PUBLIC PLANNING SESSION SCHEDULED FOR BEANS, LITTLE SILVER AND BIG HILLS LAKES
An opportunity for those who love our lakes to help the lakes!

The first of four public planning sessions to develop management plans for Beans, Little Silver, and Big Hills lakes is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wild Rose Library Community Center (500 Wisconsin St., Wild Rose). All who visit and enjoy these three lakes are invited to attend and participate.

At this first session, the lake management planning process will be introduced. The development of plans for 33 Waushara County lakes is the next phase of the Waushara County Lakes Project, a partnership between community members, Waushara County Land Conservation, UW Extension, UWSP, and various lake organizations. In an earlier phase of the Lakes Project, Beans, Little Silver, and Big Hills lakes were studied alongside 30 other lakes over a two-year period. Study data will be presented as planning participants learn about the lakes, identify factors important to lake residents and users, and develop goals and objectives for the lakes. Professionals will provide guidance and technical assistance in the development of the lake management plans. In addition to an introduction to the planning process, background information on the lakes and current issues they face will also be covered at this first session.

The process will conclude with the publication of management plans that will provide guidance about how to achieve participants’ visions for the lakes. Common topics covered in planning sessions include water quality, aquatic plants (invasive, shoreland, and in-lake), fish and wildlife, shoreland habitat, communication and organizational support, and lake water levels. Local fisheries and aquatic plant biologists will be present to discuss study data and lake features specific to Beans, Little Silver, and Big Hills lakes. Online planning tools will also be provided.

In order to obtain as much public feedback as possible, surveys have been developed. Online surveys will be available before each planning session for Beans and Little Silver lakes. Everyone who visits and enjoys Beans and Little Silver lakes is encouraged to participate in the surveys whether able to attend the planning sessions or not. The link to the 1st online survey for Beans Lake is https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BeansLake1. The link to the 1st online survey for Little Silver Lake is https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LittleSilverLake1. If you would like to receive a paper copy of either survey, please contact Waushara County Extension agent Patrick Nehring at partrick.nehring@ces.uwex.edu or (920) 787-0416. Surveys for Big Hills Lake will be conducted separately.

Everyone is welcome at these planning sessions. Information on the planning sessions and plan drafts can be found at the Waushara County website as they are developed: http://www.co.waushara.wi.us. 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.

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