

Minutes of the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee (SC)
June 2, 2014

Held at the Garrett County Health Department, Room 107
1025 Memorial Drive, Oakland, MD, 21550

Members of the Steering Committee (SC) present were:

David Myerberg, Chair,
Pete Versteegen, vice chair,
Steve Green,
Bob Browning,
Bob Hoffmann,
Willie Lantz,
Lulu Gonella, and
John Forman.

Staff to the SC participating were Catherine Shanks and Christine Conn of MD DNR,
Deborah Carpenter of Garrett County and
Mike Bilek of the Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, U. of M.

Welcome, introductory remarks, the approval of the May 5, 2014, minutes

SC Chair David Myerberg called the ninth meeting of the SC to order shortly after 12:00 and welcomed Joanne Throwe, and Brent McCloskey of the Environmental Finance Center, University of Maryland to the meeting. David thanked the SC and the subcommittees for the reports and for the work that occurred at the special session of the SC on May 21st and 22nd. He also mentioned the Deep Creek Watershed Compendium of Law that was shared with the PRB and others earlier in May. It is a long document, with 'hot links' but is worth the read and added that the project was supported by DNR. David hopes readers will find it useful.

Regarding the May minutes, David asked the SC members to take a look at the Vision Statement

- **VISION STATEMENT: Through partnerships with private land owners and government agencies, the Deep Creek Watershed will retain and improve its environmental stability, rural landscapes, natural beauty and economic viability, so that, for generations to come, local citizens and visitors have a great place to live, work and recreate.**

He pointed out a wording issue that he noticed. During the last meeting, in an effort to make the vision statement concise, we all may have missed something. How do you improve natural beauty? He suggested instead that the vision statement read "...improve its environmental stability and economic viability, while retaining its rural landscapes and natural beauty so that, for generations..." There was little formal discussion, but instead general agreement that the change is made. The revised vision statement as of June 2, 2014 is:

- **6-2-14 VISION STATEMENT: Through partnerships with private land owners and government agencies, the Deep Creek Watershed will improve its environmental stability and economic viability, while retaining its rural**

landscapes and natural beauty so that, for generations to come, local citizens and visitors have a great place to live, work and recreate.

David asked if there were any other corrections or additions to the minutes from the May 5th SC meeting. No changes were noted and **David asked for a motion to approve, moved by Lulu Gonella and seconded by Bob Hoffmann. The minutes were unanimously approved.**

Mike added that the minutes from the two-day special session of the SC were still in progress and would be available for review prior to the July meeting.

Bob Browning voiced his thanks for all the work that went into compiling the legal compendium, and noted that DNR had funded the law student who completed the work.

Timing and Sequencing

David Myerberg offered a brief reminder of the purpose of this exercise, and said that while time to review and respond back to staff was short, Bob Hoffmann had completed the task. Thank you Bob. David indicated that as a group the SC will review the completed subcommittee goals, objectives and strategies and will indicate, for purposes of future implementation, if the strategy is a near term, mid term or long term project. The strategy could also be happening currently, in which case it would be deemed ‘ongoing’. There was some discussion of the length of time assigned to the ‘near, mid or long’ categories. Catherine Shanks indicated the numbers of years assigned to each category were the traditional designations, but the SC decided they were too long, and instead agreed on the following:

- Near term is now to three years
- Mid term is three years to five years
- Long term is five years, plus.

1. Water Quality

The review began with Water Quality. Catherine stated there were some ‘add ons’ to the document after a DNR internal review. Steve asked if anything was added regarding acid mine drainage, that it continues to be an issue. It was agreed that ‘continued regular monitoring’ would be added under WQ G1, O2, as S6. The discussion continued. David asked ‘how much of the can be done or started right away?’ Catherine responded that all of the existing partners would continue to participate and move these (strategies) forward. David asked if the overwhelming number of near term or ongoing designations will cause hesitancy, to which Catherine replied, no. Bob Hoffmann added that this needs structure, staff, and money and when this is all done, the Executive Director will oversee this implementation effort based on the availability of funding, staff, etc. Reprioritizing will need to be done continually based on funding, access, etc. Lulu added that the proposed Executive Director would be reaching out to the existing partners to get some of this work done. Willie suggested the SC focus on this document. The power to get things done is *in this document*. Pete asked where does this go next. What should happen? Is the work divided up among the various agencies? Catherine replied, yes, and that there needs to be buy in and commitment. Willie offered the suggestion of adding names to the G/O/S document, and Catherine said that part would be left up to the proposed entity. David stated, “The question is, what happens to this group?” Several ideas were voiced, Bob Hoffmann replied that it should remain, as a resource that Maryland Department of the Environment, or DNR or others can go to. In response to a question from Bob Hoffmann regarding how implementation is handled with other plans, Catherine offered that other plan implementations are usually the responsibility of the sponsoring local government.

