

## **DRAFT – Not Codified**

Meeting Minutes Lake Keesus Management District Buoy Sub-Committee

December 4, 2016

Camp Whitcomb-Mason

Rick Schlidt-Co-Chair  
Karl Holt-Co-Chair

Cindy Musbach  
Craig Snyder  
Brent Boerner  
John Grandlich  
John Hayes-late  
Judy Reinders-late  
Paul Dross-late  
Steven Belter  
Tom Slawski-SEWRPC  
Gary Etter  
Richard Bong  
Mike Timbers

- A) Call to order
- B) Individual introductions
- C) Holt summarized the objectives of the lake study
- D) Passed out a copy of the goals and objective of the Committee
- E) History of navigation buoys presented
- F) Copy of permit for navigation buoy shared with all members
- G) Recapped history of the '87 to '89 period regarding SNW buoys: discussed 15 times, surveys conducted, public hearing input.
- H) Collected concerns of each member. The recurring themes are summarized below.

Numerous comments about the water level in the lake were recorded. Many commented that they believe the water level is going down or the level of sediment is increasing and raising the bottom of the lake. Pier movement and boat dredging were specifically mentioned as effects of this phenomenon.

Many questioned the reason to have the navigational buoys. Why are they there, what do they imply or control from a legal or enforcement standpoint? The history of the navigation buoys was questioned by more than one participant.

While most seemed to question the need for the navigational buoys, more than one member felt that the navigation buoys improve safety on the lake by marking blind corners and providing reference for boaters.

The topic of liability was expressed and at the end of the meeting a discussion carried about the liability of the LKMD. Some questioned if placing navigation buoys implied safe passage and if that makes the LKMD responsible for property damage that may be incurred. Other concerns expressed focused on the aspect of having buoys and then removing them. The permits were discussed and it was noted that permits are in place for the slow no wake buoys but not for the navigational buoys. It was noted that the Town Merton statutes specify that slow no wake buoys will be in place and their absence may present risk to the LKMD.

Many questioned the history of the buoys, their placement and other details about the markers. Most commented that understanding the original intent would provide foundation for current/future decisions about the buoys.

Some of the committee members raised concerns around water quality, guardianship of the lake eco-system, and possible unintended consequences of LKMD policies. Included in this thread of discussion was mention of water clarity and its effect on the fish population in the lake.

Weed growth and encroachment on the open water was concern raised by many members of the committee. There were differing opinions about the impact the buoys may have on weed growth and coverage.

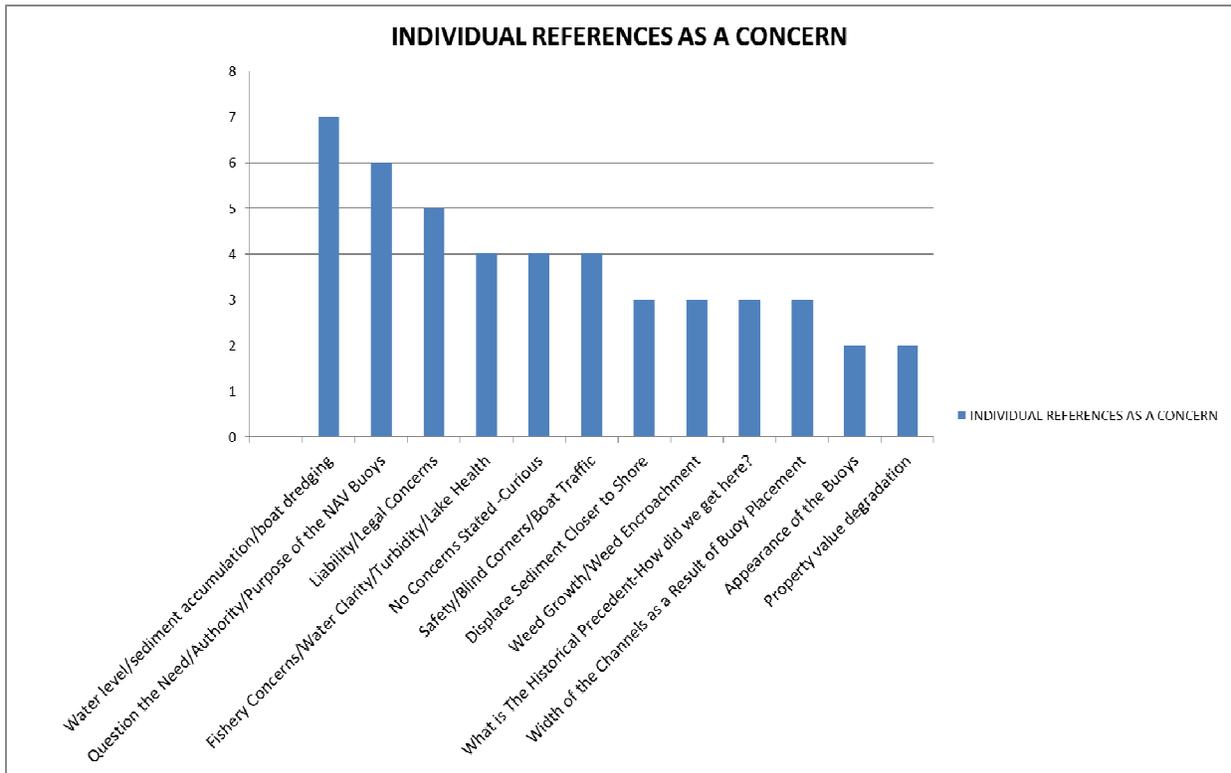
Some on the committee felt that sediment could be reduced with increased boat speed whereas others felt that higher boat speeds would only displace the sediment from the center of bays closer to the shoreline. Relatedly, the topic of property values was brought in discussion more than once with shoreline preservation being the common theme.

Many noted that the placement of the buoys affects their opinion. For example, narrow buoy placement at the mouth of Rice's Bay seems to discourage boat traffic in the bay. Others commented that buoys can contribute to congestion at the mouth of bay when they might be intended to reduce congestion.

More than one member stated that they did not have specific concerns and that they were in attendance to observe and participate on the committee. Two members noted that they felt the appearance/condition of the buoys is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Table of Comments

TOPIC	INDIVIDUAL REFERENCES AS A CONCERN
Water level/sediment accumulation/boat dredging	7
Question the Need/Authority/Purpose of the NAV Buoy	6
Liability/Legal Concerns	5
Fishery Concerns/Water Clarity/Turbidity/Lake Health	4
No Concerns Stated -Curious	4
Safety/Blind Corners/Boat Traffic	4
Displace Sediment Closer to Shore	3
Weed Growth/Weed Encroachment	3
What is The Historical Precedent-How did we get here	3
Width of the Channels as a Result of Buoy Placement	3
Appearance of the Buoys	2
Property value degradation	2



Graph of Concerns