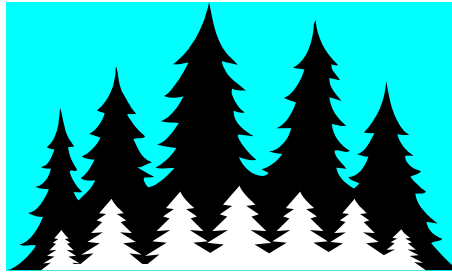


**FOREST TOWNSHIP
WAKE BOAT
SURVEY RESULTS
2026**

COVERING LETTER
AND
SURVEY
MAILED ON
15 JUNE 2026



Forest Township

June 15, 2026

Greetings Forest Township Property Owners,

During the annual meeting in March, 2026 for Forest Township, township residents raised concerns regarding wake boat use on Bad Medicine Lake. Those concerns included property damage, shoreline damage, ecological damage and personal safety. As a result, the township board asked the planning commission to develop a survey to be sent to property owners (one survey per property) to gather data and ensure the majority of voices can be heard.

Please complete the enclosed survey and return it in the enclosed pre-paid return addressed envelope. We encourage you to invest a few minutes of your time to complete and return the survey. All responses will be anonymous.

The results of the survey will help the Forest Township Board get a better understanding of the level of concern and determine if further regulation is warranted. If you are unfamiliar with wake boats and would like more information, see the following link: <http://www.foresttownshipmn.net> under Planning Commission. Please help guide the Board by completing this survey.

Please return the surveys by July 15th.

On July 20th at the Forest Township Hall, 6:30pm, there will be an open meeting when the Planning Commission will begin to review the results of the surveys. The results will be shared at a future date.

Thank you very much for your participation!

Forest Township Planning Commission

Wake Boat Survey

1. Which of the following apply to you?
Permanent resident _____ Seasonal occupancy _____
What lake are you on, if any _____
2. Do you own any of the following watercraft? (check all that apply)
Non-motorized boat (kayak, canoe, paddleboard, etc.) _____ Fishing boat _____
Pontoon _____ Personal watercraft (jet ski) _____
Runabout boat (for skiing, tubing, fishing etc.) _____
Wake boat (ballast tanks or wake enhancing apparatus for wake surfing) _____
3. Do you think any of the water craft identified below impact your shoreline, the ecological system of the lake or personal safety? Rank the following watercraft by ranking 1 to 5 with 1=no impact, 5=major impact.
Non-motorized boats _____ Fishing Boats _____ Pontoons _____
Personal watercraft _____ Runabouts _____ Wake boats _____
4. Have you observed any damage to property or shoreline or felt a threat to your personal safety caused by boat wakes? Circle all that apply.
Docks Boat lifts Shoreline Erosion Personal Safety Other No damage

Please share your experiences:

5. Have water craft activities or boat wakes had an adverse impact or affected you while doing any of the activities listed below? Circle all that apply:
Sightseeing/enjoying the lake Swimming Pontooning
Using a non-motorized watercraft Fishing Water skiing/tubing

Please share your experiences:

6. Have you reviewed the educational material provided by the Bad Medicine Lake Area Assn. Safety, Education and Etiquette (SEE Committee)? <http://www.Badmedicine.mnlakesanddrivers.org> under Bad Medicine Lake Association, to Safety, Education, Etiquette Committee (SEE)
Circle: YES or NO

Comments:

7. Would you support regulations concerning the use of wake boats? (See <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/boatwater/surfaceusezoning.html> for suggestions for types of regulations)
Circle: YES or NO

Comments:

8. Should those regulations apply to all lakes in Forest Township or be exclusive to Bad Medicine Lake--
-Circle one
Township Wide. Bad Medicine Lake Only

Please feel free to add anything related to this survey that would be helpful in assessing wake surfing use on the lake.

FOREST TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION WAKE BOAT SURVEY TABULATED RESULTS

**RETURNED SURVEYS
OPENED AT PUBLIC MEETING
ON 20 JULY 2026**

**Compilation of Specific Responses to
Questions 1-8
Followed by
Comments Re
Questions 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8
& General Comments to
Question at the End of Survey**

Planning Commission 2026 Survey Results

Question 1: *Which of the following apply to you?*

	Permanent Resident	Seasonal Occupant	Total Respondents
Quantity	33	92	125
% of those responding	26%	74%	

	Bad Medicine	Bass Lake	Other	None	Total Respondents
Lake you are on:					
Quantity	88	7		4	99
% of those responding	89%	7%		4%	

Planning Commission 2026 Survey Results

Question 2: *Do you own any of the following watercraft?*
 (Check all that apply.)