David refocused the discussion on the timing and sequencing exercise. Catherine mentioned one of the ‘add ons’ that was raised by DNR Park Service director Nita Settina, regarding developing a strategy to aggressively treat the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid especially on private lands. Someone suggested adding a ‘cost share’ comment to the new strategy. John Forman offered his thoughts on the proposed effort, stating that hemlocks have little commercial value to those to manage timber. The new strategy will be added under G2 O1, as S5. Following is the final decisions of the SC for the Water Quality Strategies:

Lake and Stream Water Quality

Overarching Goal: Protect, maintain, and/or improve water quality parameters in the lake and watershed, needed to maintain and improve Deep Creek Lake at the mesotrophic level and to maximize the capacity of the Deep Creek watershed to support recreational uses and healthy aquatic and terrestrial living resources and habitats.

Goal 1 – Collect the needed information to achieve the desired condition of the Deep Creek Lake and watershed.

Objective 1	Implementation Timing
Improve our understanding of the sources of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment inputs to streams and the lake in order to prioritize where conservation, restoration and management activities will be most effective.	
Strategies	
1. Conduct a nutrient synoptic survey in the spring when nutrient concentrations are typically at their highest to quantify nutrient concentration and yield from subwatersheds.	near term
2. By Fall 2014, develop an inventory of stream restoration opportunities by conducting a Stream Corridor Assessment of 30 miles of streams within the watershed. Prioritize stream restoration projects.	near term
3. Work with stakeholders, landowners and partners to identify and implement watershed restoration projects.	near term

Objective 2	Implementation Timing
Continue regular monitoring of the Deep Creek Watershed (lake and stream water quality) to inform decisions and management actions on lake and watershed conservation and restoration.	
Strategies	
1. Continue the Deep Creek water quality monitoring workgroup, engaging all entities that conduct and/or use the data developed	ongoing

by water quality monitoring programs	
2. Identify monitoring objectives and develop a water quality monitoring program for the next 5 years, reevaluate every 5 years and include long term monitoring objectives and criteria.	near term
3. Convene yearly water quality monitoring meetings to discuss results, progress and integration of multiple monitoring programs .	ongoing
4. Prepare publicly available annual reports on Deep Creek watershed water quality monitoring results, implementation actions, and management recommendations.	near term then ongoing
5. Coordinate research needs to complement monitoring and management objectives in partnership with academic institutions and funding programs.	mid term
6. Continue monitoring of Cherry Creek for acid mine drainage remediation ...	ongoing

Goal 2 - Manage existing land uses to achieve the desired condition of the Deep Creek Lake and watershed.

Objective 1	Implementation Timing
Maximize the beneficial water quality, air quality, habitat and economic services provided by forests through conservation, restoration and management efforts.	
Strategies	
1. Encourage the retention of forest land by engaging landowners in forest stewardship management plans through the Garrett County Forestry Board.	ongoing
2. Identify landowner incentive programs, conduct outreach and education and enforce and implement buffer management to increase tree canopy, promote lakeshore and stream buffer reforestation and discourage mowing grass in the buffer.	near term
3. Develop conservation priorities for forests and for other lands that provide exceptional water quality protection and support high quality aquatic and terrestrial habitats.	ongoing/near term
4. Develop a plan to protect priority conservation areas based on existing zoning, future growth impacts, and private, local and state conservation assistance programs.	near term to mid term
5. Develop a strategy to include cost share to aggressively treat hemlocks being attacked by the hemlock woolly adelgid especially on private lands.	near term /asap

Objective 2	Implementation Timing
Maintain agricultural land use within the watershed and ensure that	

best practices are deployed to minimize, mitigate and reduce the impacts of nutrient and sediment inputs to the lake	
Strategies	
1. Educate and encourage landowners to keep land in agriculture through State and county conservation and agricultural land retention programs.	ongoing
2. Identify and prioritize opportunities to implement agricultural BMPs such as cover crops, stream protection, stream buffers, wetland restoration, etc.	near term
3. Encourage compliance with nutrient management and target outreach and monitoring efforts to maximize compliance.	ongoing/near term
4. Enhance profitability to farm and forest landowners through alternative incomes sources and use of locally produced farm and forest products.	ongoing/near term
5. Coordinate efforts of the Forestry Board, Soil Conservation District and Farm Bureau to achieve mutual objectives.	near term

