

Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan Public
Meeting October 5, 2012
Group 3

7 Participants - Lulu Gonella and Erin McLaughlin facilitators

Initial issues generated:

1. **Water quality**- to include groundwater, aquifers, garbage, pump stations, fertilizer runoff, sewage spills, mercury levels in fish
2. **Lake levels** - lack of water in coves during certain times of the year
3. **Sedimentation** - coming from creeks, streams, erosion, etc. exacerbating the lake levels issue.
4. **Shoreline erosion**- resulting from high water levels, wake surfers too close to shore, etc.
5. **SAVs** - Weeds
6. **Geese**
7. The Lake Management **plan process is scheduled to take too long**. Can it not be done faster by simultaneously developing several parts of the plan rather than in a sequence.
8. **Reduction of bat population** (increased bugs).
9. **Lake overuse**
10. Fish - **reduction in bass population** - stocking plan by lake management.

Our group prioritized Water Quality as the top issue with SAVs and Lake Levels both tied for second most critical issue.

1. WATER QUALITY

Sources:

- Overuse - boats and gas
- Runoff - nutrients (nitrogen & phosphorous is not removed by sewage treatments), sewage, salt from 219 and other roads, geese (in particular, their poop)
- Potential of fracking

Solutions:

- Better pump stations, education, enforcement up to and including fines.
- Hunting season for geese. Oil geese eggs so they do not hatch but mother does not lay more.
- Sources of sedimentation - settling basins to catch sediment before it gets to the lake

Barriers:

- Funding
- Roads department methods - how to curb the runoff with the reality of DCL winters
- Continued recreational growth - Limits to future growth & development.

2. SAVs (Submerged Aquatic Vegetation)

Sources:

- ◦Introduced to the lake on boats.
- ◦Birds ◦
- Natural causes

Solutions:

- Use of herbicides - SONAR is one possibility
- Pressure wash boats prior to launching in lake
- Shading mats
- Weevils (specialized).
- Lower lake levels a in winter ◦Mowing
- Educate homeowners about what is allowed and what is encouraged from DNR's standpoint

Barriers:

- DNR won't allow weevils
- Funding

3. Lake levels

Sources:

- Management decisions - decisions made based on many different
- stakeholders with conflicting interests seeking release/draw of water or not to have water draws.
- Cove development where homes are build in naturally shallow areas
- Shoreline erosion causing sediment build up.
- Land use - sedimentation from watershed

Solutions:

- Dredging
- DNR creating process to follow to allow residents or communities to implement solutions
- Encourage more vegetation on shoreline or rock walls - which ever would be best for that location
- Erosion control ie. no wake zones, limitations of boats to proximity to docks
- Limit withdrawals of the lake.

Barriers:

- Dredging requires a engineering study.

- Funding.
- Permission & guidance is necessary from DNR and MDE

SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES LIST:

- Fewer bats - more bugs
- Geese over population
- Watershed Management Planning process is going to take too long. Why can it not be done in 6 months?
- Fish stocking in the lake. It appears there are few bass fish in the lake than in previous years.
- Lake overuse (added by Mike from your flipchart notes)