	Qty.
Non-motorized boat (kayak, canoe, paddleboard, etc.)	115
Fishing Boat	77
Pontoon	72
Personal Watercraft (Jet Ski)	23
Runabout Boat (for skiing, tubing, fishing, etc.)	58
Wake Boat (Ballast tanks or wake enhancing apparatus for wake surfing)	8

Planning Commission 2026 Survey Results

Question 3: *Do you think any of the watercraft identified below impact your shoreline, the ecological system of the lake or personal safety?*
Rank the following watercraft by ranking 1 - 5 with 1 = no impact, 5 = major impact

	Rank					Total Respondents
	1 (No Impact)	2	3	4	5 (Major Impact)	
Non-motorized boat % of those responding	107 96%	3 3%	0	0	1 1%	111
Fishing Boats	52 46%	44 39%	14 13%	1 1%	1 1%	112
Pontoons	48 42%	43 38%	16 14%	5 4%	1 1%	113
Personal Watercraft	31 27%	34 30%	28 25%	16 14%	4 4%	113
Runabouts	26 24%	33 30%	38 35%	11 10%	2 2%	110
Wake Boats	15 13%	5 4%	8 7%	15 13%	74 63%	117

Planning Commission 2026 Survey Results

Question 4: *Have you observed any damage to property or shoreline or felt a threat to your personal safety caused by boat wakes? Circle all that apply*

	Quantity Circled	% of 130 Surveys Received
Docks	36	28%
Boat Lifts	23	18%
Shoreline Erosion	66	51%
Personal Safety	57	44%
Other	5	4%
No Damage	24	18%

Planning Commission 2026 Survey Results

Question 5: *Have watercraft activities or boat wakes had an adverse impact or affected you while doing any of the following? Circle all that apply.*

	Quantity Circled	% of 130 Surveys Received
Sightseeing/enjoying the lake	53	41%
Swimming	47	36%
Pontooning	35	27%
Using a non-motorized watercraft	46	35%
Fishing	33	25%
Water skiing/tubing	17	13%

Planning Commission 2026 Survey Results

Question 6: *Have you reviewed the educational material provided by the Bad Medicine Lake Area Assn. Safety, Education and Etiquette (SEE Committee)? [Http://www.Badmedicine.mnlakesanddrivers.org](http://www.Badmedicine.mnlakesanddrivers.org) under Bad Medicine Lake Association, to Safety, Education, Etiquette Committee (SEE).*

	Yes	No	Total
Quantity	84	42	126
Percentage	67%	33%	

Planning Commission 2026 Survey Results

Question 7: *Would you support regulations concerning the use of wake boats? (See <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/boatwater/surfaceusezoning.html> for suggestions for types of regulations.)*
Circle Yes or No

	Yes	No	Total
Quantity	94	31	125
Percentage	75%	25%	

Planning Commission 2026 Survey Results

Question 8: *Should those regulations apply to all lakes in Forest Township
or be exclusive to Bad Medicine Lake?*
Circle One

	Township Wide	Bad Medicine Lake Only	Total
Quantity	68	29	97
Percentage	70%	30%	

Survey Comment Responses to Questions- 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and General Response

(XXXX are placeholders where personal names were removed)

Question 1 – Which of the following apply to you? Permanent resident or Seasonal occupancy.
What lake are you on, if any?

Question 2 – Do you own any of the following watercraft? (check all that apply): Non-motorized boat (kayak, canoe, paddleboard, etc.); Fishing boat; Pontoon, Personal watercraft (jet ski); Runabout boat (for skiing, tubing, fishing etc.); Wake boat (ballast tanks or wake enhancing apparatus for wake surfing)

Question 3 - Do you think any of the watercraft identified below impact your shoreline, the ecological system of the lake or personal safety? Rank the following watercraft by ranking 1 to 5 with 1=no impact, 5=major impact: Non-motorized boats; Fishing Boats; Pontoons; Personal watercraft; Runabouts; Wake boats

Comment Responses to Questions 1- 3

#1 – 2nd home * use year-round

#1 – Irrelevant question

#2 – Can you fish out of a pontoon? Tube behind a fishing boat? Surf behind a ski boat?

#3 – Depends on size and use

#3 – Weather (Why not listed?)

Question 4 - Have you observed any damage to property or shoreline or felt a threat to your personal safety caused by boat wakes? Circle all that apply.

Docks Boat lifts Shoreline Erosion Personal Safety Other No damage

Please share your experiences:

Comment Responses to Question 4

#4 - On lake (Bad Medicine) for fireworks – wake boat came by and swamped our pontoon.

#4 - When big wake boats come by and you are fishing, is annoying.

#4 - None on my lake – however, I have had waves from wake boats come over the bow of my 18' Ranger boat while fishing other lakes. Wake boats are a nuisance! I understand everyone has a right to use the water, but wake boats owners seem very inconsiderate of others.

#4 - We lease a site from Becker Co. Deer camp on EBM Truck Trail.

#4 - Lease land for hunting. Questionnaire does not affect us.

#4 - The waves move the docks and lifts. Also, anytime we are in the water adjusting docks and lifts, a wake boat inevitably goes by, causing to stop working until the waves subside.

#4 - I like to swim and have experienced boats, pontoons and especially jet skis that aren't always aware of what is in the water.

#4 – Nearly capsized wife while kayaking around south island.

