



## OTTER TAIL COUNTY

### DOCK AND RIPARIAN USE ORDINANCE

The County Board of Otter Tail County ordains:

#### I. Authorization, Purpose, Intent and Application

- A. As authorized by Minnesota Statutes 86B.201, 86B.205, and Minnesota Rules 6110.3000 - 6110.3800 as now in effect and as hereafter amended, this Ordinance is enacted for the purpose and with the intent to control and regulate the use of docks, moorings, and riparian areas in all of Otter Tail County, Minnesota, to promote its fullest use and enjoyment by the public in general and the citizens of Otter Tail County in particular; to insure safety for persons and property in connection with the use of said waters; to harmonize and integrate the varying uses of said waters; and to promote the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Otter Tail County, Minnesota.
- B. These regulations affect all docks, piers, wharfs, or boatlifts placed in public water in Otter Tail County and are in addition to any applicable state statute, rule, or regulation affecting the placement of such structures in public water.

#### II. Regulations

- A. Only a riparian (waterfront) property owner may place a dock, pier, wharf or boatlift in public water.
- B. Docks, piers, wharfs, boatlifts and moored boats must be confined to the owner's riparian zone.
  - 1. Riparian Zone is defined as the water area adjacent to a lot extending from where lot lines meet the shore on lines most perpendicular to the shoreline, or on lines which bisect the angles of such lines in areas where the shoreline is curved, such as in a bay or a peninsula; and extending out to the line of navigation.
  - 2. The method for describing these zones where the dividing lines are not obvious is described in Exhibit A, attached to and made a part of this ordinance by reference.
- C. A dock, pier, wharf, boatlift, moored boat or other structure placed in the water may not obstruct navigation. A dock or pier may not encircle or isolate a part of a waterway.
- D. A dock, pier, wharf, boatlift, moored boat or other structure must be setback five feet from an adjacent riparian zone to ensure that any attached or adjacent boat lift, moored boat, attached deck, T, or L, does not encroach on the use of the riparian zone of an adjacent property.
- E. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent or restrict the placement of docks by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at public landings.

**III. Enforcement**

- A. The Primary responsibility for enforcement of this ordinance shall rest with the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office. This, however, shall not preclude enforcement by other licensed peace officers.
- B. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor.
- C. This Ordinance shall be in effect from and after the date of its passage, approval by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and publication.

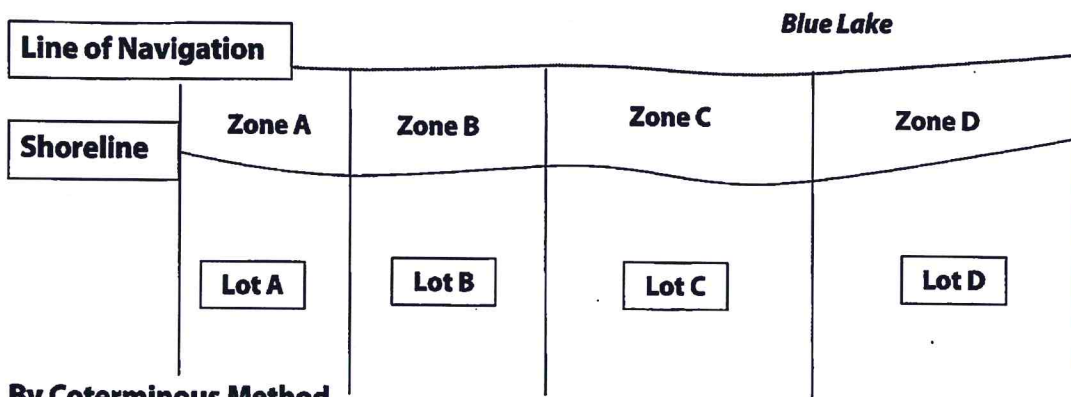
Adopted by the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners on March 1, 2016.

  
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Leland Rogness, Chair

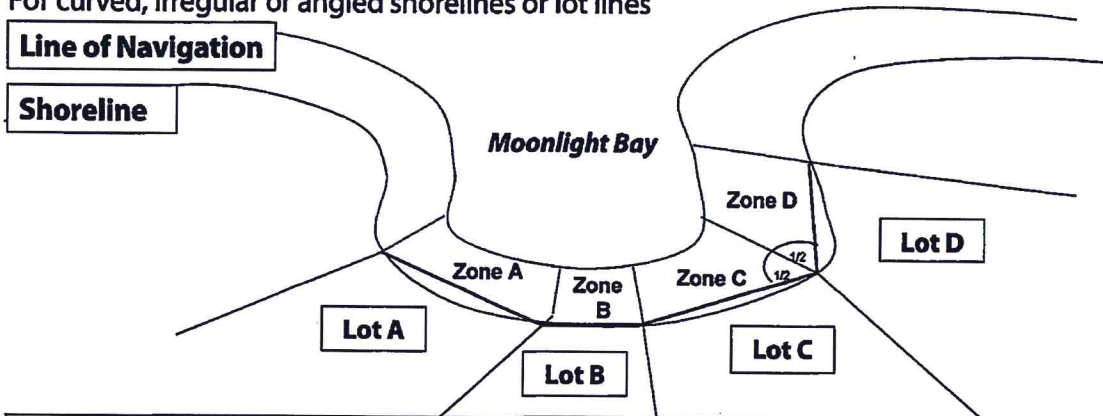
Attest:

  
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Lanny Kuhn  
Clerk

**Figure 1. Riparian Zones**  
**By Extension of Lot Lines...**  
For relatively straight shorelines and lot lines



**By Coterminous Method...**  
For curved, irregular or angled shorelines or lot lines



- Step 1:** Extend lot lines to the shoreline
- Step 2:** Connect the points found in Step 1 to create chord lines.
- Step 3:** Bisect the angles formed by the chord lines in half (shown between Lots C&D)