

SUBJECT: Wolf River Boating Safety Issues

FOR: MARCH 2010 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Jeff Knorr, Conservation Warden- Fremont

SUMMARY:

Being located centrally in the Fox Cities area the Winnebago System, and the Wolf River in particular, has historically been used extensively for recreational boating and fishing by local and statewide enthusiasts. The Wolf River is heavily fished throughout the open water season. The Wolf River's connection to the large lakes of the Winnebago System allows high performance boats of 40+ feet with capabilities of over 100 mph to access much of the river up to New London. Speed capabilities of all boats has increased markedly and boats are routinely operated at speeds over 60 mph, and often much faster, through areas congested with fishing boats, other recreational boaters pulling skiers and tubers and around sharp, often blind, corners.

Enforcement efforts are hampered by few applicable laws. These laws are also poorly worded. Attempts have been made to apply these laws to the present situation. These cases have been dismissed by the courts. There has been strong local public and governmental support for enacting more strict regulations. This has been met with very strong opposition by some user groups to any regulation impacting their ability to operate in any manner on the river.

Boat congestion, speed capabilities and boat wake erosion to the system river banks continue to increase. Accidents, injuries and resource damage will continue markedly in the future.

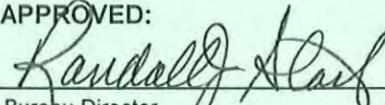
This presentation is to provide information and clarification as to the present and projected situation on the Lower Wolf River.

RECOMMENDATION: Informational Item Only.

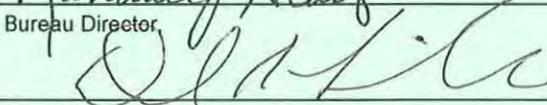
LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

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|--|---|------------------------------|----------|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

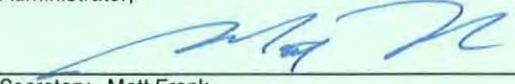
APPROVED:


Bureau Director

2-22-10
Date


Administrator,

2/25/10
Date


Secretary, Matt Frank

2-1-10
Date