#4 – We had an experience with a wake boat coming very close to our pontoon. The wake boat occupants were all looking back at the surfer and did not seem to notice our pontoon. We couldn't get closer to shore, as there were paddleboards, who jumped off the paddleboards, due to the wake boat. We were able to get slightly ahead of the wake boat and they ultimately turned away. We believe this was a boat on the lake for the day.

#4 – Knock over little kids on shallow shoreline.

#4 – Kids driving are not safe, drive too close to docks (50-0).

#4 – Wake boat cruising shoreline too close very large waves on shore. Rattles docks.

#4 -Wake boat too close to shore so large waves.

#4 – The amount of sand below our dock varies during the season. We think this is due to the boat wakes.

#4 – Almost getting swamped by wake boats leaving Veronens on 4th of July.

#4 – Way more damage to the shoreline by XXXXX XXXXXXXX spraying herbicides by the shore.

#4 – Small kids in water with a big rolling wave about drowns them.

#4 – Have had several situations where the waves have made it difficult to launch or dock boat. Significant, not ordinary, wave action.

#4 – Interesting that the lake association isn't concerned enough to address or push for these regulations.

#4 – The waves at the shoreline are quite large but this applies to all boats that cruise close to the shoreline.

#4 – I have started to have to have my docks rewelded due to damage. I have observed changes to my shoreline that appear to be due to large waves created by wake boats. Our floating docks are too unstable to walk on when wake boat waves come in.

#4 – This is not scientific, it's more anecdotal – I have made specific observation of wake boats vs. east, southeast and south wind. The wake boats give our shore about 10-12 waves. A 15 to 25 mph wind as mentioned above, I observe a wave about every 2-3 seconds for as long as the wind blows (which is very common during the summer.) They are also equal or greater amplitude.

#4 – While fishing, have been almost knocked out of the boat while fishing.

#4 – My fishing boat was damaged when large waves smashed it up against my dock, this also damaged my dock.

#4 – My only concern with boats on the lake is excessive music

#4 – I have a floating dock. The wake boats bounce the docks and make it unsafe to be on the dock. The 2 sections have become disconnected because of excessive waves. Shoreline erosion also occurs and sediment enters the lake.

#4 – Our concern is the effect wake boats have when run in less than 20 ft. per U of M.

#4 – Boat ripped off its moorings. It then floated across the lake.

#4 – Personal dock and visiting resident's pontoon docked was damaged. Property and shoreline damage

#4 – Wake board boats operating in surf mode should be used in deeper water. Greater than 20 ft. When not in surf mode (ballast tanks full/tabs engaged) they are the same as runabouts.

#4 – Has created waves strong enough to pop out sections of a dock flooring and our younger great-grandkids have been pushed under the water when the waves come and we (older people) are knocked off floatation floaties. Our shore has been eaten up by these waves – they are huge and bang into the beach area – taking all the sand – exposes pointy sticks – It gets to be the worst because these boats tend to go back and forth by our area on the more southern end because I think it is a wider portion of the lake. We understand people have invested a lot of money into these boats and we can tell it is fun, but is it possible that Bad Medicine is too narrow? I don't know the solution and feel everyone deserves to enjoy the lake, yet these waves are so powerful and the thing is if you don't see them, they come quietly and suddenly – taking the very young down under the water – off their feet as well as the very old – knocked my mom right off her feet – Bad Medicine is a very rocky lake – she could have hit her head, yet fortunately did not.

#4 – Shoreline erosion would be highest on my list of potential issues but with the lake level receding and approaching the ordinary water mark that concern has gone down considerably.

#4 – Dock damage, shoreline erosion with damage to shore vegetation, instability on docks and in boat due to the wake boat waves.

#4 – Wake boats and jet skis have nearly swamped me several times as driving too close to me. Drivers of these items have laughed at me while I'm hanging on for dear life.

#4 – The excessive wave makes pontoons very uncomfortable. There has to be a shoreline impact – less noticeable with the lake down and rocks exposed.

#4 – Repair boat lift needed welding and eroded soil away from rocks and prevents new growth.

#4 – The shore gets eroded. They are a nuisance! Can't use a paddleboard or canoe! They are too noisy and cause a big disruption.

#4 – Terrible water after waves from wake boat. Personal safety with small children swimming

#4 – Boats too close to the shore – wake boats especially/shore erosion/noise

#4 – Boats with large wakes causing shoreline erosion. Personal safety when on kayaks and fishing boat from wake boats too close.

#4 – The shore is all Rip Rap already! What's the issue? We've had pontoon go full speed 20 ft. from our docks creating as big of a wave. Who are you singling out wake boats?

#4 – Our floating dock is constantly shifting impacting its integrity. Our shoreline keeps getting undermined below our dock and jet ski ramp.

#4 – Dock ramps knocked loose from dock and banged up boat on lift moved around if not fully lifted.

