



Waukewan Watershed Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2012 Meredith, NH: At its annual meeting today the Waukewan Watershed Association announced that as a result of its collaborative efforts, agreement has been reached between the town New Hampton and Elizabeth Clingan Baird to purchase 8.1 acres on Waukewan Road with 1,480 feet on the Snake River. The property will be permanently conserved and contains critical wetlands and an upland buffer that filter the water entering Lake Waukewan, Meredith's water supply. The Meredith Conservation Commission will also hold a conservation easement on the property.

Ralph Kirshner, Chairman of the New Hampton Conservation Commission explained, "The acquisition is made possible by a \$100,000 grant from the Aquatic Resources Mitigation (ARM) Fund of the New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services (NHDES). The Waukewan Watershed Association has committed to raise \$30,000 in matching funds and in-kind services for the project. ARM funds come from fees paid by land developers to compensate for wetland impacts. NHDES awards these funds in a competitive grant process. To finalize the purchase a number of studies will be performed including a stewardship plan covering trail designs and property use guidelines; a natural resources inventory, and an environmental assessment."

During the meeting Audrey Goudie, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative Foundation, presented the Waukewan Watershed Association (WWA) with a \$10,000 grant from the Foundation as the first step towards its matching commitment. Chuck Braxton, WWA president said, "These resources will create conservation and environmental education facilities on 16 acres along the Snake River comprising the Baird property as well as the Jacqueline Spear property to the north. The facilities will be based on the results of the studies to be completed and collaboration among the Association and the Conservation Commissions of New Hampton and Meredith. In 2010 the WWA worked with New Hampton and Meredith to place the 8.7-acre Spear property into permanent conservation thanks to the cash and in-kind contributions of our members and the towns totaling more than \$60,000."

The Waukewan Watershed Association, organized in the late 1980s as the Waukewan Shore Owners Assn., subsequently achieved non-profit status under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code to pursue its mission of conservation and environmental education to protect Lake Waukewan. In 2011, the Association adopted the Waukewan Watershed Association as its business name to reflect its mission over the entire watershed. Go to the WWA website nwaukewan.org/wwa for details.

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The name Waukewan Watershed Association™ (WWA) is the Business name of the Waukewan Shore Owners Association, a tax exempt charitable organization within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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