

Deep Creek Lake Watershed Plan Subcommittee Guidance

General Guidance:

Subcommittees will focus their efforts on addressing issues identified in the problem statements. Goals will be refined and coordinated with other subcommittees then brought to the SC for final language approval. Subcommittee meetings should be focused to provide an outcome for each meeting. The final outcome will be to have all draft goals, objectives and strategies developed and ready for approval by the Steering Committee at their May 5th meeting. Meeting dates and locations should be determined in advance to afford time to arrange for meeting space, advertise, and post the agenda or discussion topics at least one week prior to the meeting. Conference calls are acceptable means of meeting and free conference calling can be arranged. Call in information will be managed through the staff coordinator for each subcommittee. Web posting to the <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/deepcreekwatershedplan/> must be provided to Catherine Shanks at a minimum of 2 days before the desired posting date.

Where to begin?

- Look at the make up of the subcommittee and see if there is anyone else who can provide professional support, information or insight to assist with the work of the subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee may have ideas and these resource experts may only need to attend one meeting or provide data on request.
- Begin with focusing the discussion on the **problem statements**. First steps may include:
 - determine if this list is comprehensive
 - look at the public's concerns and determine if they are problems or perceived problems
 - determine what information we need and who we need to talk to in order to make an informed decision about whether or not it needs addressed in some way in the plan
 - prioritize this list and after acquiring the needed information and research, begin to formulate goals, objectives and strategies
- Review the draft goals and determine if the goals adequately express the direction or desired outcomes. Revise as necessary. It will be helpful for all committee members to have a good grasp of the available data and information on that topic before revising the goals. Coordination with other subcommittees will also be needed where goals overlap problem statements.
- Consider how to take steps to meet the goals when developing the objectives. Objectives should have clear actionable strategies to address them. Objectives should also consider the data and what is realistic to accomplish. For example, reducing the current intensity of development around the lake is not reasonable; however, identifying areas where preservation actions could be employed or assessing where additional stormwater controls could be implemented may be achievable.

- Consider what additional information is needed to develop good strategies. Actions such as more detailed sub-watershed assessments, stream walks, etc could help identify specific locations for implementing specific practices or with prioritizing future land management efforts.
- Assess and identify when each strategy would reasonable need to be implemented or begun. Consider start-up time, funding needs, etc. Actions such as public information campaigns could be developed and implemented in the near term where restoration projects or assessments may take longer to secure funding, permits, landowner permission and access, etc. Work can also be ongoing to develop the platform and strategy for implementation down the road.
- Recommend who would implement each strategy to include State and local agencies, private organizations or individual property owners

Problem Statements by Subcommittee (as approved by the Steering Committee at their meeting on November 4, 2013)

Lake Levels Subcommittee

Topic - Lake Levels

1. Lake residents are concerned that variations in lake levels are affecting shoreline stability and recreational access.
2. Downstream users are concerned that change in the current structure of lake releases will impact their economy. These economies include both whitewater recreation and power generation.
3. Cold water fisheries are also dependant on continuous cold water releases.

Water Quality Subcommittee

Topic – Water Quality

There is concern that water quality in the lake will worsen. Specific sources of concerns include septic systems, sewage spills, stormwater runoff, geese, gasoline engines, roads from gas extraction sites, lawn management, and agriculture.

Topic – Submerged aquatic vegetation

Lake users are concerned for the growth of SAV affecting recreational uses particularly boating and swimming. Other concerns involve the spread of invasive SAV. Some citizens recognize that SAV are an indicator of healthy water quality and fish habitat. Most boaters view SAV as a nuisance and are concerned about safety when swimming areas where there are SAV.

Topic – Erosion and sedimentation

Users and lake residents expressed concern for shoreline erosion. Sources of erosion include wave action from boat traffic and weather as well as fluctuation in lake levels resulting in unstable shorelines and loss of trees in buffers. Residents are concerned about sediment movement and deposition in the lake and the coves. Sources of sediment

include shoreline erosion, stream channel erosion and movement from new or existing impervious surfaces.

Impacts of Growth Subcommittee

Topic – Residential, Commercial and Industrial Growth

Citizens are concerned that uncontrolled industrial, commercial and residential development will adversely impact water quality, increase traffic, degrade roads and impair the aesthetic beauty of the lake and watershed. Specific concerns involve increased impervious cover, increase in pollution from stormwater runoff, impacts from septic systems, wastewater treatment capacity and gas extraction development. (additional from DNR – reduction in tree canopy from clearing for development). Protection and management of ground water drinking water supplies was also expressed as a need for inclusion in the Plan.

Accountability and Public Participation Subcommittee

Topic – Accountability, agency coordination and lake management responsibility

1. Citizens expressed a lack of understanding, clarity and accountability regarding who/what agency is responsible for different management actions on and around the lake and in the watershed.
2. Citizens also felt the agencies are not working together in a coordinated fashion and a localized management authority is needed.

Topic – Public understanding and participation

Concern was expressed for the lack of participation from watershed residents as opposed to lake residents. There is a lack of access to information on the lake governance as well as information on the watershed and the lake.

**As Recreation concerns were not specifically put into any one subcommittee each subcommittee should address any concerns that may be related to recreation that involves the focus of their subcommittee topic. For example, a commercial industry that may create much disturbance; more recreation opportunities require more parking lots; increased traffic congestion; etc. Would the concerns that the lake gets overused by boaters and boats create too much noise be addressed in the Impacts of Growth subcommittee? What about snowmobile riding on the lake in the winter? Same concern?*

****Topic – Recreation needs and conflicts***

Users expressed concern for the over use of the lake by boaters. Concerns were expressed for the perceived reduction in bass fish (to be verified through DNR fish surveys). Concerns were expressed over noise levels from boats. Inadequate public access to the lake was also expressed as a concern.

Final products:

A report following the format provide below. *The Lake Levels subcommittee is used as an example:*

Subcommittee Name: **Lake Levels**

Subcommittee members: (list names and organizations represented)

Steering Committee members

State and County Government representatives

Citizen Representatives

Staff Support: (Name)

Problem Statement:

1. Lake residents are concerned that variations in lake levels are affecting shoreline stability and recreational access. (Goals 3 &4)
2. Downstream users are concerned that change in the current structure of lake releases will impact their economy. These economies include both whitewater recreation and power generation. (Goal 1)
3. Cold water fisheries are also dependant on continuous cold water releases. (Goal 1 &4)

Goals:

Revised/ Develop Goal Language (as determined by the subcommittee, coordinated with other subcommittees as appropriate and reviewed by the Steering Committee)

Goal 1 - Protect and maintain the natural resource based economies on the lake, in the watershed and the influence area

Goal 3 - Protect and improve the quality of surface and ground water resources within the watershed.

Objective 3.2 – Reduce sediment loads to the lake by XX percent by XX Date

Goal 4 – Preserve and enhance the quality of recreational opportunities

Objectives to implement Goals: (make sure the objectives are actionable)

Recommended Strategies to implement objectives: (actions recommended to achieve the goals)

Recommended Priority (scale of 1-5)

1 = short term and immediate to 3 years

3 = mid term and 3 to 5 years

5 = long term and 5 to 10 years or more.

Recommended Responsible entity: who should implement each strategy

Appendices: (Include all reports and data used as well as minutes of meetings or meeting summaries)

I Summary of subcommittee meetings and decisions:

II References - Documents, reports, data, etc.