

CHAPTER 18
EMERGENCY SLOW-NO WAKE ORDINANCE

SECTION:

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5-18-1: PURPOSE: The intent of this ordinance is to provide for the protection of the shoreline of Rock Lake as well as personal property placed in and along the shoreline of Rock Lake. The intent is also to provide for the safe and healthful enjoyment of Rock Lake consistent with public rights.

5-18-2: AUTHORITY: This ordinance is adopted under the authority granted by Section 30.77 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

5-18-3: APPLICABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT: The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to the waters of Rock Lake. The provisions of this ordinance shall be enforced by the officers of Jefferson County, State of Wisconsin, and the Town of Lake Mills.

5-18-4: DEFINITIONS:

- (1) "Rock Lake" means Rock Lake and all of the parts, bays, waterways, and channels thereof, including that portion lying south of the Glacial Drumlin Trail, and the Mill Pond.
- (2) "High Water Level" means the water level of Rock Lake when it reaches or exceeds a level that is five inches (5") over the lake level of 828.33 feet. Maximum and minimum seasonal lake levels are established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) See Exhibit "A" included with this ordinance.
- (3) "Slow-No Wake" means that speed at which a motorboat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steering control.
- (4) "Motorboat" means any boat equipped with propulsion machinery, whether or not the machinery is the principal source of propulsion. This includes Personal Watercraft (PWC's).

- (5) "Operate" when used with reference to a motorboat, boat or vessel means to navigate or otherwise employ.

5-18-5: SCOPE: When the water level of Rock Lake begins to approach or exceeds the High Water Level the Town Chairperson, with or without consultation of other committees, authorities, or agencies, will enact an Emergency Slow-No Wake order for the entire lake. While this Emergency Slow-No Wake order is in effect no one will be allowed to operate any motorboat in excess of slow-no wake at any time day or night. The committees, authorities, or agencies that may be consulted with before enacting the order are the Joint Rock Lake Committee, the Rock Lake Improvement Association, the Jefferson County Land and Water Department Resource Conservationist, or the DNR. When the Emergency Slow-No Wake order is enacted it will remain in effect until the Town Chairperson lifts the order after consultation with any or all of the committees or agencies mentioned above.

Once the Emergency Slow-No Wake order is enacted, signs (conforming to DNR guidelines), notifying the people of the order will be posted at all of the boat launch areas around Rock Lake. These signs will remain in place until the order is lifted. Other means of notification will be used if feasible and they are, but not limited to, the local radio stations, the local cable television station, and the local newspapers.

5-18-6: SEVERABILITY: If any sections, subsections, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

5-18-7: PENALTIES: Any person who shall violate this ordinance shall forfeit not more than \$50.00 for the first offense and shall forfeit not more than \$100.00 for the same offense a second or subsequent time within one year. In addition, said persons also shall be responsible for any costs of prosecution.

5-18-9: EFFECTIVE DATE: This ordinance shall go into effect upon passage and publication on May 22, 2008

This ordinance shall go into effect upon publication and final approval
Dated this 22nd day of May 2008.

Wayne Martin, Town Chairperson
James Heinz, Supervisor I
Paul Hynek, Supervisor II

Attest:
/s/Robin Untz, Town Clerk

Amended: May 13, 2008