

FOREST TOWNSHIP WAKE BOARD BOAT REGULATORY INQUIRY

Dateline & Procedure - Subject to Regular Editing & Update

10 August 2026

All Forest Township Planning Commission meetings, meetings of the Forest Township Board of Supervisors, Forest Township annual meetings, and informational meetings are public meetings. Only Forest Township residents may vote.

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| 10 March 2026 | At the Forest Township annual meeting a motion was passed by those attending to establish a committee to work on regulations for wake boats on Bad Medicine Lake. There were 21 township officers and visitors present. 17 voted for the motion and 4 against. |
| 14 April 2026 | At the Forest Township Board of Supervisors meeting the Supervisors voted to adopt the motion made at the annual meeting. The established Forest Township Planning Commission is to investigate the situation and organize, but not to ban wake boats. |
| 5 May 2026 | The Planning Commission met and decided to create a survey to determine the need and desire for wake boating regulation. |
| 12 May 2026 | The Board of Supervisors voted to approve funds to complete and mail the survey. |
| 1 June 2026 | The Planning Commission met and decided to send the survey and covering letter to all landowners in Forest Township. The surveys were to be anonymously numbered so that only one survey should be received from each property. The surveys were to be mailed by June 15, with a requested return date of July 15. |
| 20 July 2026 | The Planning Commission met and opened the surveys that had been received. 223 surveys had been sent out on June 14 and 130 were received by July 20. The return rate was 58%. An initial review and tabulation of the surveys was done. 125 of the surveys received answered Question 7 which asked if there was support for regulations concerning the use of wake boats. 94 of the surveys responded yes and 31 responded no. This represented 75% in favor of regulation and 25% against regulation of wake boats. |
| 3 August 2026 | The Planning Commission met and completed review and tabulation of the surveys. The Commission decided to send the Board of Supervisors their review and tabulation of the surveys. The Commission recommended that the results be posted on the township website when approved by the Board of Supervisors. |
| 10 August 2026 | Scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting. Survey tabulation and compiled results on the agenda to be considered and possibly accepted. There will likely be discussion of how to move forward |

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regarding regulation of wake boats in Forest Township.

5 September 2026

Informational public meeting to present the wake boat survey results, proposed dateline and procedure to prepare input on possible regulations, and to seek additional input regarding how to move forward.

As Necessary

Becker County Board of Commissioners and MN Department of Natural Resources to be consulted as needed and informed of Wake Boat Survey results and other information.

Subsequent scheduled Board of Supervisors meetings normally on the second Tuesday of each month with possible agenda openings to consider progress on potential regulations for wake boats in Forest Township.

9 March 2027

Normally scheduled Annual Meeting of Forest Township. Possible agenda opportunity to consider progress on potential regulations for wake boats in Forest Township.

29 May 2027

Anticipated public meeting to present proposed regulation plans for wake boats in Forest Township.

Date to be Determined

Proposed regulations need to be finalized by the Forest Township Board of Supervisors before submission to the MN DNR Commissioner.

Date to be Determined

86B.205 WATER SURFACE USE ORDINANCE is subject to the authority of the MN DNR Commissioner. A proposed surface use zoning ordinance must be submitted to the commissioner for review and approval before adoption. The commissioner must approve or disapprove the proposed ordinance within 120 days after receiving it. If the commissioner disapproves the proposed ordinance, the commissioner must return it to the local governmental unit with a written statement of the reasons for disapproval. Becker County also has some jurisdiction.

SURVEY RESULTS

Planning Commission Survey Results

REVIEW LITERATURE

Banholzer, William. 2026. "Wake Boat Hydrodynamics, Wave Physics, Lake Sediment Dynamics & Policy Framework" {appears to be an update of his 2023 Ashippun Lake Wake Study} [<https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASBLA/64117edc-2167-a797-3eff->

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Fay, Endicott M., Andrew Gunderson, Arden Anderson. 2022. "Numerical Study of the Impact of Wake Surfing on Inland Bodies of Water" in *Journal of Water Resource and Protection*, 14:238-272 [<https://www.scirp.org/journal/jwarp/>]

Francis, James, Joel Nohner, John Bauman, and Brian Gunderman. 2023. "A Literature Review of Wake Boat Effects on Aquatic Habitat" State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Report 37 [<https://mymlsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Fisheries-Report-37-Wake-Boat-Study-Official-Version-Released-on-7.28.2023.pdf>]

Goudey, Clifford A., and Lewis G. Girod. 2015. *Characterization of Wake-Sport Wakes and their Potential Impact on Shorelines*. Prepared for the Water Sports Industry Association, P.O. Box 568512, Orlando, FL 32856-8512 [<https://www.wsia.net/wp->

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MN COLA (Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations). Recap of the MN COLA/SafeWakes seminar: Slide Presentation: DNR Petition Wakeboat Regulation Presentation April 2025.pdf

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References: DNR Petition Wakeboat Regulation Reference April 2025.pdf

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DNR petition process presentation (YouTube)

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88FHODLxmYs\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88FHODLxmYs)

DNR petition process Q&A [\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjdVxHTLdEY\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjdVxHTLdEY)

Riesgraf, Andrew, Jeffrey Marr, William Herb, Matthew Lueker, Jessica Kozarek. 2025. *A Field Study of Recreational Powerboat Hydrodynamics and their Impacts on the Water Column and Lakebed*. SAFL Project Report No. 611. St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, University of Minnesota, 2 Third Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 [\[https://conservancy.umn.edu/items/6a47c506-6be5-4c8a-9a96-dfea38f23b2f\]](https://conservancy.umn.edu/items/6a47c506-6be5-4c8a-9a96-dfea38f23b2f)