

Public Hearing – No Wake Ordinance

DATE: May 18, 2022

TIME: 5:30 PM

LOCATION: Watersmeet Community Center  
N4689 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Watersmeet, Michigan 49969

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

MOTION TO ENTER PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING NO WAKE ORDINANCE (3 MINUTES EACH- STATE YOUR NAME AND WHERE YOU LIVE)

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

ADJOURN

**REGULAR MEETING**

**WWW. WATERSMEET.US**

**DATE: May 18, 2022**

**TIME: 6:30 PM**

**LOCATION: Watersmeet Community Center  
Watersmeet, MI 49969**

**AGENDA .**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **ROLL CALL**
  
- **MINUTES CHANGES/APPROVAL Regular Meeting May 11,2022**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes each-state your name and where you live)**

**AGENDA CHANGES/APPROVAL**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **1.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Health Insurance for Employees**
- 2. Change back to 1 (one) Regular Meeting/Month**
- 3. No Wake Ordinance**
- 4. County Road Commission Contract**
- 5. Posting for Secretary Position**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

- **REPORTS**

1. Supervisor
2. Treasurer
3. Clerk
4. Other

- **CORRESPONDENCE**

- **OTHER MATTERS**

**ADJOURN**

# NOTICE OF HEARING

The Watersmeet Township Board of Trustees will conduct a hearing on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Watersmeet Township Community Center, N4689 1st Street, Watersmeet, MI. The purpose is to gather public input on a proposed resolution requesting the Michigan Department of Natural Resources initiate an investigation into the need for additional watercraft controls on the Cisco Chain of Lakes. The additional controls would consist of no-wake zones in eight channel areas:

1. East Bay Lake into Indian Lake
2. The "Sand Cut" between West Bay and Morley
3. Morley Lake into Lindsley Lake
4. Lindsley Lake into Thousand Island Lake
5. Echo Bay Channel, located on the west side of Thousand Island Lake
6. Thousand Island Lake into Big Africa Lake
7. Big Africa Lake into Record Lake
8. Big Africa Lake into Little Africa Lake

The public may express its views at this hearing or send written comments to: Julie Mathiesen, Watersmeet Township Clerk, PO Box 306, Watersmeet, MI 49969 by Monday, May 16th, 2022. Comments may also be emailed to [townclerk@watersmeet.us](mailto:townclerk@watersmeet.us). Documents associated with the proposed resolution can be viewed during normal business hours at the Watersmeet Township offices, also located at N4689 1st Street, and on the Township website at [www.watersmeet.us](http://www.watersmeet.us).

**Additional historical documents and public comments may be viewed at the township offices.**

**TOWNSHIP OF WATERSMEET  
COUNTY OF GOGEBIC, MICHIGAN**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Township of Watersmeet, held at the Watersmeet Township Hall, N4689 1St Street, Watersmeet, MI 49969, on the 18th day of May, 2022, at \_\_\_\_\_pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member \_\_\_\_\_  
and seconded by Member \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE WITH SPECIAL LOCAL  
ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE CISCO CHAIN OF LAKES**

WHEREAS, in accordance with Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, Sections 80110, 80111 and 80112, the Township Board held a public hearing on May 18, 2022 and determined that based on the comments at that public hearing and other information, significant conditions exist which warrant the establishment of controls for the Cisco Chain of Lakes more restrictive than those currently in place under Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, Part 801 Marine; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board wishes to request that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources assist in establishing a special local ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

1. The Watersmeet Township Board hereby requests that, pursuant to Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources assist with the establishment of an ordinance to regulate boat traffic for the Cisco Chain of Lakes, located within Watersmeet Township, Gogebic County, Michigan.

2. The Township Board requests that the regulations to be considered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources be as similar as possible to the regulations contained in the ordinance provisions attached as Exhibit A hereto.

3. The Township Board requests that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources proceed under MCL 324.80110 and 324.80111 by preparing a preliminary report, scheduling a public hearing near the Cisco Chain of Lakes to gather public input on the preliminary report and the need for special rules and, thereafter, determining that there is a need for such special rules; and proposing a local ordinance, preferably with provisions consistent with the attached suggested ordinance.

