



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL

1600 NELA AVENUE, BELLE ISLE, FL 32809 * TEL 407-851-7730

MEMORANDUM

From the Desk of Bob Francis, City Manager

To: Mayor and Council
Date: September 14, 2022
Re: Lake Conway Navigation Board Meeting

NOTE: This memo is to provide information only and is NOT an official record of the Lake Conway Navigation Board Meeting. Please refer to the Lake Conway Navigation Board adopted minutes for the official record.

Synopsis of the September 13, 2022 Lake Conway Navigation Board Meeting

- Public Comment:
 - a. Four residents addressed the Board to speak against the concept of designated areas for the sandbar and also restricted lanes around the lake for kayaks and paddle boarders (non-motorized vessels). They stated it was not necessary and that the noise was the main concern at the sandbar. Comments submitted by Justin Maynard are attached.
 - b. Randy Holihan addressed the Board about the weeds in the lake and that they are out of control. He stated that the weeds are breaching the surface of the water in depths of 10-14 feet and as far out in the lake as 250-300 feet and that the weeds damaged the thruster on his boat. He would like to see the City and Nav Board work on a plan to control the weeds. Approximately 20 citizens spoke in opposition of the Nav Board considering making the Sandbar a vessel and person exclusion zone and also making the proposed paddleboard and kayak trail around the lake. Many who spoke stated that there are many good stewards of the lake and only a few are causing the issues. They cited loud music and safety as the concerns. They questioned who would be responsible for the markers that need to be placed in the lake for the trail and who would pay for them.
- Comments from the Chairperson: Comments from the Chairperson are below
- Marine Patrol Report:
 - a. Reports of OCSO and BIPD are attached.
- Proposed Sandbar Designated Areas and Travel Lanes:

- a. Mr. John Evertsen stated that he has been on the Nav Board for about a year and all he hears is complaints about the Sandbar, so he put this idea forward so he could get people interested in this issue. He and other board members appreciated that many citizens attended the meetings on the sandbar so proactive discussions could take place. (City Manager Note: The Nav Board meetings are out of control and not run well. Speakers are frequently interrupted by others speaking out of turn, attendees speak without being recognized and they carry on dialogue with other audience members. It's basically a free-for-all). After much uncontrolled discussion, Mr. Evertsen stated that maybe the City of Belle Isle should put together and advisory committee for the Sandbar. CM Francis stated he would bring the suggestion to the City Council, but it might be better to have a committee under the Nav Board so Edgewood and Orange County have representation. The Board and the audience continued with several discussions. After much discussion the following motions were made and passed:
 - i. Motion to not proceed with the kayak/paddle board trail.
 - ii. Motion to continue to keep the Sandbar as an agenda item to continue discussions.
 - iii. Motion to suspend discussions on the Sandbar designated areas and travel lanes.
 - b. Ms. Urbanik stated that she contacted the OCSO regarding the motion made by the Nav Board to develop an MOU between OCSO/BIPD/FWC for enforcement of each other's ordinances. The OCSO will not enter into an MOU.
 - c. Ms. Urbanik also stated that there will be a meeting on September 26th at 5:30 PM to review changes to Chapter 8 of the Orange County Code. Chapter 8 is Boats and Water Safety. She stated that a postcard will be going out to everyone in the MSTU.
- Water Elevation Report: Report is attached
 - EPD Report:
 - a. Lake Conway Stormwater Study Project Update: Ms. Urbanik stated that the first assessment was done on the three approved by the Board (Trentwood Blvd; E. Wallace Street; and Alsace Court) were approved and a kick-off meeting is being scheduled for the feasibility study.
 - b. Street Sweeping Proposal: Ms. Urbanik stated that they are still working with the OC Attorney's Office on this issue.
 - c. Barby Lane Project: CM Francis stated that the plans are nearly complete after the meeting with Orange County and incorporating their comments. He asked if he could send the plans to both the OC Engineers and the Nav Board at the same time to prevent further delays to bidding the project.
 - d. Canal Dredging: Ms. Urbanik stated that after speaking with the County Attorney, it appears that each property owner on the canal would have to sign a hold harmless agreement with the County for canal dredging.
 - Advisory Member Reports:
 - a. All Board members engaged in a discussion about lake weeds. Ms. Urbanik stated that she contacted by FWC about this issue and FWC told her that the City sent an email requesting a solution. She said that FWC is preparing a response for the City but the bottom line is that the City could apply for a permit to remove the weeds. She also stated that the lake will be stocked again in the spring with carp to control the weeds. Mr. Evertsen stated that when he contacted the FWC that the FWC would not spend any state funds to treat pond weeds. He also stated that his estimates put the cost for the mechanical removal of weeds at \$500,000 per 100 acres but there was no way to fund that cost.

