

Sacheen Lake Association
Special Meeting re: Wave Damage – Part 2
March 15, 2025, 9:00 am via Zoom

1 Introduction

The Sacheen Lake Association (SLA) Board facilitated a meeting for the Sacheen Lake community to hear and discuss a follow-on presentation regarding wave energy from wake-sport boats and the comparative analysis of wind energy on shorelines. This meeting was a direct result of comments made by the audience at the 5 October 2024 wave damage Special Meeting. The purpose of these Special Meetings was to educate the community about wake-sport boat waves for awareness, consideration, and for that knowledge to inform responders to a survey on wave damage to be executed by the SLA Board for the community in March 2025. The meeting was held by Zoom. The Zoom link and advanced release of the presentation was provided about one week before the meeting. The Special Meeting was initially announced on 2/8/2025. Grant Miller, President, SLA was the presenter.

2 Meeting Discussion Notes

The meeting did not go as planned due to the audience's desire to discuss other topics. The non-topic discussion will not be summarized in detail. Of the entire meeting duration (~ 2 hours), somewhere between 20 to 30 minutes was used for on-topic discussion and presentation of the details of the referenced study and the extension of the studies techniques to wind energy and wake-sport boat energy on Sacheen Lake's shorelines.

2.1 Non-Topic Discussion

The key items of non-topic discussion were:

- Lake level and level management
- Wake-sport boat operating area recommendation sign at the WDFW boat launch
- Invasive lakeweed species management.

These minutes will not report on the comments made by the audience about the intent of the SLA Board in pursuing the wave and wind energy assessment Special Meetings or the upcoming wave damage Survey. The SLA Board's intent and purpose was clearly provided to the community via email on 3/14/2025. The justification for the SLA Board's activities, based on the By-laws, has been explained multiple times in these Special Meeting forums and elsewhere.

2.1.1 Lake Level and Level Management

- The SLA Board agreed to investigate having a proactive plan to mitigate water level in the lake as soon as possible after the ice melts. A first email on that plan was sent to the lead for culvert clearings (hereafter referred to as "Lead") on 3/15/2025 by Grant.
- The SLA Board noted that all agreements concerning lake level are held by the Sacheen Water and Sewer District and the WDFW. The SLA Board assists the W&SD by working with the Lead, who currently is considered as Support Staff to the SLA Board and who is

a volunteer to the W&SD as defined in the WDFW granted Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) and local landowner Access Agreement.

- To the above note, Grant also suggested that people attend the W&SD monthly meetings to voice their lake level concerns. One audience member was not aware of regular W&SD monthly meetings. Their website, hosted by the SLA, provides that and more information. <https://sacheenlake.com/water-sewer/>
- The Lead is responsible for field training of new volunteers and planning and executing the outings. Grant noted that at this point in time there are two leads: Don Hill and Grant Miller. When asked about more leads, Grant noted that the volunteers can be held liable for damage caused by beaver activity mitigation and therefore the lead must take the role seriously and be someone with a high sense of responsibility.
- After the October 2024 meeting, at which new people volunteered, the SLA Board created a presentation-based training package. The package was provided to these new volunteers and the Lead in October 2024. Field training is exactly that; a new volunteer has to be selected by the Lead to go on their first outing and be field trained. Training is mandatory per the prior mentioned W&SD documents; field training is currently how the mandatory training is satisfied.

2.1.2 Wake-sport Boat operating Area Sign

The SLA Board notes that the purpose of the language on the sign was provided in a community email on 3/14/2025.

Some of the audience members were not happy about the sign and expressed various reasons why. One realtor who was present said it reduces property values if people think there are watersport restrictions on the lake. Other complaints were based on their perception of the intent of the sign. During one portion of the discussion, it was suggested that the sign be removed until the community could somehow vote or express their opinion about the sign: the SLA Annual Meeting being one such opportunity. Grant indicated that since the sign had approval of the WDFW that the sign would not come down until due diligence described in the next paragraph was executed. The history of informing the community about the sign is contained in the email sent to the community on 3/14/2025 and stems back to 2022 and multiple presentations to the community about the sign.

One audience member indicated that they had reached out to the WDFW person responsible for the Sacheen Lake boat launch and indicated that he said the sign would come down. Grant sent an email to that same WDFW manager on 3/15/2025 requesting clarification. Clarification was received before these minutes were generated and WDFW does not intend to take down the sign. Instead, they intend to try to cover up on the sign what people and/or he thought might be misleading. Based on that, Grant forwarded to him the SLA Board's intent for the words on the sign that were previously sent to the lake community. Grant also noted that if a permanent change is desired (other than for example taping over a portion of the sign), that the SLA Board would like to work with WDFW to make the change permanent.

2.1.3 Invasive Lakeweed Species Management

An audience member commented on the lack of notifications regarding invasive weed treatment. Grant noted that the SLA has no involvement in treatment planning, execution, etc. Grant indicated, however and in support of the lake community, that he has asked the W&SD multiple times over several years to provide as much advance notice of treatment events to the SLA Board, so that information can be provided to the community. That was again requested at the 12 March 2025 W&SD meeting, to which they replied they don't always have a lot of advance notice, but they would provide it if available. Although not noted during the meeting, it is noted herein that the W&SD, via one of their Commissioners, will sometimes post information about the W&SD activities, etc., on NextDoor.

2.2 Meeting Topic Discussion

As previously noted, very little time of the Special Meeting was spent on topic. Near the end of the meeting and on his insistence, the meeting finally got on topic and continued. Grant was able to address the up-front summary slide at the beginning of the meeting and the other summary slides (3 slides) at the end of the meeting. Additionally, probably 3 or so of the slides with technical information on them were presented in support of comments made by Grant about the summary slides at the end of the presentation. There was no group discussion on the on-topic presentation at the end of the meeting. The presentation is posted on the SLA website at: <https://sacheenlake.com/3-2025-wave-damage-part-2-wind-meeting/>.