#4 – My niece got trapped under dock because big waves from wake boat. Fishing boat knocked off lift by waves (wake boat)

#4 – Dock-damage where it meets shore. Boat lift – wake boat lifted ski boat up and broke wood bunks upon crash back down. Personal safety with grandkids.

#4 – I was in the water working on our swim raft. A wake boat came by. The wake raised the raft about 2 ft. It then came down, hit me in the head and pushed me underwater.

#4 – Please make sure proof is requested from others.

#4 – Wake boats create unsafe conditions on lake

#4 – Wake boat passed our lift and dock. I believe it's wake broke back 2 legs on lift and came down on dock. Have to watch if wake boat is close before going on or coming off lift – small dogs and child thrown into rocky shoreline by wake.

#4 – Boat wakes batter my dock and cause it to become loose

#4 – Had a distracted pontoon driver hit our boat on the boat lift. We live on a point and boats/pontoons/jet skis come from behind out beach at a very high rate of speed that I am concerned for the safety of people swimming at our beach.

#4 – No impact

#4 – Wake boats in particular with their intended purpose of increasing waves is inconsistent with a smaller, calm nature inspired environment – I appreciate calm, clear lake water – obviously it is a unique draw to us.

#4 – Wake boats cause large waves that have caused marked erosion of our beach, occasionally frighten our grandchildren, and have slammed our pontoon onto shoreline rocks.

#4 – While cruising the wake on their wake boat will almost knock people off the pontoon. Our shoreline is getting affected. Tired of my boat lift and dock getting slammed by the wake created. No fun riding our kayaks.

#4 – My personal watercraft and dock were damaged by wake boats. What sand I had on shore has been washed away.

#4 – As a long thin lake, the large waves have significant impact to safety using the lake for canoeing and boating. Our shoreline continues to erode with the large waves over the summer.

#4 – I had to "fish" dock decking from the bottom of the lake on a few occasions. B. shoreline erosion – large amounts of debris and sand are being dragged in to the water – the lake is noticeably dirtier too. Personal safety – boating is made difficult by these large wakes – slamming into the lake after going over one of these wakes is dangerous especially if you're not aware of the largeness of wake and how hard you can hit the lake after climbing one of them. Other – ecological – for 30 plus years I have enjoyed spring sucker spawn on my shoreline – the sucker eggs were wiped out by the wakes of a wake boat – this was documented by the fact in

years past there would be hundreds of sucker minnows swimming around the shoreline after the hatch. This year I was lucky to count a handful of sucker minnows swimming around the boat.

#4 – When we go for a pontoon ride the waves from the wake boat come inside pontoon more than halfway flooding the floor.

#4 – This question encourages listing opinions.

#4 – Erosion – yes, constant erosion from wake boats and pontoons coming too close to shore

#4 – Never been a problem

#4 – Waves hit boat lift and move it – on pontoon/wake boat waves go over deck – on floating lifts and waves move substantially and stumble

#4 – Wakes have forced our moored boat underneath the dock.

#4 – Elderly ski boat driver – pulling tubes – very close to bad accident – was not aware of surroundings – near accident – was not observing

#4 – None

#4 – Water quality. When the wake boats are operating, on 3 occasions my dock sections were damaged and the wake boats wake go up on the shore dragging dirt, plants, driftwood, etc. into the water.

Duplicate/copied survey - #4 – I was kayaking with my grandson near the first island when a wake boat went by nearly capsizing my grandson's boat. It frightened him tremendously.

#4 – I have experienced problems with wakes washing sections of plastic decking from my dock.

Those sections are denser than water and sink to the bottom, furthermore the boat wake waves seem to effect deeper water so that the displaced dock sections keep getting worked further out into the lake over time if I do not get to recover immediately. The excessive wakes also cause boats moored to the dock to bang against it causing damage to boats and the dock. Objects left on the dock have also been washed overboard. I have observed damage to boats on lifts at other locations on the lake. I have noticed shoreline erosion from large boat wakes on the shore of Bad Medicine and also observed darker water along the shoreline after excessive boat wake activity indicating suspended vegetation or finer silt/sand washed into the lake. I have also noticed some areas where lake weeds that had started to become reestablished and seem to have been damaged in lake bottoms more than 10 ft. deep. Prior to destruction by crayfish in the 1960s and 1970s the lake bottom had previously been vegetated below about four to five feet down. This had provided habitat for fish and mayflies, but that recovery may be at risk from deeper water damage from boat wakes. I am also concerned about risk to personal safety from excessive wakes to swimmers, paddle boarders, kayak and canoe users. This may be more critical to the very young and maybe those of us getting past our prime. Finally, I anticipate that there will be damage to wildlife, especially loon nesting sites which are vulnerable to boat wakes that exceed natural wave heights. This would be especially true on long narrow lakes, such as Bad Medicine, which do not usually see such large waves naturally.