- Non-Agenda Items: None
- The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Attachments

- Nav Board Agenda
- Minutes of August 9, 2022 Meeting
- BIPD & OCSO Marine Reports
- Lake Report
- Comments by Justin Maynard

LAKE CONWAY WATER AND NAVIGATION CONTROL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

September 13, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.,
Orange County Facilities Management Training Room

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Comments of the Chairman
- V. Marine Patrol Report
- VI. Proposed Sandbar Designated Areas and Travel Lanes
- VII. Lake Conway Water Elevation Report
- VIII. Orange County EPD Report
 - Lake Conway Stormwater Feasibility Studies
 - Street Sweeping Proposal
 - Barby Lane Construction Project and Partnership Discussion
 - Canal Dredging Discussion
- IX. Advisory Board Member Report
 - Chair Dr. Elizabeth Nelson
 - Vice Chair John Evertsen
 - Bobby Lance
 - Micky Blackton
 - Frances Guthrie
- X. Non - Agenda Items
- XI. Meeting Adjourned

WHEN SPEAKING, PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS

Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes states that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by a board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if any person with a disability as defined by the ADA needs special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, then not later than two business days prior to the proceeding, he or she should contact the Orange County Communications Division at (407) 836-3111.

Para mayor información en español, por favor llame al (407) 836-3111.

**Lake Conway Water and Navigation Control District
Advisory Board Regular Meeting
August 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
Orange County Facilities Management Training Room**

Board Members Present: Dr. Elizabeth Nelson (Chair), John Evertsen (Vice Chair), Bobby Lance, Micky Blackton, and Frances Guthrie

Board Members Absent: None

Staff & Guests: Tara Urbanik and Marissa Drake, Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD); Corporal Bim Lowers, Orange County Sheriff's Office (OCSO); City Manager Bob Francis, City of Belle Isle (City); Sergeant Jeremy Millis, Belle Isle Police Department (BIPD)

Residents: Matt Brannon, Bill Tomala, Gary & Ardis Meloon, Alan Horn, Alexis Gordillo, Beth Lowell, Jason Hunter, Randy Holihan, Andy Dunigan, Rick Cutter, Dan Munoz, Cindy Lance, Stan Smith, Justin Maynard, Lee Goldman, Alan & Cindy Plante, Brittany Reliford, Melinda Elannan, Sarah Slohoda, Steven Helmc, Eugene DuPont, Gloriana Chinchily, Brian Horwitz, Adam Branom, Hennifer Heidenreich, Brent Millar, David Cochrane, Joel Ashe, Daniel Otterbachen, Terry Kalb, Ed Reza, Billie Martinson, Wendy Hicks, Joshua Hicks, Teresa Longo, Nicole Schlottreldt, Karl Shuck, Mark Askives, Pete Zachman, Cris Whittaker, Rick Higgin, Marc Chapkis, Vicki Broadus, Dan Rojas, Stephen Lee, John Keckley, Adrianna Sekula, Tina Demostene, and Donelle Altice

I. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Dr. Elizabeth Nelson called the meeting of the Lake Conway Water and Navigation Control District Advisory Board (Advisory Board) to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of the June 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by Bobby Lance, seconded by Micky Blackton, and carried with all present members voting AYE by voice vote; the Advisory Board approved the June 14, 2022 meeting minutes.

