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Public Meeting Notice for Bostic/Zippel Creeks Watershed Assessment Project

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday July 21, to provide information on the upcoming Bostic and Zippel Creeks Watershed Assessment Project. This assessment is being conducted by the Lake of the Woods County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) with technical assistance provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The meeting will be held from 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM at the Lake of the Woods County Commissioners Board Conference Room (206 8th Ave SE, Baudette).

Bostic and Zippel Creeks, which flow into Lake of the Woods at Fourmile and Zippel Bays respectively, have been identified in the County's Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan as having significant erosion and sedimentation issues. In several locations, ditch bank erosion and sloughing has created maintenance problems for the county. Sedimentation in the Bays has led to ever increasing dredging costs to maintain access to the Lake of the Woods. In Zippel Bay, an analysis of the historic sediments shows that sediment is filling in the bay at 7 times the pre-settlement rate.

The Watershed Assessment Project will use watershed inventories and surveys to estimate the rates and sources of sediment within the watersheds. In addition to the assessment of the conditions today, the project will identify potential upland conservation practices and ditch improvements that would reduce overall sedimentation rates.

An important part of this upcoming public meeting will be a "problem scoping" session where landowners and other interested parties will be asked to provide their ideas and observations of water and sediment conditions in the watershed. Inventories are expected to start this summer and continue into spring of 2010. A final report is expected to be published during the summer of 2011.

For additional information regarding the project, visit the SWCD website at www.lakeofthewoodsswcd.org or call the SWCD and NRCS office at 218-634-1842 x.3