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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wild Rice and the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs
A Presentation hosted by the Bad River Watershed Association**

The Bad River Watershed Association will host “Wild Rice and the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs” on Tuesday, April 15th – 6:00p at the Gurney Town Hall. The presentation will feature Jim Meeker, retired professor of Northland College and Naomi Tillison, Bad River Natural Resources Department. The town hall is located on the west side of the road in downtown Gurney, which is three miles south of US Hwy 2 on Hwy 169.

Two years ago, the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs were awarded Ramsar Site designation as a Wetland of International Importance. The sloughs contain the largest intact wild rice beds on the Great Lakes. Naomi and Jim will share why this area received international recognition and discuss the cultural and ecological significance of wild rice. The Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs are truly a gem of Lake Superior.

Jim Meeker retired from teaching in the Natural Resources and Biology departments at Northland College in September 2011 where, since 1989, he had taught courses in natural resources, wetlands, and conservation biology. He received his PhD from UW – Madison in Botany, studying the ecology of wild rice in the Kakagon Sloughs on Lake Superior. He has studied wetlands throughout the Great Lakes and at a number of Great Lakes National Parks including Voyageurs National Park, Isle Royale, and the Apostle Islands.

Naomi Tillison joined the Bad River Tribe’s Natural Resources Department in 2007. She manages the Water Resources Program and focuses on protecting and enhancing tribal aquatic resources, such as streams, rivers, and wetlands. She led the Department’s effort to finalize EPA-approved Water Quality Standards under the Clean Water Act. Naomi earned a Master’s degree in Environmental Engineering and a Certificate of Sustainability from Michigan Technological University.

The Bad River Watershed Association is headquartered in Ashland, Wis. BRWA works to promote a healthy relationship between the people and natural communities of the Bad River Watershed. To volunteer for this program, contact BRWA at 715-682-2003 or info@badriverwatershed.org. More information about the Bad River Watershed Association is available at www.badriverwatershed.org.

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