Question 5 - Have watercraft activities or boat wakes had an adverse impact or affected you while doing any of the activities listed below? Circle all that apply: Sightseeing/enjoying the lake; Swimming; Pontooning; Using a non-motorized watercraft; Fishing; Water skiing/tubing
Please share your experiences:

Comment Responses to Question 5

- #5 - Can be dangerous when canoeing.
- #5 - Can't relax on the beach – waves too big they knock chair over.
- #5 - The large waves adversely affect participation of swimming and kayaking due to the dangers the wave poses to those activities.
- #5 - When sailing, boats are not always aware of the right of way rules which has caused my son and I to capsize our sailboat.
- #5 – The loud RAP music is offensive at all times.
- #5 – When swimming or having small children on the lily pad, we take extra precautions when wake boats are operating in our area of the lake.
- #5 – Wake boat almost destroyed our dock in 5-0 wave.
- #5 – Personal watercraft spending too much time in our shoreline. Too close to shore. Loud music on wake boats and runabout boats.
- #5 – Large wake capsized waterboard and very much made canoe uncomfortable.
- #5 – Paddleboarding and pontooning
- #5 – Pontoon taking on water when wave comes.
- #5 – Many activities are affected by the waves. Canoeing, fishing and waterskiing in particular.
- #5 – No more than people tubing, skiing or fishing.
- #5 – None, our dog loves the waves
- #5 – It does not feel safe to canoe when the wake boats are on the lake. The shape of our lake bottom has changed near shore and this interferes with swimming.
- #5 – Have done all of the above. Not affected to any extent.
- #5 – Afraid to kayak with big wakes
- #5 – The only concern I have ever had is when kayaking or paddle boarding, but even that is manageable as long as proper space buffers are maintained.
- #5 – My only negative to any boat on the lake is the loud music played
- #5 – Small children must be held close by as wake boats knock them off their feet or push them onto shore.
- #5 – They usually play music. Very annoying.
- #5 – Tubing can create larger waves on runabouts and wake boats.
- #5 – Makes swimming on your shoreline dangerous as I mentioned above on the other side of this form.
- #5 – Boat wake/waves are temporary so there is always some impact but for a short time. Wake boats seem very conscious of using the middle of the lake very consistently – much appreciated. Frankly, I find some of their loud music much more irritating.
- #5 – Too close to shore and too fast
- #5 – Wake boat waves come into boat. Wake boat waves disrupt fishing and make boat “tippy”.

#5 – Wakes reach shore and boats in water, children in water with disruptive and seeing effects.

#5 – When cruising lake, hit with high wakes over bow we don't go on the lake sightseeing or kayaking when wake boats are out, grandson was injured while tubing and hitting large wave.

#5 – They are destructive, disruptive and since we live in a wide part of the lake, they are always in front of our cabin! They are loud!

#5 – Small children playing in shallow areas, near the lakes many rocks are vulnerable to the large waves from wake boats. Paddle boards and kayaks are also susceptible to capsizing.

#5 – Waves on a small sized pontoon, swimming with small children

#5 – Nothing unsafe recently, but the lake is long and narrow so there are no mitigating wake boat effects.

#5 – No! Paddle boards are far worse! How about restriction on them!

#5 – The big waves from the wake boats will tip over your small boat, canoe, kayak and paddleboard.

#5 – Our experience has always been that boater are very respectful.

#5 – Also, would like to mention that some of the loud music played by wake boats is sometimes profane and unsuitable for children.

#5 – Giant waves affect all of the above for us and last year we helped rescue a canoe capsized by giant wave.

#5 – Yes, at times the lake is busy with all boats and so we stay off.

#5 – Sense of threat due to extreme wakes, PWCs too fast and close in bays

#5 – Large waves created by wake boats make it difficult to stay balanced on SUPs and kayaks and jet skis, and can easily result in tipping over into the water.

#5 – The waves from wake boat always cause safety concerns. The loud music also is not needed.

#5 – It can be uncomfortable when swimming with a lot of motorized boat traffic

#5 – No impact

#5 – No impact

#5 - Boats/pontoons come way too close to our shore.

#5 – No impact

#5 – Large waves are appealing to such a distinct minority behind a wake boat. This at the above itemized costs to many.

#5 – The waves from wake boats are huge and sometimes come as a surprise for the activities above.

#5 – The wake makes it very difficult to enjoy our normal activities in or on the water. We get kind of upset when we see them on the water

#5 – Yes, I agree that the lake should be available to all recreational watercrafts, but nothing has created the damage as wake boats. They belong on much bigger lakes.

#5 – Swimming – large unexpected waves

#5 – Sight-seeing – yes, the large wakes make boating harder to enjoy due to the need to manage wakes rather sight-seeing. Using a motorized watercraft impossible when wake boats are used at the same time – biffed a few times. Swimming - if you love rolling with the tide – I don't like that feeling. Fishing – less enjoyable when trying to manage the boat to deal with three-foot wakes hitting the boat. Waterskiing/tubing – can't sling when wake boats are being

used – inlets you're looking for "air" and a body slam. Pontooning – managing huge wakes is not fun in a boat less fun in a pontoon. Ick

#5 – Poorly crafted. All and any watercraft activities could cause all adverse impact or affected!