III. Public Comment on Propositions before the Advisory Board

Chair Dr. Nelson received 14 requests for public comments. Gary Meloon, a resident on the middle lake, expressed a concern with the drainage of stormwater from Wallace Road into the lake. Ardis Meloon, a resident on the middle lake, also expressed a concern with the drainage of stormwater from Wallace Road into the lake, and asked who is responsible for the maintenance of the stormwater pipe. Alan Horn, Justin Maynard, and Lee Goldman requested to wait to speak until the Sandbar Designated Areas and Travel Lanes (Proposal) agenda item. Brittany Reliford, a resident, expressed her opposition of the Proposal, and stated she is the creator of the petition to oppose the Proposal, and that the Sandbar gathering is a large part of the community that should not be changed. Eugene DuPont, a resident, stated he agreed with the comments

expressed by Brittany Reliford. Adam Branom, a resident, stated concerns with aquatic plants in the lake, water clarity, and asked the Advisory Board to not forget about the proposed canal dredging projects. Vicki Broadus, a resident, stated the Conway Chain has the best water quality in the central Florida area, and is also concerned with the level of noise at the Sandbar gathering. Cris Whittaker, a resident, expressed a concern with the feasibility of enforcement of the Proposal, and that enacting the Proposal could relocate those concerns to other portions of the lake. Ryan Hollander, a resident, also stated the concerns with the Sandbar may be relocated to other portions of the lake, and there is an outstanding concern of vessels speeding on the lake. John Keckle, a resident, is opposed to regulations at the Sandbar and recommends to increase safety checks by marine patrol.

IV. Comments of the Chair

Chair Dr. Nelson stated she will hold her comments until Advisory Board Member Report.

V. Marine Patrol Report

Off-Duty Patrol Reports

Corporal Bim Lowers presented the Orange County off-duty marine patrol report. For the month of July 2022, the following activities were reported:

- 82 off-duty patrol hours
- 596 vessels observed on the lake
- 65 vessel stops
- 8 vessel citations
- 48 vessel warnings
- 38 vessel inspections
- 39 ramp checks

Sergeant Jeremy Millis presented the Belle Isle Police Department off-duty marine patrol report. For the month of July 2022, the following activities were reported:

- 99 off-duty patrol hours
- 1 dispatched call for service
- 395 vessels observed on the lake
- 22 vessel stops
- 22 vessel citations
- 4 vessel warnings
- 0 vessel inspections
- 57 ramp checks

VI. Proposed Sandbar Designated Areas and Travel Lanes

Mr. Evertsen presented a background of his idea for the proposed Sandbar Designated Areas and Travel Lanes (Proposal). Discussion ensued.

Chair Dr. Nelson called on the additional requests for public comments. Alan Horn, a resident, inquired about the cost of enforcement for the Proposal. Justin Maynard, a resident on the south lake, requested the Advisory Board to not impose restrictions on the Conway Chain, but to

enforce excess noise, speeding, and trespassing on private property. Adrianna Sekula, a resident, is opposed to regulations at the Sandbar area, and stated that the Conway Chain is a public waterway and is available to the public, and the community should not discriminate against the public using the lake for enjoyment. Lee Goldman, a resident, stated the Sandbar offers a special community gathering and instead of implementing the Proposal, suggested placing a no wake zone around the Sandbar area. Tina Demostene suggested proposing a fee at the public boat ramps to assist with funding enforcement on the lake. Discussion ensued.

Upon a motion by Francis Guthrie, seconded by Dr. Elizabeth Nelson, and carried with Bobby Lance, Francis Guthrie, and John Evertsen voting AYE by voice vote, Dr. Elizabeth Nelson voting NAY by voice vote, and Micky Blackton abstaining from the vote; the Advisory Board recommended for District 3 Commissioner Uribe to look into increasing the on-duty marine patrol budget for the Conway Chain of Lakes.

