

## Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board

### Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Monday April 30, 2018

In Attendance: Chairman Greg Snook, Delegate Wendell Beitzel, Bob Browning, Commissioner Paul Edwards, Bob Hoffman, Robert Kelly, Senator George Edwards, DNR : Eric Null, Bruce Michael, Sgt. Mike Friend, Alan Klotz, Julie Bortz

#### **Action Agenda**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Snook at 6:00pm. Mr. Snook asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting, Mr. Browning made the motion, the motion was second by Mr. Hoffman, all board members were in favor. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Old Business**

Mr. Snook asked Mr. E. Null for an update on the Canada Goose Hunt at the lake. Mr. E. Null reported that the hunt would occur on the same week, Thanksgiving week, and begin Monday and end Wednesday of that week.

Chairman Snook asked Mr. E. Null for the update on the Lake Management Budget. Mr. Null stated that a new YSI water quality meter had been purchased for the water sampling on the lake. Mr. Snook asked how many meters were being used by Lake Management, Mr. Null replied four. Delegate Beitzel asked if there could be a budget report with a print out for the next meeting. Mr. Null stated that he could provide the report.

Delegate Beitzel asked Mr. Null if he was able to secure the full time and long term contract positions that he needed. Mr. Null stated that these positions had not been released. Delegate Beitzel asked how much was in the reserve fund. Mr. Null stated that he would have to request an update from Annapolis on the exact number, but there should be approaching \$100k in reserve. Delegate Beitzel asked if Mr. Null was the only full time PIN for Lake Management, Mr. Null replied "Yes". Senator Edwards asked that Mr. Null send Delegate Beitzel and he a letter before the session starts next year explaining the staffing needs of Lake Management, to hopefully procure the staffing needs of the office. Mr. Null agreed to send the letter and thanked Senator Edwards for his efforts.

Chairman Snook asked Mr. E. Null for an update on wake boat complaints. Mr. Null reported that there were no complaints yet and that NRP, Lake Management, Marinas and the POA will be continuing to educate the public on proper wake boat operation. Mr. Null stated that if complaints keep escalating the Board would have to decide which, if any regulations to pursue. Mr. Snook asked if there were currently any ordinances on wake boats. Sgt. Mike Friend stated that yes, and that he could provide the stats of last years boating citations. Sgt. Friend stressed that there is a large difference in wake surfing and wake

boarding. Wake surfing has a 200ft set back, while wake boarding has a 100ft set back. Mr. Snook stated that the stats from last year indicated that there were 190 citations on the lake in various categories. Sgt. Friend stated that their citations will be going to electronic citations that will allow them to break down specific violations and areas where the violations occurred better than they currently can. Mr. Browning asked what the possession of alcohol citation was. Sgt. Friend stated that it is most likely under aged possession or possession of alcohol in a non designated area like the State Park.

Chairman Snook asked Mr. Bruce Michael for a water quality update. Mr. Michael stated that they are continuing their long term water monitoring with increased focus on the coves. He also informed the Board that the Eyes on Deep Creek Lake web site would be online this summer. He also stated that they will be monitoring for zebra mussels in DCL this year, with the financial support of Brookfield Energy. Mr. Michael stated that Hydrilla control will continue this year and the first treatment is scheduled for June 4, 2018.

Senator Edwards stated that he had taken a vacation in the Western United States last year and noticed that there were many large signs and billboards with invasive species information. He stated that the signs around Deep Creek Lake were very small. He suggested that DNR work with the legislators to try and make a state wide invasive species education program.

Mr. Michael thanked the Senator and Delegate for their work procuring funding for the State Lakes Protection Fund. Mr. Kelly asked if DNR was treating any of the other state lakes that had invasive species. Mr. Michael stated "No they were not." Mr. Kelly asked if the other lakes would be seeking money from the fund for treatment. Mr. Michael stated that the other lakes would be seeking treatment money. Mr. Kelly stated that a million dollar pot is not a lot of money for treatment. Delegate Beitzel stated if there was a documented need for more and continual money for the lakes, then they could amend the bill and budget more money to the fund.

Chairman Snook asked what the budget for Hydrilla was for DCL. Mr. Null stated approximately \$200k per year.

Chairman Snook asked for an update from Commissioner Paul Edwards. Commissioner Edwards thanked the Delegate and Senator for their work on the State Lakes Protection Fund Bill. He stated that the county was developing a better system of disseminating information to the public for watershed education.