#5 – Sight-seeing – wake boats.... adverse!

#5 – None

#5 – Owners of wake boats and jet skis seem to behave carelessly, including being loud, in regard to other watercraft out on the water, not considering others.

#5 – No adverse impact. You ask the question, yet you did not have the option of choosing no.

#5 – Never been a problem

#5 – Big waves and loud music

#5 – Music volume disturbs the lake experience as much as wakes.

#5 – Kayaking – Elderly boat driver not aware

#5 – None, Positive experiences...it's more fun to celebrate the joys of lake life then to focus on the negative. We have had so many wonderful experiences of laughter and personal accomplishments for all ages

#5 – The wake boat waves have knocked me off my stand-up paddleboard, washed onto the pontoon deck getting everyone wet. And wake boat wakes wash dirt into the water making swimming unpleasant and kayaking difficult.

Duplicate/copied survey #5 – Wake boats disrupt and have an adverse impact anytime they are used.

#5 – Excessive wakes from boats have occasionally been a problem for me while enjoying the lake scenery or using my canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards. There have been some instances where personal safety was a concern although more commonly from boaters coming too close.

Question 6: Have you reviewed the educational material provided by the Bad Medicine Lake Area Assn. Safety, Education and Etiquette (SEE Committee)?

[<http://www.Badmedicine.mnlakesanddrivers.org> under Bad Medicine Lake Association, to Safety, Education, Etiquette Committee (SEE)]

Circle: YES or NO

Comments:

Comment Responses to Question 6

#6 - I repeat, this is NOT a Forest Township issue. Rather it is a BMLAA issue.

#6 - The DNR commissioned a study I believe that should be used.

#6 - Thanks for the reminder, I will now.

#6 - This is just a bunch of crabby old people whining. Turn off CNN and have some fun.

#6 - Pretty clear what is expected to be respectful to others.

#6 - Things improved after the SEE committee educated the WB owners to stay in the middle of the lake.

#6 – Would like to see these boats operate in the deep channels only.

#6 – Good info. A lot of common sense.

#6 – Both jet skis and wake boats come too close to shore and other watercraft on a regular basis.

#6 – Material was well thought out and helpful.

#6 – No etiquette by several individuals. Don't know if they are property owners. Why do they think they need the whole lake to recreate while the rest of us put up with their misbehavior? Suggestions don't work and are not needed.

#6 – Have not seen it – assume it is basically common sense.

#6 – It stated the DNR Boating Guide – too much detail and not helpful. Didn't address wake boats at all.

#6 – We have tried very hard for the past 51 years to keep Bad Medicine pristine.

#6 – SEE is a great tool. Why as a township would you do this?? (survey?) Personal agenda?

#6 – Our lot is straight east of the south island, a sensitive area, and there seems to be very little regard for this by the wake boat community.

#6 – Great info!

#6 – Reading vs compliance is the farce

#6 – I couldn't find it on the website

#6 – What?

#6 – Thanks to those who cooperated to put together those materials. I am 100% supportive of respecting our neighbors and keeping Bad Medicine safe!

#6 – I have received the educational material provided through the BMLAA and have also done additional in-depth research into the effects of excessive boat wakes on waterways. I am particularly concerned about recent studies regarding water craft that are designed to create excessively large wakes for recreational usage. In addition to their surface effect those wakes also appear to generate impacts in much deeper waters. I am concerned that this may disturb the thermocline levels in Bad Medicine with consequences for cold water species such as rainbow trout which are stocked at high levels (ca 16,000 annually) and which are very

important to fishermen who use Bad Medicine Lake. There is also potential for things like algae blooms triggered by mixing of water chemistry due to deep water disturbance of segregated water columns. This needs additional investigation and if we wait until problems become observably serious, they may be irreversible.

Question 7: Would you support regulations concerning the use of wake boats? (See <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/boatwater/surfaceusezoning.html> for suggestions for types of regulations)

Circle: YES or NO

Comments:

Comment Responses to Question 7

#7 - Unlimited wake boat usage from Monday at 6 am until Friday at noon. Then eliminate all usage from noon Friday until 6 am Monday.

#7 - Restrict wake boat operation to middle of lake or better. Lake is too narrow, don't allow them. Emphasize other boats to stay away from shore when cruising.

#7 – Not sure if anything can be done legally.

#7 – I realize it would be difficult or impossible to enforce. The wake boat operators would need to be proactive. Perhaps limited hours as an option. Maybe restricting wake boat hours to 11 am to 6 pm – this would be outside of prime fishing and pontooning times. This would take disciplined cooperation. It wouldn't eliminate all problems and damage but would ease pressure on some of the water activities. I fear that personal safety and potential injury will be the result of aggressive personal watercraft operation more than wake boats.

#7 – Once this is started there will be more restrictions coming i.e. – gun control

#7 – I believe current guidelines are sufficient

#7 – The biggest reasons for “no” are 1) near OHW lake levels and 2) wake boats showing a consistent focus on using the middle of the lake.

