Bella Vista POA Lakes JAC
October 10, 2023
2:00 pm
Bella Vista Country Club Board Room

Committee Members: Michael Coughlin, Scott Sborov, Carol Phillips, Ross Gerner, Kelly Austin, Scott Hawes, Rob Montgomery, Kevin Attleson and Matt Champagne.

POA Board Liaisons: Jerre Barron,Jr., Jeff Hendren, Sandy Fosdick.

Acting Chairman Kelly Austin called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

No additions to the agenda.

Approval of previous meeting minutes.

Correspondence from a POA member was read by COO Tom Judson. This correspondence concerned proposed POA regulations concerning personal watercraft on POA lakes.

Rick Echols reminded everyone of the Lake Windsor drawdown which begins October 16, 2023 ending on February 19, 2024. 3 inches per day is the proposed drawdown rate but it can be adjusted depending on the effect on the Tanyard Creek bridge project. Lake patrol continued to remove non-POA members from our lakes. Dock repair continues as seasonal lake cleanup efforts begin. Aquaculture pond activities continue. Lake Brittany will be stocked with trout starting the first week in November, through the winter months.

COO Tom Judson reported on POA Board approved projects, and the progress of the Bella Vista Recreation Center remodeling. On November 9, 2023 at 6pm, the annual POA budget presentation will be held in the POA Board Room.

Trey Anson of the POA Marina reported that the marina is now closed for the season with reopening April 22, 2023.

Discussion and voting on proposed changes to POA boating rules and regulations is delayed.

A motion was made and approved to combine the November and December Lakes LAC meeting to December 6 at 2:00 pm at the POA Board Room.

Next meeting is December 6th, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.

Reasons Why eFoil Boards Should Not Be Banned on Loch Lomond

#1 Visibility of foil board riders:

- Foil board riders are far easier to see than swimmers, yet the freedom to swim (any distance) is not banned on Loch Lomond.

- Foil boarders are easier to see than water skiers and wake boarders who have fallen and separated from their boat, because stationary water skis are submerged.
  Yet the freedom to water ski and wakeboard is not banned on Loch Lomond.

- Foil board riders are just as visible as standup paddle board (SUP) paddlers, and the freedom to stand-up paddle is not banned on Loch Lomond.

  Note: Even if the POA now decides to make visibility a heightened concern, that wouldn't require banning standup paddle boarders, water skiers, wake boarders, or foil boarders completely, but could be addressed by merely requiring high visibility PFD vests to be worn when boarding (on any type of board).

#2 The proper definition of "Personal Water Craft" PWC is narrow:

- The definition can't be broad; every resident's boat on the lake is a *water craft* and is also *personally* owned and used (not publicly owned).
  - If the phrase "Personal Water Craft" (PWC) were literally or broadly understood, then every BV resident's boat on the lake would be banned.

- Instead, "Personal Water Craft" is widely colloquially understood to refer to only one specific type of watercraft: jet skies and wave runners (typically accommodating 2-3 occupants).
  - "A jet-propelled boat ridden like a motorcycle."
    www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/personal-watercraft
  - "A jet-propelled boat ridden like a motorcycle."
    www.dictionary.com/browse/personal-watercraft

- It would be confusing to the public for the BV POA regulations to redefine "PWC" to have a meaning that is broadened beyond the normal colloquial understanding.

#3 eFoil boards are properly categorized as boards (not PWCs):

- Foil boards are water toys similar to other boards used in lakes, like wakeboards or SUP boards, and should be categorized accordingly.

- Like wakeboards, foil boards may be towed behind boats. (Wakeboards are allowed on Loch Lomond.)

- Like SUP boards, foil boards are quiet, can be carried by the rider on land, and are ridden standing up. (SUP boards are allowed on Loch Lomond.)

#4 Unlike PWCs, eFoil boards do not endanger others:

- The POA does not ban adults from voluntarily engaging in water skiing on Loch Lomond (not yet crusaded towards a zero-risk utopia that would require eliminating all freedom).

  Note: Water ski boats have powerful engines, are used around floating wakeboarders, and intentionally drag tow ropes across them at neck-level (for pickup).

- Although a foil board can be used like a wakeboard and be towed behind a powerful boat that drags a rope, it has the added safety feature that it need not be.

- Unlike driving a boat or PWC, a drunk person can't foil board at all. Foil boarding is an advanced balancing sport that inherently requires sobriety – no enforcement required. Balancing on a foil board is like passing a sobriety test before going out on the lake.

- Foil boards are inherently much less dangerous to other users of the lake than any boat. eFoil boards have a tiny fraction of the mass of any boat, and only a tiny battery powered electric motor that is weaker than a row boat's trolling motor.

#5 Unlike PWCs, eFoil boards create no noise, no wake, no nuisance!

- Like SUP boarding (but unlike PWCs) foil boarding is nearly silent and creates zero wake.
  - Want to see and hear for yourself? Here is a recent video of an eFoil board being ridden on Loch Lomond: https://youtu.be/94puHhc3hwc
    (You'll need to turn up the audio because foil boards are nearly silent!)

- Banning foil boards is not required to prevent too many on the lake.
  - Since foil boards are expensive and very difficult to learn to ride, they will never be as ubiquitous and popular as SUP boards, boats, or PWCs.
  - Although the freedom and opportunity to learn shouldn't be taken away from anyone, foil boards are never numerous on any lake regardless.

- Unlike wakeboards (that must be towed behind a powerful loud wake-producing boat), an eFoil board treads lightly and quietly … like lightweight aquatic church mouse 😊

Conclusion:
For the foregoing reasons, eFoil boards simply don't create any nuisance or danger on lakes remotely comparable to that of power boats or PWCs. They should be classified with SUP boards – not with PWCs. Banning foil boards would gain nothing at the cost of reduced freedom and recreational options for everyone.