

CHAPTER 6

REGULATING PIERS ON ROCK LAKE

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5-6-1: **INTENT:** The intent of this ordinance is to provide safe and healthful conditions for the enjoyment of recreation on Rock Lake consistent with public rights and interest and the orderly placing of piers on Rock Lake.

5-6-2: **AUTHORITY:** This ordinance is adopted under the authority granted by Section 30.13(2) and 30.13(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

5-6-3: **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.

5-6-4: **DEFINITIONS:**

(1) "Rock Lake" means Rock Lake and all of the parts, bays, waterways, and channels thereof, including that portion lying south of the railroad tracks and excluding the Mill Pond.

(2) "Shoreline" means the line of contact of the body of water in Rock Lake with the shoreline.

(3) "Pier" means any structure extending into Rock Lake from the shore with water on both sides, built or maintained for the purpose of providing a berth for water craft or for loading or unloading cargo or passengers onto or from water craft. Such a structure may include a boat shelter which is removed seasonally.

(4) "Site" means any riparian shoreline lot, parcel, or other piece of property legally subdivided and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds.

(5) "Person" means an individual, individuals, partnership, association, corporation, governmental body, or agency, or any other entity.

(6) "Site Sideline" means a line drawn water ward as a parallel and continuous extension of the site side boundaries.

PIERS: A riparian property owner having a site on Rock Lake may build a pier without a permit with the following restrictions:

(1) It must be constructed by the person who owns the site or with his or her permission.

(2) It must be placed on wooden or metal posts, without using fill material, concrete, rocks, cribs, roofs, or walls.

(3) It must not obstruct navigation or the free flow of water.

(4) It may not be enclosed.

(5) It must not interfere with another riparian's pier or access to Rock Lake.

(6) The pier shall be set back a minimum of 10 feet from any adjoining site sideline. This does not apply in the event that the riparian owner's lake front is under 12 feet in width.

(7) No more than four water crafts may be moored, stored, anchored, lifted, or otherwise located within the authorized pier use area of each site. This subsection shall apply even though the riparian owner may have two piers. The maximum number of boats on any riparian site that may be moored, stored, anchored, lifted, or otherwise located within the authorized pier use area shall be four boats.

(8) The length of the pier shall not be a distance of more than 50 feet, measured from the shoreline, and parallel to the site sidelines. If at the distance of 50 feet the water depths less than 3 feet, the pier may be extended to a maximum distance of 100 feet, or to a point where the water depth is 3 feet, whichever is lesser.

(9) All seasonal piers shall not be installed earlier than March 1 and shall be removed from Rock Lake not later than November 1 of each year.

(10) The maximum number of piers per riparian site shall be 2.

(11) No advertising signs may be displayed from any pier or other structure or device.

(12) Installation of fueling facilities on piers is prohibited.

5-6-5: **SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT:** Variation from the requirements of this ordinance shall be allowed only through the issuance of a special exception permit by the Town Board. When issuing a special exception permit, the Town Board shall take into consideration the public interest and use of said piers. Piers constructed by the City of Lake Mills on public beaches shall be given special permits by the Town Board.

5-6-6: **PENALTIES:** Any person violating any provisions of this ordinance shall forfeit not more than \$50.00 for the first offense and shall forfeit not more than \$100.00 upon the conviction of the same offense a second or subsequent time within one (1) year. Said persons shall also be responsible for any costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of such forfeiture and costs shall be imprisoned in the County Jail until said forfeiture and costs are paid, but not exceeding sixty (60) days.

5-6-7: **EACH DAY A SEPARATE VIOLATION:** Each day in which a violation of any of the sections or requirements of this pier ordinance exists shall constitute a separate offense.

5-6-8: **REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES:** All ordinances regulating piers on Rock Lake, Town of Lake Mills, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, heretofore enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Lake Mills are hereby repealed.

5-6-9: **SEVERABILITY:** The provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed severable, and it is expressly declared that the Town Board of the Town of Lake Mills would have passed the other provisions of this ordinance irrespective of whether or not one or more provisions may be declared invalid. If any provision of this ordinance or the application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance and the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.