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Mathiesen, Township Clerk

I hereby certify the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Watersmeet at a regular meeting held on the date stated above. I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Mathiesen, Township Clerk

**Exhibit A to Watersmeet Township Cisco Chain of Lakes Resolution**

**TOWNSHIP OF WATERSMEET  
COUNTY OF GOGEBIC, MICHIGAN**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Township of Watersmeet, held at the Watersmeet Township Hall, N4689 1St Street, Watersmeet, MI 49969, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2022, at \_\_\_\_ am/pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERS ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by Member \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDINANCE NO.**

**AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE LOCAL WATERCRAFT**

**On The Cisco Chain of Lakes**

THE TOWNSHIP OF WATERSMEET ORDAINS:

Section 1. Title. This ordinance shall be known and cited as the Watersmeet Township Cisco Chain of Lakes Watercraft Control Ordinance.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to require slow, no-wake speed when operating a boat, motorboat, or personal watercraft in the controlled areas on the Cisco Chain of Lakes. The speed and volume of boats traveling at excess speed in these areas have created safety issues, have caused serious shoreline erosion in these areas, and threaten sensitive wildlife habitat. "Controlled areas" as defined to mean following channels connecting various lakes on the chain:

- i. East Bay Lake into Indian Lake
- ii. The "Sand Cut" between West Bay and Morley
- iii. Morley Lake into Lindsley Lake
- iv. Lindsley Lake into Thousand Island Lake
- v. Echo Bay Channel, located on the west side of Thousand Island Lake

- vi. Thousand Island Lake into Big Africa Lake
- vii. Big Africa Lake into Record Lake
- viii. Big Africa Lake into Little Africa Lake

The portions of the channels that would be regulated are further depicted in Exhibit B.

Section 3. Definitions. All words and phrases used in this ordinance shall be construed and shall have the same meaning as those words and phrases defined in Public Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, Part 801, the Marine Safety Act.

Section 4. Regulations. In the controlled areas of the Cisco Chain of Lakes it shall be unlawful to operate a boat, motorboat, or personal watercraft faster than a slow, no—wake speed which speed is, according the Marine Safety Act, a very slow speed whereby the wake or wash created by the boat, motorboat, or personal watercraft would be minimal.

Section 5. Penalties. Violations of this ordinance are a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500, together with costs of prosecution or imprisonment in a county jail or such other place of detention as the court may prescribe, for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days, or such fines, costs of prosecution and imprisonment as the court in its discretion may order.

Section 6. Severability. This ordinance and the various parts, sections, subsections, provisions, sentences and clauses are severable. if any part of this ordinance is found to be unconstitutional or invalid, it is declared that the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such a ruling.

Section 7. Repealing Clause. All other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 8. Publication and Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication or thirty (30) days after the publication of a summary of its provisions in a local newspaper of general circulation in the Township. Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ was published in the Ironwood Daily Globe on, \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ WAS DECLARED ADOPTED on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2022.

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Julie Mathiesen, Clerk  
Township of Watersmeet

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an ordinance adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Watersmeet at a regular meeting held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Mathiesen, Clerk  
Township of Watersmeet

DRAFT



## **Exhibit B to Watersmeet Township Cisco Chain of Lakes Resolution**

### **CISCO CHAIN OF LAKES WATERCRAFT CONTROL AREAS DESCRIPTION OF CHANNEL AREAS**

#### **1. CHANNEL BETWEEN EAST BAY AND INDIAN LAKES**

This area is shallow and narrow through a marsh area. Critical wildlife and fish nursery habitat are present.

#### **2. SAND CUT BETWEEN WEST BAY AND MORLEY LAKES**

This channel is approximately 30" deep and 10-12 feet wide. Watercraft have been observed traveling through this area high speed, creating a potentially dangerous situation.

#### **3. CHANNEL BETWEEN MORLEY AND LINDSLEY LAKES**

This channel is approximately 30 feet wide and has consistent two-way traffic. The navigable area is less than that due to stumps and logs on each side. Many near collisions have been witnessed here.

#### **4. CHANNEL BETWEEN LINDSLEY AND THOUSAND ISLAND**

This long, winding channel varies in width from several hundred feet to less than 75 feet in a few areas, made even narrower by the vast amounts of stumps and fallen trees. Serious shoreline erosion is present and continuing. This channel also includes critical wildlife habitat, including several pairs of nesting loons and fish nursery area. Boats are frequently seen towing skiers and tubers through this channel at high speed.

#### **5. CHANNEL FROM THOUSAND ISLAND LAKE INTO ECHO BAY**

This area is less than 100 feet wide, and very rocky. Frequently boats travel through at high speed, resulting in motor damage.

#### **6. CHANNEL FROM THOUSAND ISLAND TO BIG AFRICA**

This long channel goes through a marshy area, and the navigable portion is quite narrow. Frequently boats travel at excess speed that is potentially dangerous. This area contains critical fish and wildlife habitat.

#### **7. CHANNEL FROM BIG AFRICA TO RECORD**

This channel is short, quite narrow and full of stumps and trees. Two boats cannot travel through it at the same time.