Discussion ensued regarding the ability of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement (FWC), Orange County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), and the Belle Isle Police Department (BIPD) to enter into an agreement to enable each agency the ability to enforce all County and State rules and restrictions related to the Conway Chain.

Upon a motion by John Evertsen, seconded by Micky Blackton, and carried with all present members voting AYE by voice vote; the Advisory Board recommended for District 3 Commissioner Uribe to obtain a Memorandum of Understanding among the FWC, OCSO, and BIPD law enforcement agencies.

Bobby Lance requested to state an additional motion.

Upon a motion by Bobby Lance, seconded by Francis Guthrie, and carried with all present members voting AYE by voice vote; the Advisory Board approved tabling item number VI. Proposed Sandbar Designated Areas and Travel Lanes until a public meeting can be held, with the individual topics of concern discussed independently as sub-topics.

This topic will be discussed again at the September 2022 Advisory Board meeting to discuss the individual sub-topics.

VII. Lake Conway Water Elevation Report

David Wood's water elevation report was not presented.

VIII. Orange County EPD Report

Annual Approval of Routine Services

Ms. Urbanik provided a spreadsheet handout of the current lake taxing district budget and upcoming projects, and copy of the annual water quality improvement projects. As of August 3, 2022, the total account balance is \$2,247,982.21. A total of \$372,535.00 is proposed for off duty lake patrol, gatekeeper, street sweeping, curb inlet basket and baffle box maintenance, and contracted lake services.

Upon a motion by Francis Guthrie, seconded by Micky Blackton, and carried with all present members voting AYE by voice vote; the Advisory Board approved up to \$372,535.00 for the annual routine services for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Lake Conway Stormwater Study Feasibility Studies

The funding for the three feasibility studies has been secured and a kick-off meeting will be scheduled in the upcoming weeks.

Street Sweeping Proposal

The draft versions of the street sweeping interlocal agreements are in the process of being reviewed. Ms. Urbanik will provide an update in September 2022.

Barby Lane Construction Project and Partnership Discussion

Orange County has received the 100% construction plans for the proposed baffle box, and a meeting is scheduled with the City of Belle Isle, EPD, and Orange County Public Works on Friday, August 12, 2022 to discuss the plans.

IX. Advisory Board Member Report

- Chair Dr. Elizabeth Nelson: Chair Dr. Nelson stated she is grateful for the resident attendance, and hopes the public understands they are only an advisory board that has a limited scope for improvement projects.
- Vice Chair John Evertsen: Vice Chair Evertsen thanked the residents for attending and getting the conversations on the Sandbar started. He additionally stated that the Hoffner canal needs to be trimmed for tree width and height.
- Bobby Lance: Mr. Lance thanked the residents for attending.
- Mickey Blackton: No comments.
- Frances Guthrie: Ms. Guthrie referenced the signs of the new fertilizer rules advertised around the meeting room, and reminded the residents to adhere to those guidelines during the summer restrictions. She also stated she was happy to see so many residents participate in the meeting, and that she appreciates the public comment by the individual who stated that the Conway Chain is a public lake and is open to the public.

X. Non-Agenda Items

Tina Demostene, a resident, pointed out the total gatekeeper line item on the routine budget spreadsheet was incorrect, that it should read that \$10 a day is equal to \$3,650.00 per year. Ms. Urbanik confirmed that the spreadsheet listed that line item as a typo. Ms. Demostene also expressed her concern why the lake taxing district is paying for the gatekeeper, when the ramp is owned and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Division. Ms. Urbanik stated that particular gatekeeper service is longstanding, and at the time was a special request by the Advisory Board.

