



Larger Ski Area Recommended for Lake Auman

by Stacy Naughton

Seven Lakes Times Reporter

The ski area at Lake Auman may be expanded by as much as fifteen percent -- mainly at the north end of the lake and along the dam -- if a recommendation from the Proposed Buoy and Boating Rules Revisions Committee is approved by the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors.

The twelve-member volunteer committee is recommending five changes to the current buoy and boating regulations; Paul Kirst presented the panel's report during the Board's Tuesday, February 8 work session.

The first recommendation is to enlarge the ski area by fifteen percent, placing buoys a minimum of 125 yards from all residential shoreline properties.

The second change would widen the no-wake zone to include the entire area from the shore to the ski area. Kirst explained that this would create a larger area that would be safe for swimmers. The committee defined the no-wake zone as "producing no appreciable wake, with

a maximum speed of five miles per hour."

The third proposed change would move the buoys guarding Johnson Point closer to the docks -- from the current 239 yards to 150 yards -- which would decrease the time it takes for boaters to get out to the large cove. The committee predicts that the increase in boat speed closer to the docks will not increase the size of wakes in this area.

The area between Johnson Point and the new ski area will be known as a "transitional speed area" in which boats that are within 125 feet of the shoreline would be limited to no wake and a speed of 5 mph max. Since the new buoy location is narrower, it could be marked with two buoys rather than the three that are currently in place. The committee also suggested adding two additional buoys near Johnson Point to protect an area where land juts out into the transitional area.

The final recommendation is for novice skiers to be allowed to start their runs at the bulkhead of the northeast side of the island before merging with

traffic in the ski area. A sign on the bulkhead would mark the start location.

Responding to Kirst's presentation, Board members asked for clarification about whether the boat or the skier needs to remain within the designated buoys. Infrastructure Director John Goodman said he feared that placing buoys so close to the shore may not allow enough room for boats to safely make some turns. Kirst said he would take those concerns back to the committee to be reviewed.

Vice President John Hoffman, who presided at the meeting in the absence of President Ron Shepard, asked that the committee finalize its report and present it at the Board's February 22 meeting, with a possible Board vote on the recommendations at the March 8 Work Session. Information about the proposal and a map showing changes to the ski area will be posted for review on the Seven Lakes West website.

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