#### **8. CHANNEL FROM BIG AFRICA TO LITTLE AFRICA**

This is a long, very narrow channel through a marsh. Surprisingly, jet skis and boats travel through this at high rate of speed. This also includes critical fish and wildlife habitat.

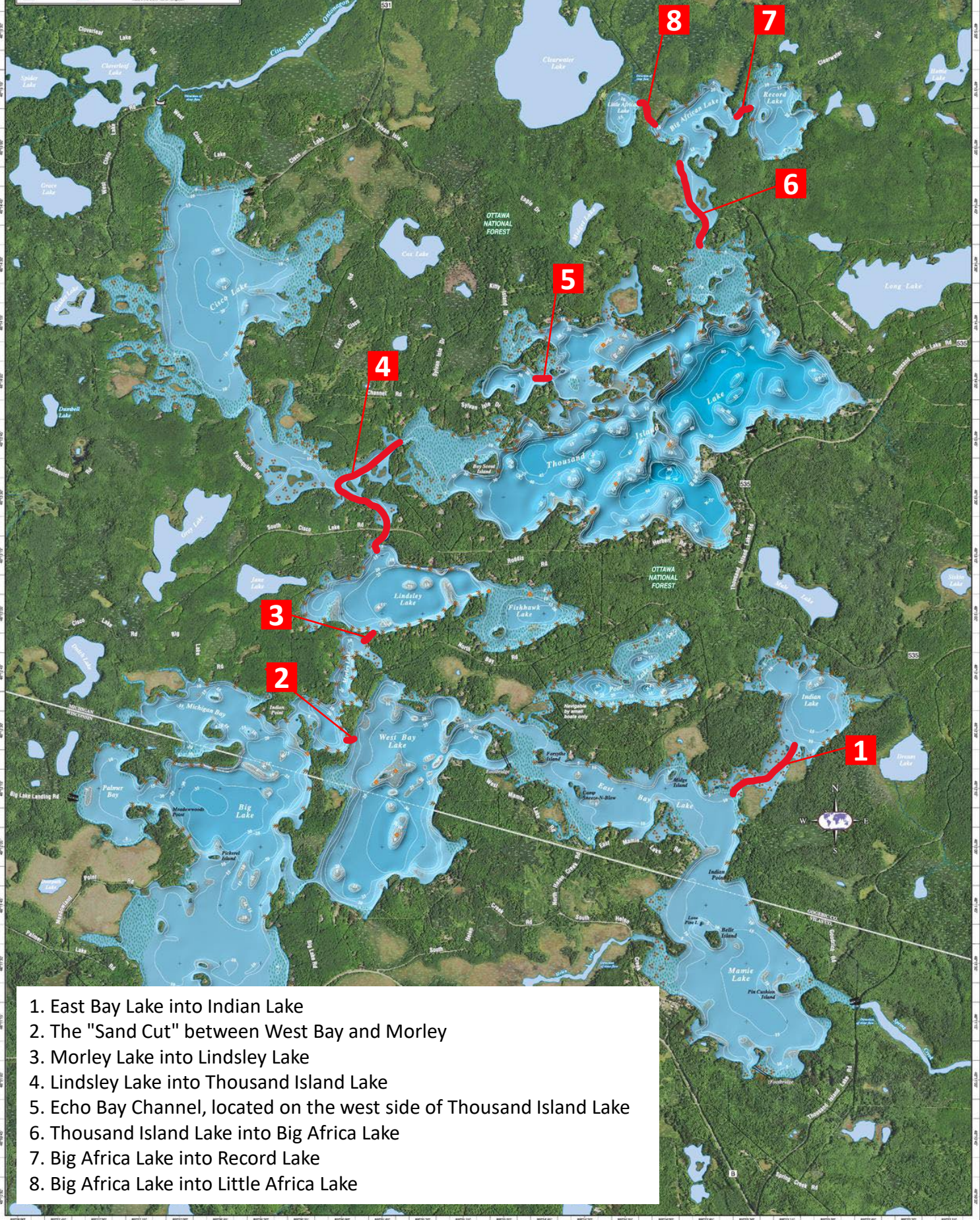
# Proposed No-Wake Zone Controls – Cisco Chain Exhibit B

**Cisco Chain**  
(1,683 feet above sea level)  
3,814 acres  
Max. depth 90 feet

**Mapping Specialists\***  
1000 Cash M. Dr. Phone: 408-374-4888  
Suite 212, San Jose, CA 95128 Fax: 408-225-2829  
Website: www.mapping-specialists.com

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|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| BOAT LANDING (DRAIN OCCURS) | DAM         |
| FALLEN TIMBER               | SAND/GRAVEL |
| NAVIGATION HAZARD           | STUMPS      |
| ROCKS                       | VEGETATION  |



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