

Notes from the third Lake Levels subcommittee meeting, held on February 12, 2014, at the Garrett County Health Department building in Oakland:

The meeting began around 1 pm with a welcome from co Chair Bob Browning. All members except Bob Hoffmann were present. Bob reviewed the agenda, and proceeded to introduce the presenters for the meeting, Lyn Poorman and John Smith both of MDE. Lyn is the Deputy Division Chief for the Source Protection and Appropriation Division, and John is a registered professional engineer, providing engineering support for the Water Supply Program.

The presentation discussed the process used during 2011 to revise the permit, including methodologies to evaluate how various factors influence water levels in the lake. The presentation can be found on DNR's webpage at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/deepcreekwatershedplan/>. Ms. Poorman began by covering:

- The history of the permit, pointing out that the current revised permit is good through April, 2019;
- Permit Conditions balance the needs of the permittee, the stakeholders and the environmental resources;
- She noted that the size of the lake is very large compared to the size of the watershed;
- Several slides were presented showing the lake levels compared to the rule band over the years, and more specific detail during the June 1 thru Oct 1 periods for typical years, and dry years;
- Slides also displayed the sources of inflow, e.g. rainfall v. stream inflow;
- The water budget that MDE uses was presented.

Discussion followed around the issues of Brookfield's discretionary releases, TER's, and Wicket Gate leakage.

During the discussion, Pete noted a 1994 PENELEC report about all aspects of the lake levels, and urged everyone to read the document. (NOTE: a link to the document is on DNR's website).

More discussion ensued around the issues of the TER's and Morgan France's analysis, which concludes that the current TER protocol is flawed and could be improved. MDE noted that DNR's Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) establishes the protocol, and MDE accepts DNR's work for inclusion in the permit. It was noted that PPRP will be presenting at the March Lake Levels subcommittee, and that questions have been pre-submitted to them.

Discussion continued, around the issue of the upper rule band, and the impacts of raising or eliminating it. MDE agreed to review some of the issues and to provide a response back to the subcommittee.

Much time was spent discussing the development and use of a predictive recharge model as part of a predictive water budget.

As the meeting concluded, it was agreed that:

- The questions that may also be addressed by other subcommittees would also be addressed from the Lake Levels perspective and recommendations would be made to the full SC for consideration;
- The questions initially identified as directed to PPRP for the March presentation were sufficient;

- A separate presentation by DNR Fisheries staff representative Alan Klotz was not required (although his presence and technical expertise is appreciated and may be needed during the PPRP presentation);
- The PERMIT IS THE BUDGET, and the TER is the wildcard in the formula;
- Where we start with the lake level at the beginning of the season determines the success of the entire season;
- The discussion that Jess Whittemore had initiated is asked to be deferred to the March meeting, to which Jess agreed;
- The only other group from which the Lake Levels subcommittee may want to hear is Eric Null, on the topic of recreation, and this subcommittee will determine if there are any specific questions for him and schedule him only if needed.
- The fact that 22% of the lake's surface is lost at the level of the lower rule band (during the summer season??) is also an issue that the Lake Levels subcommittee will address.

The meeting ended shortly after 4 pm.