Objective 3	Implementation Timing
Minimize fertilizers and pesticide inputs to the lake and its streams from lawn care practices	
Strategies	
1. Conduct a survey of residential lawn owners and lawn care companies to determine the degree of homeowner and commercial fertilizer application practices	near term
2. Educate lawn owners about lawn care practices that reduce fertilizer inputs and includes soil testing before application include information on the state fertilizer laws.	near term/ongoing

Objective 4	Implementation Timing
Manage concerns over additional nonpoint and point sources of pollution to Deep Creek Lake and its streams, including those associated with geese populations.	
Strategies	
1. Educate landowners on habitat modification practices and permits for nest production control for the reduction of geese populations.	near term /ongoing
2. Prohibit or discourage feeding of geese on public and private lake shoreline property.	near term
3. Encourage goose hunting where and when permitted and safe and encourage agricultural land owners to allow hunting on their lands.	near term

4. Monitor occurrence of violations with point source discharges to evaluate potential impact to water quality.	ongoing
5. Encourage marina operators to participate in the Clean Marina Program.	near term
6. Monitor the amount and location of road salt applied by the State and County.	near term

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

Goal 3 - Manage SAV in Deep Creek Lake to maintain and improve the ecological stability of the lake, as well as reduce and minimize the interference of SAV with recreational uses of the lake.

Objective 1	Implementation Timing
Develop a long term monitoring plan, managed through the Water Quality Workgroup, to track changes in SAV species composition, abundance and distribution to inform native and non-native SAV management plans.	
Strategies	
1. Identify and recommend additional SAV monitoring objectives to be incorporated into the long term monitoring plan.	ongoing
2. Include SAV monitoring results in annual reports and water quality dashboard.	mid term

Objective 2	Implementation Timing
Manage the SAV communities in the lake that affect recreational uses such as boating and swimming to minimize interference with public recreation.	
Strategies	
1. Identify areas where SAV populations are considered to be a public use concern through a user-based evaluation, such as participatory GIS recreational use workshop or other venue.	near term
2. Identify all possible SAV management options, including control strategies, lake levels and dock permitting policies, and the appropriate means of implementing them.	ongoing
3. Develop an education program to provide all lake users with appropriate management solutions and options for support and maintenance of native SAV communities and healthy fish populations.	near term

Objective 3	Implementation Timing
Control existing populations of established invasive SAV species communities using best management practices and prevent future introductions of harmful non-native species of SAV.	
Strategies	
1. Determine if existing non-native SAV species are detrimental to maintaining a healthy lake ecosystem and active recreational usage.	ongoing/near term/mid term
2. Identify control strategies to reduce the negative impacts of targeted non-native harmful species, such as Hydrilla and others.	ongoing
3. Identify management plans to prevent future introductions and spread of Hydrilla, Eurasian Water milfoil and other harmful non-native species of SAV.	near term/ongoing

Erosion and Sedimentation

Draft Goal 4 - Prevent erosion and sedimentation to the greatest extent possible to protect the water resources of the watershed from increased sediment loading and associated water quality problems

Objective 1	Implementation Timing
Identify the causes and mechanisms of erosion and sources of sediment that operate within the Deep Creek watershed, including the movement of sediment in the lake	
Strategies	
1. Consider existing and ongoing sedimentation studies to identify probable sources of sedimentation through an analysis of watershed condition based on soil type, slope, drainage patterns, land use, and other factors and considering sedimentation studies done to date.	near term/mid term
2. Identify and quantify the causes and mechanisms of lake and stream shoreline erosion.	near term/mid term
3. Categorize erosion by shoreline type and severity potential.	mid term
4. Identify existing shoreline control measures around the lake and categorize with respect to efficacy and visual impact and correlate with the results from 1 and 2	near term/mid term
5. Prioritize areas of special concern and develop remedial approaches	near term/mid term

Objective 2	Implementation
--------------------	-----------------------

	Timing
Develop an Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Plan	
Strategies	
1. Identify the means to control various erosion processes identified under Objective 1.	mid term
2. Define measures to judge the performance and adequacy of erosion control projects	mid term
3. Identify and prioritize erosion and sediment control projects. Coordinate with results from stream walks, storm water management and agricultural erosion initiatives.	mid term
4. Identify funding and partnerships to complete at least 1 or 2 projects a year. Projects should be coordinated with the stream walks, stormwater management and agricultural erosion initiatives.	mid term