#7 – Question is: who has standing? Certainly, not BMLA

#7 – 500 ft from shore, at least and other boats/ 20 ft of water; limit daytime use – part of day

#7 – Either have limited hours, or prohibition on either small or narrow lakes.

#7 – Slippery slope! Why not all boats! What happens to the lake lot values? Better think long and hard before personal opinion is exacted.

#7 – I wish more boaters of all kind were considerate and avoided shoreline, but don't support legislation.

#7 – If enforceable. Rules/regs without enforcement are only frustrating.

#7 – Bad Medicine Lake is too small for wake boats!

#7 – I wouldn't necessarily ban them, but limited location and time.

#7 – Yes but with adherence and enforcement best possible

#7 – Only if they are banned

everyone to see.

#7 – Absolutely

#7 – Wake producing boats should be operated as close to the middle of the lake as possible and in greater than 20 ft. of water.

#7 – We do not support unnecessary regulations. We support education and caution areas.

#7 – It's a public lake

#7 – We just celebrated our nation's 250th birthday. We should reflect on the freedom and independence is mainly fought to establish and protect. We all have different interests and hobbies; this should be what makes Bad Medicine beautiful!

#7 – Our lake is too narrow for wake boats to operate without causing damage and endangering shorelines and now motorized watercrafts.

#7 – I would support regulation of wake boats to protect the pristine character of Bad Medicine Lake. If action is not taken to protect the shoreline or deeper waters of the lake until damage is extensive it may be too late.

Question 8: Should those regulations apply to all lakes in Forest Township or be exclusive to Bad Medicine Lake - Circle one: Township Wide or Bad Medicine Lake Only

Comment Responses to Question 8

#8 - That are narrow.

#8 – However, BML is a long narrow lake and wakes can do more damage to shoreline.

#8 – Regulations should be science based and specific to each lake.

#8 – No regulations

#8 – I am undecided about this. The other large lakes in the township are different and I'm unsure how wake boats would impact time.

#8 – None of the above

#8 – If they regulate

#8 – I am not familiar with other lakes. The long narrow nature of the BML makes the use of the wake boats dangerous. [Ballast tanks] cannot be emptied completely. This transfers zebra mussels.

#8 – Statewide!!

#8 – It depends on the size of the lake. BML's narrowness makes it almost impossible for wakes to disperse before reaching other crafts, swimmers or shoreline.

#8 – Ideally, all lakes in MN, but at least Bad Medicine (too narrow).

#8 – Could depend on length, depth, eutrophic conditions, etc.

#8 – Any regulation would be an improvement

#8 – No Lakes!

#8 – I feel the effects of wake boats would be even more negative on a lake like Bass where the shoreline is not predominantly rock.

#8 – Depends on size of lake. Start here anyway – lakes too narrow – plus don't use middle of lake often.

#8 – Unable to comment as only familiar with Bad Medicine

#8 – Why is this worded as if the regulations are already happening? No Regulations!

#8 – Not sure, probably township wide.

#8 – No regulations

#8 – Only state regulations are currently written for all boats and crafts.

#8 – The question led me to believe the decision to regulate has been made. Let Game and Fish regulate. The township should stay out of it.

#8 – Are you assuming a Yes answer on 7. None – no regulations. This is a “recreational lake”

#8 – BML – specific to narrow lakes

#8 – Generally speaking, I am disappointed by the small group of folks who are rallying voices in this fashion. We are a better community than this. If you need to share feedback with me on boating etiquette or safety, please give me a call.

#8 – It does not seem as if Bass Lake, Big Basswood Lake, or other lakes in Forest Township (outside Bad Medicine Lake) have characteristics that would make them suitable for wake boat usage so regulation would not seem relevant.

General Response Question: Please feel free to add anything related to this survey that would be helpful in assessing wake surfing use on the lake.

Comment Responses to General Response Question at Bottom of Survey

General - My fear is if this is imposed on Bad Medicine Lake only, the boats will go to the next closest lake and wreak someone else's shoreline.

General - Bass Lake is too small for wake boats

General - Wake boats destroy the weeds and the lake bed no matter what lake they're on! The music they play can be heard across the lake – why do others have to listen? It's rude!!

General – I'm not on Bad Medicine. They are obscene in all environmental aspects. Who can't see that?!?!

General – The lake level is down and large waves are causing even more erosion. Other boats also cause this when too close to shore.

General – I believe if you are going to put restrictions on wake boats, let's put a moratorium on E, SE, S, winds also because those waves create multiple effect of any wake boat. (Lives on northwest side of BML)

General – Does the township/lake assoc. have the authority?

General – The problem to me is because Bad Medicine is quite narrow – so they may not be large enough – large – round lakes may not have these issues because waves have time to level out before hitting shorelines. Also, this lake was very pristine – lived there nearly 45 years – it has only recently developed weeds, murky quality because the large waves are repeatedly eating up and taring away from the shoreline due to their shear force. Bad Medicine is at an all-time low – so imagine could happen when the water levels rise and the waves tear into black dirt – when the water was this high before we didn't have boats such as this – there has to be a way to make them less damaging to our lake as well. Or just not allowed period.

