



La Crosse Joint Board of Harbor Commissioners

400 La Crosse Street • La Crosse, WI • 54601



March 13, 2020

Dear Buoy Permit Holder,

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of the ordinance for riparian property owners with buoy permits in La Crosse County and the City of La Crosse. The administration of this waterway marker program is a joint venture between La Crosse County and the City of La Crosse; therefore, each governmental entity has adopted similar ordinances.

Throughout several past boating seasons there has been an increase of buoy marker discrepancies as follows:

- Too many buoys installed
- Too few installed
- Buoys with no permit whatsoever (rogue buoys)
- Illegible markings
- Buoys installed in the wrong place (i.e. greater than 100' from dock)
- Buoys floating down the river

Without proper buoy placement, number and markings, compliance in a no-wake zone is unenforceable. The 2011 ordinance changes establish buoy inspection fees meant to ensure proper buoy placement, numbers and markings. These fees will be used to offset costs associated with annual field inspections.

The cost and time needed to insure proper placement of nearly eighty marker buoys, deliver corrective actions to riparian owners, and correspond with the DNR have become increasingly problematic. The Joint Board of Harbor Commissioners determined that an annual local permit is the best option available to effectively manage slow no-wake zones via proper buoy placement.

The ordinance requires riparian owners to obtain a local permit, with a fee of \$10.00 per marker buoy in Pool 8, and \$5.00 per marker buoy in Pool 7. If the local permit is not obtained the buoy may be removed at the time of inspection (May). All buoy inspection permits can be purchased through the La Crosse County Clerk's office located in Room 1500 of the County Admin. Center, 212 6th St N, La Crosse, WI 54601.

If you have any questions regarding this letter prior to the Harbor Commissioners meeting please contact Karl Green at La Crosse County UW-Extension 608-785-9763 or Lewis Kuhlman at the City of La Crosse Planning and Development Department at 608-789-7361.

Thank you,

Lewis Kuhlman, Joint Board of Harbor Commissioners Secretary
City of La Crosse Planning and Development Department