



April 29, 2020

Jeffrey Marr MS PE  
Associate Director of Engineering and Facilities  
St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, University of Minnesota  
2 Third Ave SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

RE: Letter of Support for 2021 LCCMR Proposal: Assessing Impacts of Boat Waves on Minnesota Lakes

Dear Jeff Marr,

On behalf of the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA), I am pleased to provide you with this letter of support for your grant proposal to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for assessing the impacts of watercraft wave action on Minnesota lakes.

The “wake boat” industry and “wake riding” activity has exploded. There is an urgency for Minnesota public policy about the watercraft created wave action impact to shorelines, aquatic habitat, lake bottoms, and safety. Healthy lakes and public waters, aquatic recreation, and fishing are important to “going to the lake” for Minnesotans. There has been a limited amount of independent scientific research to guide public policy on these “wave action” matters.

Like others, we have considerable anecdotal information about the negative impacts of large waves to shorelines and shore area habitat, and have experienced these negative impacts which only escalate with the significant heavy rainfalls in recent years. We believe that state legislative action is needed, particularly with independent science-based research, to better understand the ecological impacts.

Like the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MNCOLA) and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLRA), WAPOA has been active in undertaking actions and strategies directed at protecting and sustaining the quality of our lake area, which is among the largest surface water lakes/lake chains in Minnesota. We understand the importance of water quality in Minnesota’s lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks for the Minnesota economy, aquatic animals, migratory birds, and our human health.

Surface water quality is also critical to our ground water as it is the water source for human consumption in about eighty percent of residences in our Pine River Watershed area.

If funded, we would be happy to explore ways to support your project through in-kind contribution such as helping to support your testing campaign and items you believe a lake association might assist with. We are hopeful that the LCCMR are supportive of this important research at this time.

Regards,

*Thomas N. Watson*

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ARROWHEAD MUD BIG TROUT ISLAND LOON UPPER WHITEFISH LOWER WHITEFISH RUSH HIDDEN DAGGETT LITTLE  
PINE BERTHA CLAMSHELL PIG CROSS LOWER HAY UPPER HAY STAR CLEAR KIMBLE OSSAWINNAMAKEE EAST FOX  
WEST FOX GOODRICH O'BRIEN OX BASS DUCK