

**WORD ORDINANCE REGULATING SAFETY ON PUBLIC WATERS SURROUNDING
CERTAIN BOAT RAMPS– Ordinance number W005-2024**

WHEREAS, the Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County, Texas (“WORD”), is a recreation district authorized by the Texas Legislature and created by a vote of the citizens of Comal County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the powers vested in WORD by the Texas Legislature to improve the public health, safety, and welfare in the District; as provided by Section 324.001 of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, WORD is authorized to pass rules and ordinances applicable to activities that endanger the health and safety of persons or property on public water in the district, as provided by Section 324.066 of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, WORD directly leases three boat ramp areas on Canyon Lake from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, WORD provides services to nine additional boat ramps on Canyon Lake through an Interlocal agreement with Comal County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of WORD finds that the safety of persons using the public waters of Canyon Lake adjacent to designated boat ramp launch areas shall be improved by the passage of certain rules as listed below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County, Texas, through its Board of Directors and pursuant to the powers set forth in Sections 324.001 and 324.066 of the Texas Local Government Code, hereby passes the Water Safety Ordinance listed below:

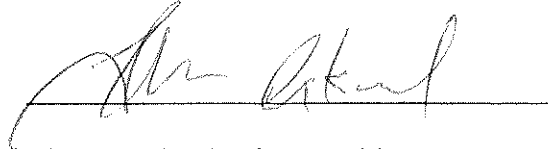
1. **Water Safety Zones:** It shall be considered unlawful for anyone to violate the following rules within individual boundaries as designated in Exhibit A (“Water Safety Zones”) on the public waters of Canyon Lake. These Water Safety Zones include areas surrounding boat ramps either leased and operated by WORD of Comal County or those ramps that fall under a Services Interlocal between WORD of Comal County and Comal County. Additionally, said areas shall be designated as Water Safety Zones and marked with NO Wake buoys:
 - A. No person may operate a Watercraft at speeds greater than minimum headway which causes a wake.
 - B. No person may swim or enter the water except as may be necessary for the facilitation of launching, recovery, inspection, or repair of a Watercraft.

- C. No person may fish in the area; and
 - D. No person may place or cause to be placed a dive flag or engage in SCUBA or snorkeling activities.
2. **Watercraft:** For purposes of this order, the term “Watercraft” shall mean any contrivance used or designated for navigation on water, including but not limited to boat, vessel, motorboat, personal watercraft, canoe, kayak, punt, rowboat, sailboat, stand-up paddle board, and other craft when paddled, poled, oared, or wind-driven, as those terms are used in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. Any contrivance not included in this definition is not allowed within the Water Safety Zone and is prohibited. These prohibited items include, but are not limited to, any device propelled only by current of the water such as tubes, air mattresses, floating mats and rafts, or other similar floatation devices.
 3. Any violation of this Ordinance is a Class C misdemeanor offense and punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.
 4. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board of Directors for WORD, that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or sections of this Ordinance since the same would have been enacted by the Board of Directors for WORD without incorporation in this Ordinance of such unconstitutional phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or sections.
 5. This Ordinance becomes effective on the 21st Day of May, 2024.
 6. A certified copy of this Ordinance shall be delivered to the Comal County Sheriff’s Office, Comal County Constables, Comal County Commissioners Court and shall be filed with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

SIGNED effective this 5/22/2024 day of May, 2024.

DocuSigned by:
Jean Robinson
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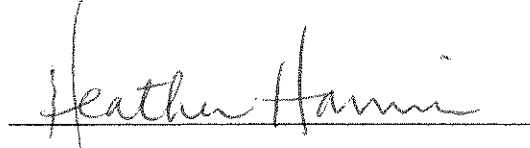
Jean Robinson, President



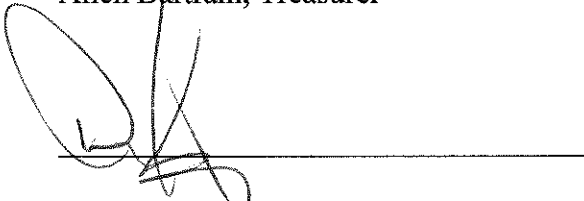
Theresa Akard, Vice-President

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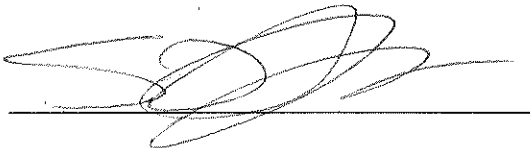
Allen Bartram, Treasurer



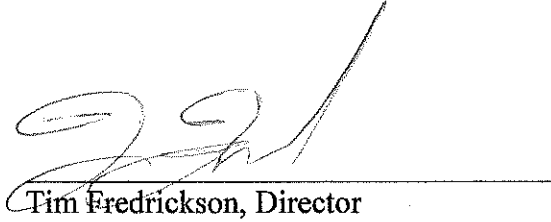
Heather Harrison, Secretary



Don King, Director



Stacy Thigpen, Director



Tim Fredrickson, Director

ATTEST:

Heather Harrison
Heather Harrison, Secretary