

Waterbody Setback Ordinance - Fish & Wildlife Commission Testimony
6/17/25

Good afternoon, my name is Rod Hanson with the North Lakes Community Council.

The NLCC was significantly engaged in the development of the proposed ordinance by providing input to the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board during their deliberations.

We are fundamentally in support of the draft ordinance with some reservations ...

Our initial position was to keep the 75-ft setback and allow a path to compliance for those properties constructed between 45 and 75 feet. We were disappointed to learn that the legal department did not see this as a viable option. It's either 75 feet for all ... or 45 feet for all. We reluctantly accept this position.

We were also disappointed in the way that the Advisory Board's recommendations were initially presented and we were glad to see the Assembly organize a work session with the Advisory Board to better understand their recommendations.

We've reviewed your draft resolution and agree with everything but the last WHEREAS and your recommendation. There seems to be significant push back from several assembly members on some of those general standards you reference. An example is the new fuel tank standards. Our fear is that, if those controversial standards are left in the draft ordinance, it will never be approved. It would be a shame to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

We believe you should debate and prioritize these standards one-by-one and be prepared to recommend removal of those that you consider lower priority.

With that sort of responsible engagement, I believe an ordinance can ultimately be approved that still goes a long way toward protecting the rights of lakefront property owners and the environment at the same time.

Good luck to you!

Thank you.