

Staff Report for the Planning Advisory Commission:

**Boat Washdown Stations at
Public Boat Launches on Lakes**

Prepared by: Rebecca Hersha (Planner) on 6/27/2016

The PAC recently recommended (6/20/16) that Staff address the potential for requiring washdown stations at new public boat launches on lakes. Based upon some quick research and information provided by the Manager of Mason County Parks, I have found the following pros and cons to such a requirement.

Pro's:

- A wash down area can reduce the cross contamination of invasive species from lake to lake.
- Filtering the run off from boats can reduce the amount of pollutants (such as oil and fuel) that get washed into the lakes after retrieving a boat and removing the drain plug.

Con's:

- Increased cost of new park development.
- Decreased number of available parcels that would be large enough to include a washdown station and any needed wastewater treatment.
- Maintenance costs for filtering equipment and/or filtering infrastructure.
- Compliance of using the wash down area after boating would be hard to monitor.
- Maintenance of the wash down areas including hoses, faucets, and drains would need to be factored in to a park maintenance program.

See the next page for optional draft language.

Staff has provided four potential options for draft language in order to facilitate deciding upon language to add to the draft SMP. Staff recommends options 3 or 4.

Option 1

Draft SMP **Boat Launch Policies** - MCC 17.50.070 (B):

New public boat launches on lakes should be provided with washdown facilities to prevent cross contamination of lakes with invasive species. The design and operations should use Best Management Practices to prevent erosion, runoff, and associated water quality impacts.

Draft SMP **Boat Launch Regulations** – MCC 17.50.075 (B):

New public boat launches on lakes shall be provided with washdown facilities to prevent cross contamination of lakes with invasive species. The design and operations shall use Best Management Practices to prevent erosion, runoff, and associated water quality impacts.

Option 2

Draft SMP **Boat Launch Policies** - MCC 17.50.070 (B):

When site conditions (parcel size, availability of water and electricity, etc.) are conducive, new public boat launches on lakes should be provided with washdown facilities to prevent cross contamination of lakes with invasive species. The design and operations should use Best Management Practices to prevent erosion, runoff, and associated water quality impacts.

Draft SMP **Boat Launch Regulations** – MCC 17.50.075 (B):

When site conditions (parcel size, availability of water and electricity, etc.) are conducive, new public boat launches on lakes shall be provided with washdown facilities to prevent cross contamination of lakes with invasive species. The design and operations shall use Best Management Practices to prevent erosion, runoff, and associated water quality impacts.

Option 3

Draft SMP **Boat Launch Policies** - MCC 17.50.070 (B):

When feasible, new public boat launches on lakes should be provided with washdown facilities to prevent cross contamination of lakes with invasive species. The design and operations shall use Best Management Practices to prevent erosion, runoff, and associated water quality impacts.

Draft SMP **Boat Launch Regulations** – MCC 17.50.075 (B): None added.

Option 4

No change.