Objective 3	Implementation Timing
Revise, streamline and Incentivise lake shoreline protection measures	
Strategies	
1. Define and articulate the responsibilities of the State and Lake-side property owners regarding the maintenance of the buffer strip and the shoreline.	near term
2. Define and develop standard approaches for selecting and installing shoreline protection measures based on the various types of shoreline conditions that need to be protected.	near term
3. Review permitting requirements and procedures, identify needed improvements and develop a process that streamlines shoreline erosion control practices in a cost-effective manner for the responsible party.	near term
4. Evaluate options to reduce or eliminate the fees and develop incentive programs for shoreline erosion projects.	near term to mid term

Reducing Impacts from Growth

Deborah Carpenter, staff support to the Impacts of Growth subcommittee had recommended timing as she prepared the strategies for the report. It was suggested that her recommendations were on target and should be followed. The full SC indicated agreement. As SC members paged through the document, a few changes were requested. The final decisions by the SC follow:

Goal 1 – Promote policies that ensure environmental sustainability and economic viability.

Objective 1	Implementation Timing
The Planning Commission should strengthen the current site design and architectural review standards applied to commercial development within the watershed.	
Strategies	
1. As part of the Comprehensive Plan cycle, scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2016, the County should include this topic.	near term
2. If after public review this objective is included in the Comprehensive Plan, the County should formulate regulatory language to be included in the Deep Creek Zoning Ordinance as part of the update for that ordinance.	mid term
3. Should said regulation be included in the Deep Creek Zoning Ordinance, the staff of the Office of Planning & Land Management will be the responsible entity for enforcement at the time of permit application.	ongoing

Objective 2	Implementation Timing
Promote new and retain viable waterfront businesses	
Strategies	
1. The County Office of Economic Development and the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce should form a “think tank” to determine ways in which waterfront businesses can be supported and encouraged	near term
2. The think tank should revisit the two recommendations from the 2008 Comprehensive Plan to (1) work one on one with individual waterfront businesses at risk of being lost and (2) explore with the local tax assessor the potential for changes in the way that property assessment values are prepared for waterfront businesses.	near term

Objective 3	Implementation Timing
Insure that gas drilling and extraction has minimal impact in the DC watershed.	
Strategies	
1. Evaluate the potential environmental and economic impacts to DC watershed from gas drilling and extraction.	near term
2. Actively engage in the Marcellus Shale regulatory process to include evaluation of the proposed State best management practices and determine if local policies are needed	near term
3. Develop or revise local regulations as appropriate and needed.	mid term

Impacts of growth – Stormwater

Draft Goal 2 – Manage stormwater infrastructure that results from both existing and proposed development to decrease pollution and ensure healthy watershed conditions.

Objective 1	Implementation Timing
Develop an incremental plan to identify existing stormwater problems at a subwatershed level and create an action plan for addressing issues and educating residents on best management practices.	
Strategies	
1. By January of 2015 the County’s Office of Permits and Inspection Services and Department of Engineering will provide a list of known areas of concern. This list will be used to rank subwatersheds with regard to highest need, severity, accessibility and other factors.	near term
2. Conduct an on-site survey of the highest ranking subwatershed to determine the stormwater issues that reside and their source.	near term
3. Convene a meeting of appropriate agencies and interested parties within the Deep Creek watershed to devise an action plan for addressing concerns in the highest ranking subwatershed.	near term/mid term
4. Create an implementation plan and timeline to implement the technical aspects of the action plan. This becomes the pilot project.	near term/mid term
5. Work with citizens in the subwatershed to educate land owners on stormwater best management practices that can be established on their land. Promote the Stormwater BMP Incentive Program as per Objective 2.	ongoing
6. Assess the effectiveness of the subwatershed pilot area plan implementation. If it is found to be successful designate the next subwatershed that will be designated for action.	mid term/long term

Objective 2	Implementation Timing
Design and Implement a Stormwater BMP Incentive Program.	
Strategies	
1. By July 2015, review the Bay-Wise Yardstick Program and propose a similar program to be used in the Deep Creek watershed. A list of possible incentives for participation will be included as well as an implementation schedule and approach. The UMD Extension Service will serve as the support agency for the program	near term