General – Would support methods of actually showing on lake where wake boats can surf.

General – Thank you for giving the rest of us a chance to explain our side.

General – I respect efforts wake boaters have made to minimize impact but the narrowness of the lake limits the impact of those efforts. We don't fully understand the impact of the wake boats on the lake bottom. Hopefully, future research can give us some answers. I know such research is ongoing and that's good.

General – Along with the gigantic waves, these boats tend to have loud music that is very disruptive.

General – We don't go on the lake when wake boats are out. Maybe establish wake boat "hours". We ski at morning and evening when it is calm keep wake boats off during those hours?

General – I've had issues with paddle boards too far out especially by Pearson's narrows. Also fishing boats ripping canopies so if we are going to open a can of worms – let's go after them too!

General – We have a small 14 ft. aluminum boat our kids use. We can't leave it pulled up on shore anymore because it has been swamped multiple times.

General – It makes one want to not go on water until wake boats finish for day. That shouldn't have to be.

General – Consider recommending a minimum distance from any shoreline for use of wake boat. 2000 ft, for example, may give waves to dissipate somewhat before impact to shoreline and also provide maneuvering room for other boats to avoid the giant waves from wake boats.

General – XXXXXXXXX once shouted at a meeting, acting like a child and said “I’m done with this talk” before storming out. He insulted all in attendance, especially the BMLAA board. He’s harassed and endangered children yet the township board choose to listen to him? And that XXXXXXXXX allowed to vote with a huge conflict of interest is an abomination. Go live on another lake if you don’t like it but quit harassing others, calling the county and being terrible human beings! It will be fun to see this play out when attorneys get involved and people are deposed about that myself and other interactions with XXXXXXXXX and then for his disposition as well.

General – Larger than normal waves from wake boats are hard on our floating dock.

General – Stop regulations

General – Stop regulations

General – note 6/15/26 Forest Township letter with additional notes. 6/20/26 – Township leaders; I favor significant wake boat wave limitations – I find the enclosed opposition flyer (BML Open for All), predictable and desperate. It is similar to smokers have rights too. Not when it impacts other’s health. “Freedom” similar to anti-vaccine folks. “Majority Rule” vs loud minorities must be respected – lastly: I strongly doubt the opposition would come close to their alleged self-regulation – Thank you for your service.

General – On my side – while I admit the damage from wake boats has occurred, I do believe that it is getting better and if the boats could maintain their distance and keep the music at a lower level I believe we could compromise.

General – Send out reminders about etiquette. Most is common sense. Add reminders about Jet skis also. We have one and reminders are good.

General - If all responses are/will be anonymous why number this questionnaire? Biased question. There are more runabouts, PWC, there are currently more issues those then wake boats.

General – How are responses anonymous and yet are numbered?

General – People wake surfing often blast their music which destroys the serenity of our pristine lake, in addition to the other damage and danger they cause.

General – The town board moved WAY to fast deciding to do this survey. They had about eight residents come to the annual meeting in March and requested that the town board “establish a committee to work on regulations for wake boats on the lake”. (According to the meeting minutes on the website.) The township Planning Committee included ONLY the Planning Commission members. 1. Were there any attempts to include residents that own wake boats? If not, why would only people that are opposed to wake boats be included in a committee that is tasked with creating regulations for these boats? 2. Why is a town board paying for costs of this process when it only impacts property owners on Bad Medicine Lake? 3. Have the residents on the other lakes in the township requested this to be done? 4. How was it decided that a survey needed to be done? 5. Why isn’t this being done by the lake association or the residents that wish to make these wake boats regulations? 6. Is the town board going to do the same for all other motorized vehicles on the lake? e.g. – Jet Skis, fishing, skiing, and speed boats, etc. 7. Is the town board ready to expend more costs for attorney and legal fees? To my

knowledge, the property owner that requested this to be done did NOT petition the town board to do this work. They didn't go out and have other property owners sign a petition then present it to the town board. The board just jumped to do a survey and didn't request that a petition be done by the property owners that wanted this to be done. In the past the lake association did address the wake boat concerns. A committee was set up and people were educated about what was legal, etc. Wake boat owners were asked to stay in the middle of the lake as much as possible. I feel that this has improved since that was done. If someone still has concerns with wake boats and the boat is coming to close to your dock/shore, just go and talk to the owner. Bad Medicine Lake is more and more populated and yes, we may not like some of the activities that others are doing on the lake but it is a recreational lake. Does the town board want to get into more and more regulating of things? Maybe we need to regulate hours for skiing, fishing, pontooning? All you need to do is go to the annual meeting with a few friends and make a request. If people have a problem with the wake boats and want them regulated, then work with the State and DNR. Don't force things that you want on others just because they are on "your" lake and you don't want them there.