

Water Safety

21-4-1 Navigable Waterway Regulations.

21-4-2 Lake George Regulations.

21-4-3 Penalties.

Sec. 21-4-1 Navigable Waterway Regulations.

(a) Intent. The intent of this Ordinance is to provide safe and healthful conditions for the enjoyment of aquatic recreation consistent with public rights and interest, the protection of natural resources and the capability of the water resource.

(b) Applicability and Enforcement. The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to the waters of the Wisconsin River and all lakes and other navigable waterways within the jurisdiction of Columbia County. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be enforced by the officers of the Columbia County Sheriff's Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

(c) Definition. "Slow-No-Wake" means that speed at which a boat or other motorized watercraft moves as slowly as possible while maintaining steering control.

(d) Slow-No-Wake Zones.

(1) Permanent Slow-No-Wake Zone - Wisconsin River.

A slow-no-wake zone is hereby established on that portion of the Wisconsin River lying between a point located 2000 feet upstream from the eastern edge of the Interstate-94 Bridge, which crosses the Wisconsin River, and a line created across the Wisconsin River two hundred (200) feet upstream (east) from Wisconsin Street in the Town of Dekorra; and from Latitude 43° 25.39 N to Latitude 43° 26.14 N, Longitude 89° 30.18 W to Longitude 89° 29.35 W (Fockes Bluff to Carter's Landing) of the Wisconsin River. This slow-no-wake zone shall be clearly identified with regulatory markers placed on the water.

(2) Emergency Slow-No-Wake Zones.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Columbia County Emergency Management Director and of the Columbia County Sheriff, the Columbia County Board Chair may establish an emergency slow-no-wake zone on all or on specified portions of the Wisconsin River all lakes and other navigable waters within the jurisdiction of Columbia County.

2. An emergency slow-no-wake zone shall be established by written order of the County Board Chair. Each such written order shall state whether the slow-no-wake zone applies to all navigable waters in Columbia County or only to specific bodies of water, in which case such specific bodies of water shall be identified in the County Board Chair's written order. Copies of the County Board Chair's written order establishing an emergency slow-no-wake zone shall be posted in public places including boat landings throughout Columbia County and shall be provided to Columbia County radio and print media.

3. An emergency slow-no-wake zone shall remain in effect until lifted by written order of the County Board Chair. Each such written order shall state whether the order lifting the slow-no-wake zone applies to all navigable waters in Columbia County or only to specific bodies of water, in which case such specific bodies of water shall be identified in the County Board Chair's written order lifting an emergency no-wake-zone. Copies of the County Board Chair's written order lifting an emergency slow-no-wake zone shall be posted in public places including boat landings throughout Columbia County and shall be provided to Columbia County radio and print media.

(e) Speed Restrictions. No person may operate a motor boat or other motorized watercraft at a speed in excess of the posted notice as established by regulatory markers.

Sec. 21-4-2 Lake George Regulations.

(a) Motor powered craft shall not be operated upon the waters of Lake George, situated in the

NW 1/4 of Section 13, Town 12 North, Range 9 East, in Columbia County.

Sec. 21-4-3 Penalties.

Any person violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be subject to the penalty listed in the Penalty Section at Title 1, Chapter 2.