XI. Meeting Adjourned

Chair Dr. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Elizabeth Nelson, Chair

Date

Minutes prepared by Tara Urbanik

Date



Lake Conway Marine Patrol Report

Aug-22

Orange County Sheriff's Office

Dates	3	6	7	9	13	14	19	20	21	25	26	27	28	31	Total
															9

Arrests																Total
Felony																0
Misdemeanor																0
Warrant Arrests																0

Productivity																Total
Field Intelligence Reports																0
Dispatched Calls for Service																1
Reports Written																0
Vessel Accidents																0
Vessels Observed on Lake	16	30	40	80	85	22	45	40	20	25	60	50	23		536	
Vessel Stops	2	5	8	5	6	2	6	8	2	3	4	2	3		56	
Citations Issued			2	1	2		1	1			1				9	
Warnings Issued	2	4	5	4	5		7	5	1	3	3	2	2		43	
Vessel Inspections		5	8	1	3	1	3	8	2	1	3	2	2		39	
Ramp Checks	4	4	4	4	4	2	3	4		4	4	4	1		42	
Patrol Assistants/Back-Ups															0	
Hours Worked	4	8	8	2	12	12	4	10	8	2	2	12	10.5	2	96.5	

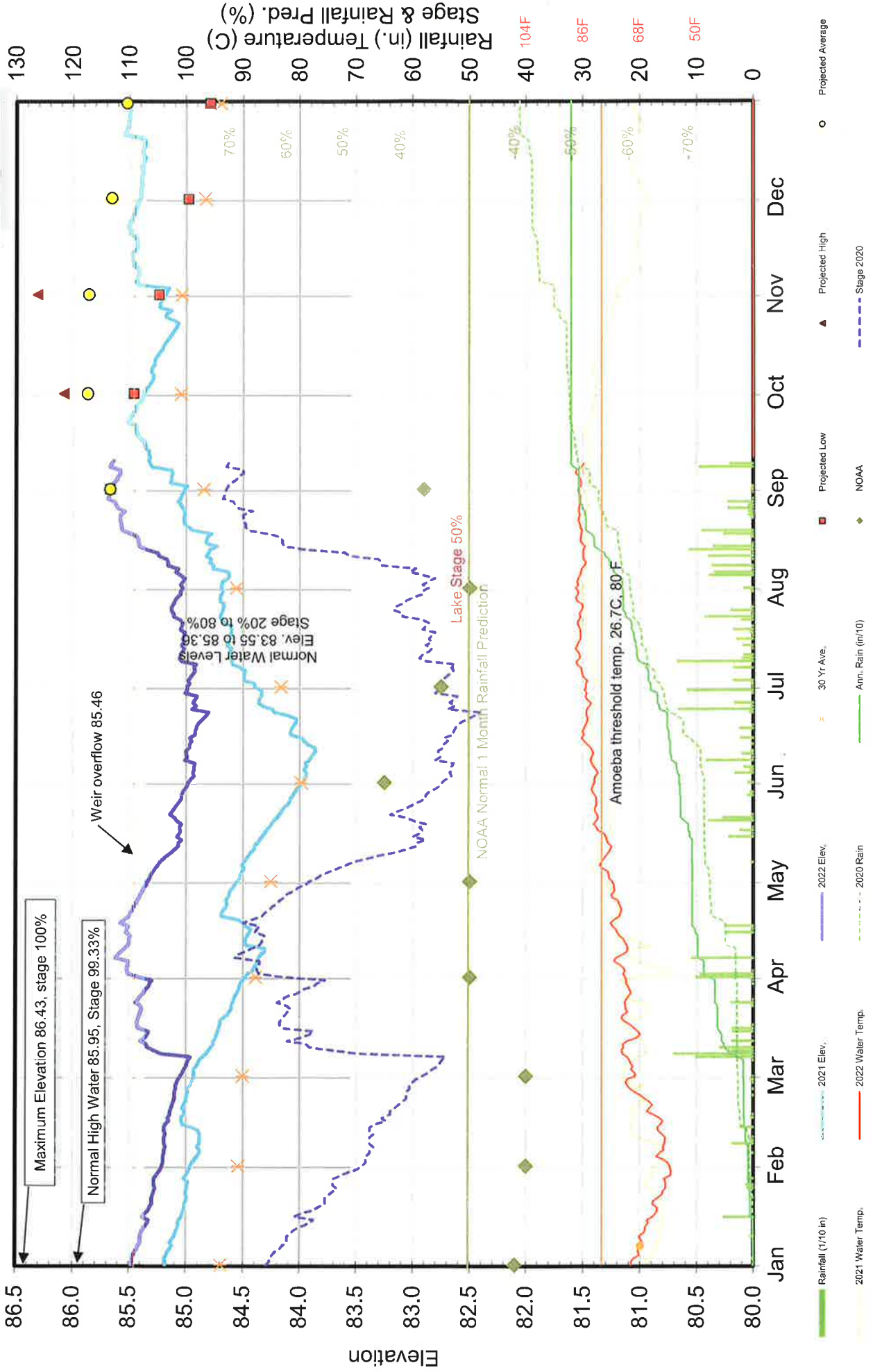
Comments: 08/27 at 0330 hrs - Dispatched to a suspicious boat in a canal off Big Lake Conway. Made contact with vessel that was determined to be a fisherman.

