

Agenda

- Introductions – LOLA, Local Government Leaders, Local Law Enforcement
- Why are we here – George Dandalides
 - Lake Orion Lake Association (LOLA) Purpose
- LOLA Areas of Concern – George Dandalides
- Sheriff and Village Marine Patrols – Bill Hughes/Todd Stanfield
 - Patrol schedule – Sheriff and Village
 - Violation history – 2022 and 2023 season data
- Buoys – Permitting Requirements and Process – Chris Knights
- Desired Outcome - Discussion on next steps
 - How can we work together to create a safer lake experience?

Meeting Purpose:

- Open discussion between LOLA, local government officials, and representatives from local law enforcement regarding water and boater safety on Lake Orion.
 - LOLA areas of concern
 - Boater education – safe boat operation & boating laws
 - Lake overcrowding
 - Enforcement of boating laws
 - Review seasonal patrol schedule and infraction history data
 - Desired outcome – Where do we go from here?
- Communicate discussion summary and meeting outcome back to the Lake Association by posting on the LOLA website and submission to the Orion Review.

Lake Orion Lake Association (LOLA) - Purpose

“The Purpose of the association shall be to provide effective communication between its members and governmental agencies relating to all activities that may affect its members. To promote, advocate, and protect the best interests of the area through preservation of the natural beauty of the environment. To support all propositions that assists the orderly and proper development of our community in general and our immediate area in particular.”

Lake Orion Lake Association bylaws – Approved 9/27/1977
Amended 1978, 1996, and 2004

Boater Education

- Knowing and applying boater safety rules are essential to reducing the risk of boating accidents. Following and knowing the rules is paramount. The Lake Orion Boat Club has sponsored several Boating Safety classes in the past at the Boat Club. LOLA has co-sponsored a couple of the classes with the Boat Club. The Sheriff Marine Division has also sponsored classes for Lake Orion residents.

Boater Education

- **Special Boating Rules for Lake Orion** – In the past, LOLA has printed flyers of the rules typically violated along with the special rules that apply for Lake Orion including a forty MPH speed limit. These are routinely handed out at our meeting, sent out in past newsletters, and distributed by the DNR public access. The effectiveness is unknown.

Boater Education

- **Wake Boats** – Wake boats are becoming more popular on Lake Orion. Some of these boats are being operated recklessly coming too close to the shoreline and other boats. This can result in shoreline erosion and potential damage to moored boats and has the potential to overturn smaller boats especially small fishing boats, canoes, paddle boats, paddleboards, and kayaks. Studies published by the DNR show that wake boat wakes disturb bottomland as deep as sixteen feet. The hundred-foot rule does not provide the necessary buffer needed to disperse the energy of their wakes.
- Until this is addressed through legislation, how do we educate?

Boater Education

- **Boat Safety Inspections** - Boat safety inspections are important. In the past, boaters were upset that they were being inspected over & over. At one point, decals were provided by the Sheriff to identify previously inspected boats. This program was abandoned since safety equipment conditions could change with the boat being non-compliant.

Boater Education

- **Public Access Inspections** - LOLA has hosted boat safety inspections at the Lake Orion Public Access in conjunction with Sheriffs Marine Div. with great results. Boats were inspected by the Marine Div. prior to being launched to assure that the proper safety equipment was on board and in proper condition. Boats that did not pass, were not ticketed, and were allowed to leave to correct the discrepancies. This was a win-win event. Boaters did not get any tickets and they were better educated in the process.

Boater Education

- **Sandbar Inspections** - At the risk of people screaming entrapment, the Sheriff could easily inspect boats at the sandbar and save time in the process.

Lake Overcrowding

- **Rental of Dock Space** - With the advent of rental of private dock space to non-lake residents, the number of boats on Lake Orion has increased dramatically. This is not legal but is not being enforced.
- **Marinas** - Pelton's Point expanded from sixteen docks to thirty-one docks with the issuance of a permit approved by the DNR. The DNR also recently approved a new twenty-four dock marina for the Boat House restaurant. It is hard to understand.
- **Past-Practice** - In the past the DNR was concerned with overcrowding and lake-density use. It seems that this is not the case anymore.

Enforcement of Boating Laws

- **Enforcement** – Enforcement of the boating rules is fundamental to having predictable boating practices and minimizing the potential risk for boating accidents. Included below is a copy of the meeting notes from July 29, 2015, regarding Marine Patrols on Lake Orion.
 - **Village Boat** - The Village Orion has a police boat, but we are unaware if this boat provides any enforcement services on Lake Orion.
 - **Sheriff's Boat** - The Township contracts with the Sheriff Dept. Marine Div. for services and keeps a boat on Lake Orion.
 - **Enforcement Data** - Having and publicizing enforcement data could be a way of educating boaters as to the consequences for not following the rules
 - **Boater Apathy** - Boating practices on Lake Orion clearly demonstrate that either boaters do not know the rules, or they just do not care.

Enforcement of Boating Laws

- **Enforcement – July 29, 2015** meeting notes; Continued
 - **Proposed Zero Tolerance Day** - Is there any possibility of having a “Zero Tolerance Day” with the Village, the Sheriffs Marine Division and the DNR Conservation Officer working together to get a clear message out?
 - **Random Patrols** - There seems to be a communication network with some of our Lake Orion boaters that alerts everyone when the Sheriff’s boat leaves its dock. Some lakes under contract with Sheriff’s Dept depend on random patrols using “jump boats. Any possibility of supplementing our patrols in the same way?
 - **Metrics** – It seems that the only metric to measure enforcement by is with the issuance of tickets. LOLA requests that year end Marine Div. reports be made available so that we can publish them so that lake residents can see what is being done on Lake Orion.

Sheriff Marine Patrols

- **Resources**

- Number of boats assigned to Lake Orion
- Number of officers assigned to Lake Orion
- Patrol schedule

- **Violation History**

- 2022 and 2023 season data

Village Marine Patrols

- **Resources**

- Number of boats assigned to Lake Orion
- Number of officers assigned to Lake Orion
- Patrol schedule

- **Violation History**

- 2022 and 2023 season data

Buoys – Permitting Requirements and Process

- **Permitting Requirements**

- What buoys require permits? (Mooring, No-Wake, Swim Area, etc.)
- What are the criteria used to approve permit requests/

- **Permitting Process**

- What is the process to submit and approve a permit request?

Desired Outcome

- **Education**

- Offer and promote boating safety classes to help boaters understand and know the rules.
- Verify completion of required boater safety course for young operators.
- Communication at the DNR Launch Ramp.
- Communication through local publications (Orion Review, Orion Living, Flyers at Township and Village Offices)

- **Boating Safety Inspections**

- Offer boat safety inspections prior to boats hitting the water. (launch ramp)
- Perform boat safety inspections on the water (sand bar?)
- Implement a “Safe Boat 2024” sticker to show compliance and reduce redundant checks.

Desired Outcome

- **Lake Overcrowding**

- Enforce the existing laws and issue tickets on illegal dock rental.
- Continue cooperative effort between LOLA, Orion Township, and Lake Orion Village to implement effective ordinance revisions to simplify and enable enforcement of illegal dock rentals.

- **Enforcement**

- Soft enforcement tactics have not seemed to work. The presence of officers on the lake always has a positive effect.
- Plan, communicate, and execute several “Zero Tolerance Days” during the season.
- Communicate and publish seasonal infraction data for community awareness.
- Increase law enforcement presence with random patrols (not just weekends).