



February 26, 2021

Skagit County Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board
1730 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Skagit County Board of Commissioners
1800 Continental Place, Suite 100
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Dear Commissioners Wesen, Browning, and Janicki:

We would like to thank all of the people who engaged in the proposal for amending the boating and recreational codes for Lake Erie. The meetings have been productive, thoughtful and respectful. We have been very impressed by the way the participants conducted themselves as they provided various opinions and experiences over the past two meetings. We have sifted through dozens of letters and heard from numerous people. After lengthy deliberations, we have prepared a recommendation to share with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

Many of the comments were focused on activities that are currently restricted. Skagit County Code and Washington State RCW's have restrictions on the speed of boats near other water craft, people, and property. There are noise restrictions, safety equipment policies, license requirements, and laws regarding the way exhaust is discharged. Many of the issues raised by the public are currently addressed through local and state code. Our Advisory Board was concerned with creating greater regulations when there is substantive codes in place. Education and enforcement are two elements that could help bring users into compliance and reduce a large portion of the public concerns. The lake is a public resource and the Advisory Board is concerned with the loss of rights to the recreating community.

We realize our proposal for an adjustment to the code is a recommendation and the Board of County Commissioners are unrestricted by our opinion. The recommendation has three primary components, including a reduction of the current speed limit for (safety and noise); signage (education); and a regular police presence (enforcement).

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[http://skagitcounty.net/offices/
parks/index.htm](http://skagitcounty.net/offices/parks/index.htm)



The Skagit County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board endorses the following statement:

Lake Erie is a public lake providing great recreational experiences to many types of users. We believe a reduction of the speed limit on the lake is justified and reasonable. We are proposing a speed limit of 30 miles per hour. In addition, we believe that signage needs to be placed at the WDFW Boat Launch with pertinent State and Local policies. The educational material should create an awareness that further regulations will be necessary if boating codes aren't adhered to. Furthermore, the Advisory Board believes law enforcement presence needs to be elevated during the warm weather months.

John Semrau
Chairman, Skagit County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Brian Adams
Director, Skagit County Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

District One:

Jose Riefkohl

Greg Francioch

Jason Benson

Jose Riefkohl

p.p. Marie Henry

p.p. Marie Henry

District Two:

Tim Manns

John Semrau

Tim Manns

John Semrau

District Three:

Kevin Loy

Chris Allen

Elizabeth Detillion

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