

Issues Facing Deep Creek Lake as identified by the Steering Committee members.

Steering Committee Chair David Myerberg asked the members of the SC to identify those issues facing Deep Creek Lake, and to prioritize those issues according to their own interests. Six SC members responded. The following list shows the issues in the full group response priority with those issues receiving the most 'mention' being listed first.

The following pages offer the detail, including the individual comments from each SC member on each issue.

- 1. LAKE LEVELS**
- 2. EROSION and SEDIMENTATION**
- 3. SAV**
- 4. INDUSTRIAL IMPACTS**
- 5. INFRASTRUCTURE**
- 6. FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE**
- 7. WATER QUALITY**
- 8. GEESE**
- 9. GROWTH PRESSURE**
- 10. COMMUNICATE / EDUCATE**

Other ISSUES mentioned by Steering Committee members

Prioritization of the complete list N=6

1. LAKE LEVELS: First priority for 3 respondents, second priority for 2 respondents, and #7 for 1 person.

lake levels (dam releases)

Lake levels: Topic includes water releases, sediment build-up, dredging, etc,

High water levels during july (peak boat traffic) increasing erosion/sediment

Lake Levels (Need for a water budget that recognizes all inflow to the lake and all outflow from lake and provides some predictability based on science and management to insure fairness for all stakeholders regarding this resource)

Maintaining consistant lake levels to minimize shoreline erosion and subsequent sedimentation.

Standardized Designs for Shoreline Protection - Prevention of the problem(s) should be the first line of business. Deep Creek Lake is a manmade lake requiring manmade solutions to manmade problems. There is no technical reason why there should not be, say half a dozen, standard shoreline protection designs that would cover **any** part of the lake's shoreline. Approval should be a matter of just a few weeks, and there should be no cost, or minimal cost, to the applicant. After all, the applicant is improving the State's property and hence its value! A well protected shoreline can minimize erosion, sedimentation and control runoff. It can save the State a lot of money at later times. Lake levels are then only an issue for the mobility of various types of watercraft. SAVs can be controlled to some extent by minimizing sedimentation which can be accomplished with proper shoreline protection.

2. Erosion and Sedimentation: First priority for 2 respondents, Second and third priority for 1 person, and #'s 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9 for three respondents.

...sedimentation,

..., *sediment build-up,*

No streamlined anti-erosion control plans for landowners, MDE fee for anti-erosion controls, High water levels during july (peak boat traffic) increasing erosion/sediment, Sediment coming into the Lake from sources like road runoff into lake ,

Shoreline Erosion, Sedimentation,

Maintaining consistant lake levels to minimize shoreline erosion and subsequent sedimentation

Standardized Designs for Shoreline Protection.... A well protected shoreline can minimize erosion, sedimentation and control runoff. SAVs can be controlled to some extent by minimizing sedimentation which can be accomplished with proper shoreline protection

3. SAV: part of First Priority for one respondent, also # 4, 5, and 15 for three others

submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV),

Removal of savs for recreation or dredging resulting in increased turbidity

SAV

Standardized Designs for Shoreline Protection.... A well protected shoreline can minimize erosion, sedimentation and control runoff. SAVs can be controlled to some extent by minimizing sedimentation which can be accomplished with proper shoreline protection

4. INDUSTRIAL IMPACTS: First priority for 1 person, Second Priority for 1 person, 4th, 6th and 8th for one person each.

Industrial practices (mining and drilling)

4. Fracking: Potential impacts to the lake and surrounding environment as well as to the DCL infrastructure.

Potential for Fracking introduced issues in watershed

Industrial Practices (Includes drilling, fracking, & mining -- potential impacts and how to mitigate risks with best practices/superior analysis)

Minimizing the Impact of the Drilling of Gas Wells. - A lot of people have invested a great deal of money in primary and secondary homes around the lake. Any environmental impact from the drilling of gas wells nearby can have a disastrous impact on properties owned around the lake and the tax revenues derives from them. Since the tax revenues derived from lake property owners contribute over 50% to the County's economy, the County would suffer greatly if something would go bad. I don't know of any reasonable scenario that can replace lost evens from property taxes with income derived from gas production. This may imply that a 5 or 10 mile exclusion zone around the lake is required, definitely more than the 2,000 ft that's in place currently. This is a groundwater issue. Understanding groundwater movement around the lake is difficult, but vital.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE: Third priority for two respondents, Fourth priority for two respondents.

Infrastructure

Public Sewer System – can it keep up with supply and what point is it at in its lifecycle.

Infrastructure to support lake and watershed activities including residences and businesses

Infrastructure

6. FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE promotion and preservation: Second priority for one person, then 6th, 7th and 18th priority for three additional respondents.

Agricultural and Forestry practices,

Threat of deforestation in watershed

Agriculture & Forestry practices

Sustaining healthy forests within the watershed on both private and public land.

7. WATER QUALITY: First priority for one person, Third priority for one person, and an associated issue for one person.

Run-off,

3. *Water Quality: Agricultural inputs, run off, road salt, sewage spills, etc.*

Leaking/Leaching older septic systems

Lawn/agriculture/golf fertilizers and pesticides ie nutrients and toxins in Lake

road runoff into lake ,

Sustainability of future water monitoring

Sulphate and chloride levels potentially from acid mine drainage (in the 2012 DCL Water Quality Report)

Midwest airborne mercury

Run Off of all types

8. GEESE: Second priority for one person, and # 10 for one person

Geese

Resident Geese

9. GROWTH PRESSURE: #7 and #9 for one person each

Growth Pressure

Growth Pressure

10. COMMUNICATE / EDUCATE: Fourth priority for one person, and # 14 for another.

Lack of education on watershed issues for watershed landowners ie fertilizer, buffer zones, etc

Connecting with the Public - The above mentioned POA sponsored workshops, both concluded that 'communication' was our biggest issue. A watershed management plan is the result of public input. The problem is that different people like to use different media to communicate. How can we make that happen? I propose an independent website, a wiki, and an email tree. There also should be a full-time single point of contact for any issue at Deep Creek Lake who can forward the caller to a knowledgeable resource.

Other ISSUES mentioned by Steering Committee members:

Funding of Best Management Plans and Watershed Management Plan Implementation:

Management, Regulation and costs.

1. *Lake Management Funding: Secure long term funding for operational and capital expenditures. Identify new sources of funding beyond property taxes paid to the county (potentially from the State, Federal Government, Grants, taxes/fees). Significantly increase the investment in the lake, lake management and lake restoration.*

MDE fee for anti-erosion controls, Physical stability and financial security/ownership of the dam

...also

Lake front Business losses

Sustainability of fisheries in watershed

Invasives on land and in the water

The promotion of more "off lake" recreational activities to reduce pressure on the lake, water resource.
We may want to refer to the county plan.

A Reliable Bathymetric Map of the Lake - As I mentioned above, a good map is important to being able to understand and resolve most of the issues at Deep Creek Lake