

July 11, 2007 - For Immediate Release

**Public presentation on the impact of development
on Crystal and Elkhart Lakes**

Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin - A public presentation, "The impact of development on Glacial Kettle Moraine Lakes in Sheboygan County", will be given by Dr. Neal O'Reilly, PhD. This presentation will address growing concerns that continued development may adversely impact water levels on Crystal Lake and Elkhart Lake. The event will be held at the Osthoff Resort in the Village of Elkhart Lake at 7:00 pm on Thursday July 26, 2007.

The event is being sponsored by the Crystal Lake Advancement Association, the Elkhart Lake Improvement Association, and the Crystal Lake Management District.

O'Reilly, Vice President of Hey and Assoc., an environmental engineering firm, and professor of hydrogeology at Marquette University, was first hired by the Elkhart Lake Improvement Assoc. in 2003 to oversee a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant funded study of the groundwater sources and the watershed for Elkhart Lake. Maureen Muldoon, PhD, professor of hydrogeology at UW Oshkosh and her students also contributed to the study by producing a groundwater map of the watershed area.

In 2005, the Crystal Lake Management District hired O'Reilly's firm to determine whether low lake levels since 2002 were a natural, cyclical occurrence or a result of traceable changes in the local watershed. The Management District also requested that O'Reilly make recommendations on ways to protect and rehabilitate Crystal Lake.

Reviewing 20 years of groundwater data, O'Reilly believes precipitation is not replenishing groundwater stores. Local high capacity wells are pumping millions of gallons out of the aquifers in the glacial ridge that the lakes depend upon. Sanitary sewers also have an unintended consequence of removing water from watershed. As the population within this vicinity grows (another 200 residences planned in the Village of Elkhart Lake alone), the potential problems could compound.

The three lake organizations are sponsoring this presentation as a public service to develop awareness of the issue and to build community support for protecting our lake water sources. Municipal officials are encouraged to attend! Elkhart Lake and Crystal Lake are two of the most widely used public natural resources in Sheboygan County and are enjoyed by thousands of people from throughout the Midwest. They are the remnants of a large deposit of ice left by a glacier hundreds of thousands of years ago, and remain clear, clean, natural treasures.

The Osthoff Resort is located on Lake Street, off Highway 67 in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. For more information, contact:

Chris Krieg
Elkhart Lake Improvement Association
e-mail: Ckrieg3@aol.com

Bob Kampmann
Secretary – Treasurer - Crystal Lake Management District
(920) 876-2689
e-mail: bobk@sanitarydistrict.com