

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**September 4, 2008**

CONTACT:

Roberta Swann, Acting Director  
Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

(251) 431-6409

Fax (251) 431-6450

[rswann@mobilebaynep.com](mailto:rswann@mobilebaynep.com)

[www.mobilebaynep.com](http://www.mobilebaynep.com)



**The D'Olive Bay/Lake Forest Watershed Working Group (DB/LFWF) and the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) will conduct two public meetings on September 17, 2008 at the new Daphne City Hall.**

Two public meetings will be held to acquaint interested parties on the background, status/efforts to date, and future plans of the DB/LFWG to address the impacts of accelerated erosion and sedimentation on D'Olive Bay, its feeder streams (D'Olive and Tiwasee Creeks, Joe's Branch and Yancey Branch), and the Lake at Lake Forest Subdivision. Presentations will be made by DB/LFWG participants, plans to solicit a conceptual management plan for the watershed will be shared, and an opportunity for public comment will be offered.

The first meeting will be held from 3:00-4:30 PM and the second from 6:00-7:30 PM on Wednesday, September 17, 2008. The location for both meetings will be in the City Council Chambers of the newly renovated Daphne City Hall. Although content for both meetings will be identical, it is envisioned that interested engineering/planning firms, developers and others with a potential business interest in future plans will attend the earlier meeting and that the public at large will attend the second. The two separate time frames have been established to allow the broadest range of participation by both business interests and the public at large.

The DB/LFWG, led by the MBNEP, consists of representatives of local, state, and federal agencies, local governments, legislators, the Lake Forest Property Owner's Association, business interests, property owners and other stakeholders interested in restoring and maintaining water quality and the ecological integrity of D'Olive Bay and the D'Olive and Tiwasee creek watersheds. Maintenance and restoration of the Lake at Lake Forest as a part of this ecological system is also a goal. These local leaders have joined forces to study the situation, develop appropriate data and create a plan of action aimed at satisfying both the broader environmental needs as well as local property owner concerns. The Working Group has four goals: reduce upstream sediment inputs into the Lake Forest/D'Olive/Tiwasee system, remediate and restore past effects of these sediment loads, reduce outgoing sediment loads into D'Olive Bay and the Mobile Bay Estuary, and mitigate future impacts of development in the watersheds where feasible.

For information, contact Roberta Swann at (251) 431-6409 or [rswann@mobilebaynep.com](mailto:rswann@mobilebaynep.com). David Yeager may also be contacted at 205-307-9334 or [dwyearer@bellsouth.net](mailto:dwyearer@bellsouth.net)

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