Date: March 1, 2014

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For Immediate Release:

Public Meeting Notice

Lake management plans to be created!

Following two years of lake studies, the Waushara County Lakes Project will begin drafting lake management plans (LMPs) for Big Hills and Napowan Lakes at the first of four monthly public meetings on Thursday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Waushara County Courthouse Demo Room. The Lakes Project, a partnership between Waushara County Land Conservation, UW Extension, UWSP, and various lake associations, will assist participating citizens with creating LMPs (which will build on any existing aquatic plant or invasive species management plan, for example) for 33 lakes over the next few years. Topics covered at this first session will include in-depth background information on the lakes and current issues they may be facing as well as an introduction to the planning process.

The lake management planning process is designed to enable participants to learn about Big Hills and Napowan Lakes, identify factors important to lake residents and users, and develop goals and objectives for the lakes. The process will conclude with the publication of a management plan that will provide guidance about how to improve and maintain the lakes that citizens envision. Common session topics include water quality, aquatic plants (invasive, shoreland, and in-lake), fish and wildlife, shoreland habitat, communication and organizational support, and lake water levels. Resources including lake watershed data, presentations by local experts such as fisheries and aquatic plant biologists, and online planning tools will also be provided.

Whether able to attend the planning session or not, all citizens who visit and enjoy Big Hills and Napowan Lakes are encouraged to complete a survey about their lake. There will be a new survey each month pertaining to the topics of the next meeting. The results of each survey will be presented at the following meeting and used in creating the management plans.

- The link to the 1st online survey for Big Hills Lake is https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BigHillsLake1.
- The link to the 1st online survey for Lake Napowan is https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LakeNapowan1.

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the survey, please contact Waushara County Extension agent Patrick Nehring at partrick.nehring@ces.uwex.edu or (920) 787-0443.

Citizens and the media are welcome to observe these planning sessions. Information on the meetings and plan drafts can be found at the Waushara County website as they are developed: http://www.co.waushara.wi.us. Navigate to Departments/Zoning & Land Conservation/More about Land Conservation/Grants/Lake Management Plans. For additional information, visit the Facebook page “Waushara County Lakes Project” or contact the Waushara County Lakes Project at 715-346-2497 or wclakes@uwsp.edu.