Objective 3	Implementation Timing
The use of stormwater best management practices will be made a priority for maintenance and legacy infrastructure whenever practicable for both state and county roads operations.	
Strategy	
1. Working through the proposed governing entity engage the appropriate agencies to devise and/or compile educational materials pertinent to best stormwater management practices. They will also identify educational opportunities or trainings for roads workers. Create an implementation plan for incorporation of BMPs into their workflow.	near term / ongoing
2. Work with SHA to determine the best approach for reducing impacts from State roads. Identify potential opportunities for stormwater retrofits.	ongoing

Impacts of Growth – Septic and Sewerage

Goal 3 – Protect the watershed from the adverse effects of impaired on-site sewage disposal systems (septic systems) and ensure adequate capacity and management of public sewerage systems.

Objective 1	Implementation Timing
Encourage the use of Best Available Technology (BAT) septic systems within Deep Creek watershed.	
Strategies	
1. By July 2015 devise and/or compile educational materials for distribution to homeowners regarding the benefits of BAT systems.	near term
2. Distribution of the materials to homeowners will be	near term

prioritized in phases starting with structures older than 50 years, 40 – 50 years and 30 – 40 years.	
3. The Environmental Health Department will distribute information regarding BAT systems to every new home applicant.	Ongoing

Objective 2	Implementation Timing
Encourage expansion of public sewer as outlined in the 2014 Garrett County Water & Sewer Master Plan, as well as upgrades to the existing sewer system such that it complies with best available technology or best management practices as appropriate, to include relevant training.	
Strategies	
1. Devise a marketing campaign to be targeted at residents of areas planned for public sewer in order to increase awareness of the need for services in order to decrease the impacts of failing septic.	Ongoing
2. Develop creative alternatives to debt re-payment on public systems to address current deterrents to the cost of the system.	mid term
3. Work with county agencies to identify training and BMPs for sewer system management.	Ongoing

Impacts of Growth – Recreation

Goal 4 – Preserve and enhance the quality of recreational opportunities while ensuring those opportunities are in harmony with environmental stewardship.

Objective 1	Implementation Timing
The Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of the Environment should eliminate fees for the Shoreline Erosion permit and consider incentive programs	
Strategies	
1. By July 2015, the appropriate agents of the Deep Creek Lake Management Office, DNR, MDE, the county and the Deep Creek Watershed Management Board should meet to discuss the goals and objectives of the Shoreline Erosion program, including an incentive program through the appropriate agencies	near term
2. The DNR will work partners to promote the merits of shoreline stabilization and encourage homeowners through incentive programs to install appropriate measures to prevent further shoreline erosion	Ongoing

Objective 2	Implementation Timing
The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lake Management Office should upgrade their permitting and boating count databases.	
Strategies	
1. By July 2015, the DNR will assess the hardware and software of the Lake Management office looking for opportunities for version upgrades and opportunities to improve efficiency of operation.	near term
2. DNR will establish a timeline for action plan for implementation of upgrades.	near term

Objective 3	Implementation Timing
The Department of Natural Resources Lake Management Office should identify and promote current and future public access locations.	
Strategies	
1. The DNR/Deep Creek Lake Management Office will map the locations and types of all existing public access points. This data will be mapped and included in a brochure for visitors.	near term
2. The DNR/Deep Creek Lake Management Office will visit said sites and determine whether appropriate signage exists at each location. If not, signage will be obtained and erected. Signage should include educational information when appropriate.	near term
3. Assure the brochures created by the Lake Management Office of existing public access points are reproduced and distributed through local businesses and the Visitor's Center and on the Internet.	Ongoing
4. The Deep Creek Lake Management Office, working with appropriate partners, will review past records where potential future sites of public access have been highlighted. These sites will be reviewed for potential use as public access in relation to cost, type of access, public facilities and/or infrastructure needed, and other factors deemed appropriate by the group.	mid term

Impacts of Growth – Retention of Forest Cover

Goal 5 - Maximize the retention of forest cover to protect high value aquatic and terrestrial

natural resources.

Objective	Implementation Timing
The county and state will work together on planning for conservation of high value and sensitive resource areas in development areas.	
Strategies:	
1 Assess how current development regulations and policies at the State and County impact high value and sensitive resources areas.	near term
2 Garrett County and DNR work together to identify opportunities for forest retention in development areas.	near term

Lake Levels

Review of the Lake Levels strategies began and ended without much discussion. Following are the timing decisions by the SC:

Over-arching Goal: To maintain higher Lake Levels to allow lake users adequate water levels for recreation, to strictly limit excursions below the lower rule band and to provide for the needs of other users of the water resource.