Chairman Snook asked Senator Edwards for an update on legislative issues. Senator Edwards stated that a bill was passed that added a position on the PRB for the Maryland Department of the Environment, this person will be a designee of the Secretary of the Department of the Environment. Senator Edwards informed the board that a bill had passed that mandated that a percentage of the transportation trust fund be allocated to off road recreational vehicle trail maintenance. The percentage will come from the purchase of off road vehicles.

Chairman Snook asked Delegate Beitzel for a legislative update. Delegate Beitzel stated that a bill was submitted to mandate MDE to create a standard design for shoreline erosion control and reduce the permit fees from \$750 to \$250 for all state owned lakes. He also stated that the bill did not pass due to the revenue loss that would be incurred by MDE. He stated that they would try to amend the bill in the next session.

## **New Business**

The Chairman asked regional fisheries manager Alan Klotz to give a presentation on the methodologies and health of the Deep Creek Lake fishery. Mr. Klotz discussed the various sampling techniques used for individual game fish assessment. They have found large populations of walleye, perch, largemouth bass, and panfish. The population of trophy sized pike has grown high enough that fisheries now does a pike spawning survey. Overall the health of the fishery of DCL is excellent and supports a sport fishery that is worth upward of \$63 million dollars a year.

The board and public asked Mr. Klotz about fishing opportunities on DCL and if he had sampled specific coves. Mr. Klotz answered that they do sample specific coves. A member of the public asked about the health of Green Glade Cove, Mr. Klotz stated that Green Glade Cove contains a healthy fishery.

Chairman Snook asked Mr. Null to speak on the topic of minimum wake zone requests. Mr. Null stated there were several requests for new minimum wake zones, but these requests must be vetted by the board and the board must vote to send the requests to the BAAC to begin the legislative process. He stated the areas of request are not limited to coves; he receives requests from the main body of the lake too. Mr. Snook asked if there were existing regulations that were in some of these request areas. Mr. Null stated that the setbacks for boating, skiing, and wake surfing apply to these areas. Mr. Browning commented that if there were specific areas, that the board could look into the requests, but the current minimum wake zones that exist seem to be sufficient.

Mr. Null stated that the process that the board would have to participate for the request of a minimum wake zone would be the same process as the previously requested alteration to the personal water craft regulation. Mr. Hoffman asked Mr. Null if he is receiving higher amounts of requests, and if there was one activity that spiked the requests. Mr. Null stated that the request has remained the same, but wake boats seem to be at the center of the requests. Mr. Hoffman requested that the board revisit the topic in the fall when Mr. Null has the current year's worth of data. The Chairman agreed.

## **Public Comment**

Chairman Snook asked for the public comment list. Mr. Tim Klein stated that the position of some of the existing buoys should be reviewed and amendments be made to move them. He also stated that the setbacks on wake boats be revisited with new scientific data.

Mr. Bob Sutton stated that is was he who brought up the issue of the minimum wake zones, since Sky Valley incurs approximately \$50k in damages to their docks every year due to vessels generating large wakes in their tight area. He also stated that Sky Valley has been installing a shoreline revetment along their 2000+ feet of shoreline to protect against the wakes. He asked the Chairman if he would entertain a petition for a minimum wake area in Sky Valley at this time. Chairman Snook asked if Mr. Null could gather more data on the Sky Valley area and speak to the BAAC regarding the legislative process and report back to the board. Mr. Null agreed to perform the task.

Ms. Karen Myers gave an update on the work the marinas have been doing on boating education. She informed the board that the billboard that is in McHenry is not available for boating education, but there is a billboard by Lowe's that may be available. She also stated that Deep Creek Marina was going to offer boating courses in their show room and give anyone that took the course a \$50 gift certificate

Mr. Richard Matlick stated that Green Glade Cove is a wide cove but shallow, when boaters turn and ski in Green Glade Cove they stir up the bottom sediments.

Mr. Richard Bolt asked if road way salts have any impacts on aquatic vegetation and if salt was a viable control method for aquatic vegetation. Mr. Michael stated that the introduction of salt into a freshwater ecosystem would not be good for the ecosystem.

Chairman Snook asked Mr. Null for the date of the next meeting. Mr. Null replied July 30, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Null