

Rusk County *ad hoc* Lake/Streams Classification Committee  
311 E Miner Ave, Suite N110  
Ladysmith, WI 54848  
May 19, 2008

## **PUBLIC NOTICE:**

**The Rusk County *ad hoc* Lake/Streams Classification Committee will hold an informational public meeting and comment session at 6:00 p.m. on June 9, 2008 in the Rusk County board meeting room of the courthouse, concerning the lake/stream classification process.**

The purpose of lake & stream classification is to group water bodies into classes based on their estimated vulnerability to development and their present level of development. This classification can be used, should the County Board so decide, to provide different levels of protection to different classes of lakes or streams.

Seventeen of Wisconsin's counties have adopted a system of lake and stream classification, and others are in the process of doing so. Rusk County began this process, with the help of a matching grant from the DNR, about a year and a half ago.

In addition to the classification process, we sampled a number of Rusk County lakes for their present water quality last summer and fall. The water analyses were focused on chlorophyll, caused by algae in the water, and phosphorus, the nutrient which most affects the growth of the algae. Ten of our lakes were also paleocored. This involves sampling the sediments at the bottom of the lake to estimate what the phosphorus concentrations were a hundred years ago or more, compared to today. Results of these analyses will be presented.

The *ad hoc* committee has held monthly meetings, open to the public. The committee has classified all Rusk County's named lakes and established a process for classifying our un-named lakes. The results of this classification will be presented. A copy of our grant, minutes of our meetings, data gathered during the process, and so on, are available on the website [www.flambeauvalley.com/ls/](http://www.flambeauvalley.com/ls/)

The committee will be forwarding our recommendations on the lake/stream classification to the County Board for approval.

We are seeking additional public input on the process of lake/stream classification, and invite you to attend with questions or suggestions.

For further information feel free to contact the Rusk County Zoning Office, 715-532-2156.

Thank you,  
Bob Wiltrout, Chair, Lake/Stream Classification Committee  
Ken Parejko, Lake Classification Coordinator