

We are sending you the following announcement to ask for your participation in forming a county-wide lakes council. The working group from Marshall County Community Foundation's Leadership Marshall County along with several other participants have been exploring if a group of this type will work in our county. Please share this with anyone you know who might be interested, including your local lake association if you are a participant in one. Thank you very much!

Dear Friends:

When you find weeds next to your shoreline, who do you call to find out if it's that nasty weed found in Lake Manitou? What is that crawly thing that your son found on the beach? How about those green, ball-like things floating on the water, where did they come from?

A group of individuals from Leadership Marshall County believe that a county-wide lakes council could help with these questions and many other issues facing Marshall County lakes, rivers and watersheds today. Justin Miller of North-Central Co-op, Larry Emmons and Kim Caudill of Culver Academies and Kathy Clark of the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council have stepped up and are trying to organize such a group. We started meeting last December as part of our class project for the Leadership Marshall County program that is organized by the Marshall County Community Foundation. Having met other lake representatives over the past years, Ms. Clark asked Joe Skelton of Lake of the Woods, Ken Buckley of Myers Lake, and Sister Mary Baird of Ancilla College (Flat Lake) to join us in exploring ways to get something started. Patti Wright of Myers Lake, Randy Dixon of Arrow Head Country, RC&D and Wanda Norris of Marshall County Soil & Water joined our meetings over the winter.

We started out by asking Bill Schmidt of The Steuben County Lakes Council to attend one of our planning meetings and speak about how they were formed forty two years ago, how they are organized, and how they get their funding. This led to our group driving to Steuben County to attend one of their meetings on a wintery Saturday morning last January. We found that each lake has representation and certainly still retains its own identity and its own lake association if it has one. Each lake representative gives a verbal report on their lake and discusses specific issues at the meetings. The Steuben county-wide group also includes a representative of their county's soil and water group as well as the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Their council deals with issues like erosion control, working with state and local governments, and they actually have representatives on their county planning and zoning groups.

We now feel it is time to pull together people from every lake in the county as well as others who simply enjoy fishing, boating or hunting on those lakes, to try to form an actual county-wide lake council of our own.

Please join us on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Plymouth Public Library for a brief meeting to 1) try to identify issues and concerns of Marshall County lakes, rivers, and their watersheds, and 2) discuss how to get organized and move forward. We would appreciate anyone with interest in our county's lakes, rivers or watersheds joining us and consider becoming part of a new county-wide council. We look forward to seeing you there!

Marshall County Lakes Group - Leadership Marshall County, Marshall County Community Foundation