

## A Brief History & The Process Taken By The Association Board With The Placement Of 4 new Buoys On Pike and Round Lake

In 2021 concerns came to the Lake Association Board by five families who own property on the thorofare between Pike and Round Lake about boaters ignoring the no wake ordinance. Concern was also expressed about huge waves from boats powering up and down so close to shore and the effect of those waves causing erosion on the five properties. Being one of the five concerned families, Board member Mike Ida noted that the recent shoreline, course woody and invasive species study done by the DNR during the summer of 2019 also documented erosion in the thorofare and shoreline.

After discussing various options as to how to deal with these family's concerns, the Board asked Mike Ida to attend the next Town Board meeting in Fifield to see if they would be willing to allow our Lake Association to purchase two new buoys to address the erosion concerns noted by the affected landowners and documented by the recent DNR shoreline study. Mike did attend the Fifield Town Board and presented the facts about erosion from the DNR study and the Lake Association Boards request for two new buoys. After listening to Mike's presentation, the Town Board approved the purchase of the two new buoys provided the Lake Association paid for the buoys. The Town Board also asked Mike to place the buoys where the buoys would have the best result in reducing erosion and to GPS the buoys once placed. Mike said that he would gladly do this. With the approval of the Town Board, Mike visited with those initially concerned about waves and shore erosion and informed them that the game plan was to install two more buoys one on Round and the other on Pike Lake, this game plan was whole heartedly embraced by all affected property owners.

Once our Lake Association had the approval of the Town Board, and knowing that property owners had no issues with new buoys being placed the Board passed a motion to purchase two new buoys to be placed by Mike. One buoy was to be placed on Pike further east out in the channel, the other buoy was to be placed on Round further north out in the channel. It was hoped that placing these two buoys out further in the channel would cause boaters to slow down further out in the lake and thus lessen the impact of their waves affecting the shoreline.

The first two buoys were placed into Pike and Round in early August of 2021 and the effects of their placement were immediately noticed by the five families that had expressed concern. Other families along the thorofare also expressed pleasure in seeing the effects of the added buoys. Boaters were slowing down further out in the lake and thus waves had more time to dissipate before they reached the shore and were therefore less destructive.

At the next Board meeting of our Lake Association a concern was shared about erosion on the west side of Pike Lake around the shoreline by Whitmore Rd. The recent DNR shoreline study once again substantiated this erosion. Again it was noted that big waves impacted the shoreline by boaters powering up and down to close to shore. Discussion by the Board centered on placing two new buoys along the effected shoreline with the hopes that the results would be positive as they were with the two new buoys placed between Pike and Round Lake. Mike Ida was again asked by the Board to go to the next Fifield Town Board meeting to see if they would agree to allow the Lake Association Board to purchase two more buoys for the west side of Pike by Whitmore Rd. While Mike was to seek approval from the Town Board, another Board member volunteered to speak to those land owners around Whitmore Rd to see if they had any concerns about buoy placement.

Created by: Mike Ida

June 10, 2023

Securing consent from the Town Board, with the same stipulations that were given with the first two buoys, (Mike would place and GPS the buoys, and the Lake Association would pay for the buoys) and hearing no concerns from property owners by Whitmore Rd, two additional buoys were purchased by the Lake Association. When these buoys arrived it was in late October of 2021 so they were placed in storage and ultimately were placed into the water in April of 2022. These two buoys were GPS and the coordinates were given to the Fifield Town Board.

At the June 2022 annual meeting of the Lake Association it was noted that the buoys placed along the west shore on Pike Lake by Whitmore Rd were causing boaters to power up and down further out in the lake and thus their waves had more time to dissipate before they reached the shore and were therefore less destructive.

Throughout the 2022 fishing/boating season with the addition of the four new buoys fewer big waves were noted by property owners which helped preserve the shoreline. Most boaters were respectful of these new buoys and powered their boats up and down further out in the lake. All affected owners were thankful for the Lake Association Boards willingness to address the erosion problem.

### Some Additional Thoughts

In 2023 the four new buoys were not placed into the water because the Fifield Town Board discovered they had to rewrite the ordinance for Pike and Round Lake to include each of the new buoys and that was not done when the buoys were placed in 2021 and 2022. They also discovered that no ordinance had been written for the buoy by the spillway on Round Lake because that buoy was requested many years ago by the Forest Service.

The Town Board is currently rewriting the ordinance for Round Lake to include the buoy by the spillway on Round Lake. Once written they will fill out the proper paperwork for DNR approval of that buoy placement. It is anticipated that the DNR will approve this placement once the ordinance has been written.

Our Lake Association Board will delay asking the Fifield Town Board to write new ordinances for Pike and Round Lake for our four buoys until all misunderstandings about the four buoys are cleared up, and all have had a chance to ask questions and see the DNR data that ultimately justifies these buoys and their placement. Once convinced that concerns about the buoys has been addressed, the Lake Association Board will determine whether or not to ask the Fifield Town Board to rewrite the Pike and Round Lake ordinances to include the four new buoys.

The Lake Association Board is willing to hold a few listening sessions for Association members this summer to further educate those who have concerns about buoy placement and erosion. These dates will be scheduled and all Association members will be notified in advance.

It should also be noted that with the absence of the four new buoys, some boaters are now powering up and down once again too close to shore causing destructive waves to pound the affected shoreline. Concerned landowners affected by these waves are hoping that the buoys will once again be placed back into the lake.

Created by: Mike Ida

June 10, 2023