

Following a two year study of Fish and Pine Lakes, Hancock, initiated by the Waushara County Lakes Project, it's time to begin drafting a lake management plan (LMP).

The planning process will be introduced during the first of four public planning sessions to take place on June 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hancock Community Center, 420 Jefferson Street.

The Lakes Project, a partnership between participating community members, Waushara County Land Conservation, UW Extension, UWSP, and various lake organizations, will assist 33 lakes in Waushara County to form and update LMPs over the next few years. Professionals will provide guidance and technical assistance to participating community members as they document their visions and goals for Fish and Pine Lakes into management plans, which will build upon any existing lake plans.

Topics covered at this first session will include background information on the lake and current issues it 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 Fish Lake and Pine Lake, 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 lake 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 who visit and enjoy Fish and Pine 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 planning session. The results of each survey will be presented at the following session and used in creating the management plans.

- The link to the first online survey for Fish Lake: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FishLake1>.
- The link to the first online survey for Pine Lake: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PineLakeH1>.

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.

The public is welcome to observe the planning sessions. Information on the planning sessions and plan drafts can be found at the Waushara County website as they are developed: 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.