Datum based on Hoffner Bridge Gauge, OCBM L-1058-006

Lake Conway 2022 Elevations (NAVD 88)

Provided as a public service by TEC Engineering, Inc. Find more and sign up to get these monthly reports at: <https://TECEngr.yolasite.com/cnb.php>

8/31/22
Elev 85.68
Stage 93%



**Justin Maynard - 9/13/22 – NavBoard meeting
3550 Country Lakes Drive, Belle Isle**

Also – been going to the sandbar nearly every Saturday for 10 years, including Winters

The last NavBoard meeting drew opposition to an “idea” centered around “boat and human exclusion” areas. Since then, some of us sat down with Mr Francis, City Manager from Belle Isle.

We asked four times, and Mr Francis asserted that Belle Isle had no further interest in “owning, managing, or controlling” the Sandbar. We assert again, to the Navboard that exclusion zones are purely because of Noise complaints, and not of safety issues.

We also assert that paddle boarders already have rights, and use the lake as intended. Further, there is no need to try and regulate new things, instead enforce current laws.

While a “Kayak and Paddle Board Lane” is in the Belle Isle Comprehensive Plan, we are here again to assert that no additional regulation, or changes are needed to be made, and paddle boarders already have these rights of usage currently.

Any changes should come from an ordinance by Orange County, not any pre-emptive limiting measures.

Currently, paddle boarders/ kayakers already put in at the designated areas, including Belle Isle launch sites, and Randolph Ramp.

They mostly stick to the shore, but sometimes cross open water.

They come up to the sandbar and congregate with the boats.

Or they go around the sandbar as is normal.

Vessels pull up to the sandbar, stop and congregate.

It is an unwritten rule to have “no wake” going thru the sandbar as it is.

It is also an Orange County Ordinance to not make wake within 100’ of other vessels or docks.

Sec. 8-31.(a) – Orange County Municipal Code

BIPD and OSCO already patrol anyone getting too close to the sandbar, boats or paddleboarders, and making a wake.

Congregants at the sandbar DO NOT go past the areas that hold vegetation already.

Only BIPD, OSCO, and the closest resident access these areas by boat to patrol on the backside.

The sandbar is 350 feet at its closest to shore – so any 300’ no wake from shore suggestion wouldn’t apply anyways

Congregants usually park 50 feet away from boat docks at minimum, allowing for BIPD and OSCO access already

BIPD now has a jetski that meanders thru the area.

As I said during the last Navboard meeting – This is all about noise and disturbance of the peace for the residents that are close by. In the meeting with Bob Francis and Police Chief Houston, we also came to an option that might assist BIPD/OSCO. Self policing.

“We the goers of the sandbar, who attended the last meeting, and those of us who are attending tonight.....”

We will download the Orange County 311 App, and we will take video and report those boats who are making the noise issue.

We will assist BIPD and OSCO with proof on what boats are causing the disturbances.

They can then fine them. Over and over if they so choose.

This is already happening, this past weekend, Officer Gargano responded and they cut out the noise.