Goal 1 - The Water Budget, Temperature Enhancement Protocol and the Rule Band

Assure that the water appropriation analysis and allocation methodology for Deep Creek Lake provides a fair distribution of water for all users especially during the months of May through September.

Objective 1	Implementation Timing
MDE to consider the development of a water budget that affords equitable allocation of the resource.	
Strategies	
1. Request MDE to evaluate proposed alternatives to develop a water budget and include examples as presented through the development of the watershed plan. The budget should address supply and demand as well as identify the uses of the resource.	near term
2. Hire an independent water resources engineering consulting firm, approved by all parties and externally funded. The consultant will evaluate and recommend adjustments to the TER protocol in Objective 2 and will define and develop a water budget that can be used for Deep Creek Lake to	near term

include conditions for strictly limiting excursions below the lower rule band for the months of May through September	
3. Request that MDE consider in the reevaluation of the Water Appropriations Permit, allowing the Upper Rule Band (URB) to be Full Pool of 2461.3 feet. (This does not mean the water must be at 2461.3, it just allows Brookfield a larger margin.) Consider incentives for Brookfield to achieve full pool by May 1st of each year.	mid term
4. Request that MDE consider the results of the study conducted by the independent water resources engineering consultant described in Strategy 2 prior to the development of the appropriation permit scheduled for renewal in 2019.	mid term

Objective 2	Implementation Timing
Continue to refine the TER protocol	
Strategies	
DNR (Power Plant Research Program [PPRP] and Fisheries) continue annual evaluations and adjustments of the TER protocol working with other State and local partners.	ongoing

Goal 2 – Improve access to navigable waters for property owners who typically have shallow water during the summer months

Objective 1	Implementation Timing
Develop strategies to assist property owners who live in areas on DCL that typically have low water levels during the summer months.	
Strategies	
1. In order to help shallow cove slip owners and not impact other stakeholders, request DNR to evaluate regulations and consider adjustments to provide more options for increasing access for a variety of recreation opportunities. Consider methods to extend docking facilities to deeper waters	near term
2. Investigate mechanisms to require at closing, as part of a property transfer proper, a DNR Lake Management Office “eligibility report”. This report contains existing elements with	near term

the addition of comprehensive information on individual property lake water conditions and any current violation require correction, and confirm that the buy down transfers with the property.	
---	--

Objective 2	Implementation Timing
Consider dredging to the original lake bottom contours	
Strategies	
1. Develop evaluation criteria and identify areas where private and/or county led initiatives to remove sediments are possible	mid term
2. Identify means and disposal options to remove sediments by private and/or county organizations	mid term
3. Assess the legal, permitting and disposal requirements related to dredging.	mid term
4. Develop organizational structures that can deal with the needs	mid term
5. Identify sources of potential funding	mid term

Accountability

The discussion of timing began with Lulu’s comment that all of the strategy items in this report are near term, and Pete added ‘...it should be done in two years’. David waxed theoretical, reflecting on John P. Kotter’s steps of transformational change, (Kotter’s 8 Step Change Model) <http://www.leadershipthoughts.com/kotters-8-step-change-model> concluding this has to happen on a quick turnaround.

Catherine Shanks stated legislation will not be ready in time for the 2015 session and the legislation may be required to hire the Executive Director, change the PRB and to create a Trust Fund. Bob Hoffmann said the process should begin now, since it may take several tries, but it should begin now. Catherine said if the legislation is sponsored by DNR it probably will not happen this year, but if the legislation is sponsored by the Senator and/or Delegate from Garrett County, then this coming session is possible. David noted that DNR secretary Joe Gill is very impressed with all of the work completed by the subcommittees and the SC. Bob Hoffmann continued that there is a real downside to waiting, and that the SC should consider approaching the legislation question from both possibilities (agency sponsored and county representative sponsored). The following are the timing decisions by the SC:

Accountability and Public Engagement

Goal 1 - Improve the management structure, funding, coordination and accountability of governance for the Deep Creek Watershed.

