest years in Minnesota history. Water-saturated ground combined with the slow outlet flow of Pioneer Creek resulted in high water in Lake Independence. An obvious concern of high water is shoreline damage. The Slow/No Wake regulation was implemented by the cities of Medina and Independence in 2003 to minimize shoreline damage caused by high-water wave action. Unfortunately, the wake restrictions virtually eliminated recreational boating days last summer. After input from many people, the LICA Board of Directors recognized the need to ask the cities to revise the ordinances to address the multiple interests of Lake Independence stakeholders.

There are numerous considerations to keep in mind, including the need to minimize shoreline deterioration, lake usage by Three Rivers (Baker Park) visitors, and recreational boaters interested in water sports. Input was sought from our members, and there were numerous discussions with stakeholders from the Dept of Natural Resources, the Pioneer-Sarah Creek

Watershed Commission, Three Rivers Parks, and the cities of Medina and Independence.

After careful consideration, it was decided to recommend that the cities revise the ordinances from the current high-water trigger level of 957.8 feet above sea level to 958.2 feet above sea level, thus raising the trigger point 4.8 inches. It is believed this recommendation provides an appropriate balance between protecting water quality and promoting responsible recreational use of the lake.

LICA sent letters to the Medina and Independence city councils asking for a change in the ordinances. Both cities will

"an appropriate balance between protecting water quality and promoting responsible recreational use"

be holding public hearings to provide interested citizens an opportunity to comment on this topic. Please check the City websites

for more information. The revised level requires final approval from the DNR and if approved, will go in effect during the 2020 boating season.

Keep in mind, you can always boat on Lake Independence, but during Slow/No Wake periods you are expected to keep your speed below 5 mph.