Objective 1	Implementation Timing
--------------------	------------------------------

Develop and implement a mechanism and partnership for formal coordination of activities within the watershed consistent with the vision set forth in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article, Section 5-215. This new structure should provide oversight of the implementation of the plan, coordination between government and non-government partners, management of financial resources and communication with the public. Retention of current authority of the PRB for fees and law and regulation changes that affect the Lake should be considered within the new governance structure.	
Strategies	
1. By July 2015, the County and the State agencies will develop a governance structure consistent with the recommendations in the Watershed Management Plan. Assure the governance structure responds to and advises both the County and the State. (include options for reorganization and restructuring of the PRB as the organizing body.).	near term
2. As determined under Goal 1, Objective 1, strategy 1, develop and propose State legislation with County endorsement as necessary to carry out the recommendations for the governance structure as needed	near term
3. All parties will sign an agreement designed to formalize accountability and commitment to the lake and its watershed.	near term

Objective 2	Implementation Timing
Develop sustainable and sufficient sources of funding to implement the Watershed Plan including but not limited to addressing future needs; educational goals, objectives and programs and adequate staffing.	
Strategies	
4. July 2015, develop a financing strategy for the lake and its watershed to implement the recommendations in the Plan and carry watershed management into the future. The Financing Strategy should include a thorough analysis of future and current funding needs for the watershed and the Lake and to include options for fund raising, endowments, etc. Among other things, include staffing needs in the financing evaluation and strategy development.	near term
3. Establish a process for implementing and evaluating the financing and funding needs.	near term

Objective 3	Implementation Timing
Ensure necessary and sufficient staffing of all State, County and other related agencies and partners to address issues specific to the Deep Creek Watershed	
Strategies	
1. Evaluate the needs and develop a plan to expand permanent and seasonal State and County staffing to provide adequate service to the public, management of the watershed and lake, coordination among entities and support general outreach and education	near term
2. Provide financial resources to allow hiring/contracting of outside resource experts on lakes and watersheds as needed. This strategy will be a component of Strategy 1 under Objective 2	near term

Objective 4	Implementation Timing
Develop a process for transparency and accountability for implementation of the watershed plan and associated costs.	
Strategies	
1. Create and maintain a user friendly dashboard/set of indicators to document and track watershed plan implementation progress as well as water quality conditions, trends, and issues. The dashboard will include access to County Health Department data and annual reports.	near/mid term
2. Develop a mechanism for public feedback on progress or issues.(be the ears of the community)	near term

Public Engagement, Information and Education

Goal 2 - Nurture an informed and engaged citizenry regarding the Deep Creek Watershed

Objective	Implementation Timing
Increase direct and indirect outreach to residents, businesses and visitors regarding the quality of and impacts to the Deep Creek Watershed.	
Strategy	

<p>Develop an Outreach Plan, To include - identifying current outreach mechanism and programs to potentially include a Speakers Bureau, Train the Trainer Program, etc. to increase outreach to citizens, businesses and visitors. This can be coordinated with and/or managed by local non-profits selected by the new coordinating organization. The development of the Plan should be coordinated with the Deep Creek Lake State Park Discovery Center and include activities conducted both at the Discovery Center and off-site supported by the State Parks Service.</p> <p>Components of the plan should include the elements identified in other sections of this Plan as well as strategies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform and educate the public regarding State ownership of the lake and the buffer and what that means to property owners and lake users. • Develop a lawn care and buffer maintenance manual similar to the Critical Areas Buffer Manual to assist with understanding and implementation of appropriate planting and maintenance of the buffer and land adjacent to the buffer to include maintenance of and replanting of trees in the buffer. • Inform and educate the public regarding the affect of and need for conserving water in the watershed through infiltration of stormwater to support maintaining higher water levels throughout the season. <p>The Plan should also include an implementation schedule</p>	<p>near term</p>
--	------------------

As the review was completed, **David noted that the additions made to the document as were just discussed should be voted upon, and asked for a motion. Lulu motioned that the implementation timing as discussed be accepted for all four subcommittee documents, Bob Browning seconded, David asked for further discussion, and seeing none, called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

Presentation by the Environmental Finance Center

After a short break, David Myerberg introduced Joanne Throwe, the director of the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland. Joanne thanked the SC for the invite and Cathie for making the arrangements. She proceeded to explain what the EFC does, and that they focus on funding and financing. She indicated that after listening to the discussion just completed, she would like to be a part of the effort that’s being developed, but she feels that prioritizing everything Near Term is a problem. Funding is needed for the near term items, and funding as well as financing, such as exploring setting and changing fee structures, etc would get the job done. She also indicated that the EFC has had lots of experience with establishing governance structures. Catherine stated that the secretary of DNR and Garrett County will ‘frame out’ the governance structure. David indicated that the big focus for assistance from EFC is in the funding and financing. Brent McClosky, co-principle investigator on the EFC proposal indicated that EFC audits and determines how efficiently existing funds are being used. David added that the current County Commissioners already have some ideas about using monies they get from the watershed, example is the forest harvest monies. Bob Hoffmann added the need to consider funding of Hydrilla control, which is a long term need. Joanne assured that short term as well as long term solutions would be considered. David closed the discussion by stating that DNR Secretary Joe Gill has agreed to split the cost of the EFC consultation with (Garrett

Commissioner) Gregan Crawford. Joanne said she EFC will be back with a revised proposal staying focused on the two points in the original proposal.

The project Timeline

Catherine Shanks provided some insight into what was to come next. She began by stating that Joe Gill is ecstatic! Very very impressed with the work that's been produced thus far. Looking at what's been done, and recognizing what remains to be completed, he's agreed to add one month to the timeline, in order to assure the continued quality of the work product and process. The idea is to look toward the end of July as the time frame for putting the document out for public review. The document will become public during the annual State of the Watershed (formerly State of the Lake) meeting. The process also calls for a 30 day public comment period. Steve Green interjected that the public meeting about the plan must be scheduled for no later than mid August. Bob Hoffmann added that the SC must make sure the public knows how and where to find the plan. As a wrap up to the discussion, **it was agreed that the plan will be introduced by SC Chair David Myerberg during the State of the Watershed meeting in late July, with a special public comment meeting on the plan no later than mid August.**

David asked "what's going to happen to this group?" He added that everyone needs to think about the question. What will happen going forward, through the transition period. This has been a lot of work but necessary work, so please put some thought into it, and send the ideas to David. Catherine suggested that the PRB could be a transition group. David responded that the PRB could be a transition group, but it would lose the perspective of agriculture and forestry. Also the PRB is not set up for the watershed. Lulu suggested a subset of the original SC for an advisory group. John Forman added perhaps including the four chairs of the subcommittees, and Bob Hoffmann added that it's important to retain the expertise of the subcommittees. Bob Browning suggested that the PRB could probably morph into something else. **David stated that a transitional group is needed until the plan develops or until there is no longer a need (for a group). Bob Browning made it a motion, seconded by Willie Lantz. The motion carried unanimously.** David offered to write a letter to the signers of the MOU asking for approval of an interim group to serve until a new governance structure is in place.

Discussions about the need for additional meetings prompted a caution from Catherine regarding the Open Meetings Act. Bob Browning stated that a meeting is needed before the State of the Watershed to look at the document. Mike suggested that everyone hold July 7th, the date of the usual first Monday SC meeting, open, pending the discussion and decision by the SC Executive Committee.

Public Comments

Paul Durham asked to speak and shared the following thoughts:

- Is there a process in place for the review of the public comments?
- How does one direct questions to the SC prior to the release of the plan?
- (the public) needs to see what's been adopted today so comments can be directed.
- And an observation and note of caution, during the discussion dealing with the management structure, it was suggested setting it in motion ASAP. This is the position of the SC prior to the public comment. Please stay objective till the public comments come in. The governance structure has raised the most concern thus far and raises the most questions.

David Myerberg responded that we should address the public comment issue now, stating that the plan will be on the DNR website after it is released, there will be a public meeting during the public comment period, and clear instruction on where and how to send the written comments. He suggested that questions not be submitted now, but to wait till the document is released at the State of the Watershed. He asked if today's (6-2 SC meeting) work will be posted, and Mike replied it would be in the minutes. Steve Green asked 'who makes changes' that are recommended. Catherine replied 'the signers of the MOU can make changes, and will not put something out that is wrong. David added that there's a long history of reports being done that are good ideas but are not implemented.

Paul Durham asked again about questions and comments, and clarified that the SC will be handing a draft document to DNR and the county. The document will contain recommendations and ideas? ...to which David replied yes a governance structure is being proposed, and here are our (the SC's) ideas, but the signers of the MOU will structure it. Bob Hoffmann added that the Garrett County state officials might be involved to provide an understanding on how to proceed with the legislation rather than designing the governance structure. They will be consulted on timing, on what's practical or not practical. Paul concluded his comments by stating that Catherine Shanks is correct, he (Paul) was the one who wrote the PRB 14 years ago and it takes a while to work things out.

Seeing no other conversation or commenters, David asked for a motion to adjourn, made by John Forman, seconded by Bob Browning, Bob Hoffmann, and several others, and the meeting adjourned.