

Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Monday April 22, 2019

In Attendance: Chairman Bob Browning, Delegate Wendell Beitzel, Commissioner Paul Edwards, Paul Weiler, Robert Kelly, Senator George Edwards, Marta Schroyer, Patty Manown-Mash, Jim George, DNR : Eric Null, Julie Bortz, Cpl Mike Berry, Mike Naylor

Action Agenda

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Browning at 6:00pm. The Board congratulated Mr. Browning on his appointment as Chairman. Mr. Browning introduced Ms. Patty Manown-Mash as the new Board representative for the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Browning asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting, Mr. Kelly made the motion, the motion was second by Mr. Weiler, and all board members were in favor. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Canada Goose

Chairman Browning asked Mr. Null for an update on the Canada goose control. Mr. Null stated that he had spoken to the Director of the Wildlife and Heritage service, Paul Peditto. Mr. Null stated that Mr. Peditto is willing to work with the Board to seek other options for goose control, such as ground blind sites. Mr. Browning asked if Mr. Null received the letter that was sent to Mr. Peditto from Mr. Ed King, Mr. Null stated that he had received the letter. Mr. Null stated that Mr. Peditto also had the letter and would be in touch with Mr. King.

Mr. Kelly suggested that a meeting be set with the County Commissioners to discuss possible farms that were privately owned that could allow goose hunting. Mr. Null stated that he would contact Mr. Kevin Null to schedule a meeting on the topic.

Lake Management Budget

Chairman Browning asked Mr. Null for a budget update. Chairman Browning stated that COMAR regulations charge the Board with the monitoring of the Lake Management Fund to ensure that this money is separate from all other State budgets. Mr. Null stated that there is a projected \$280k surplus for this fiscal year. Mr. Weiler asked if that money would roll over to the next fiscal year. Mr. Null stated that according to the regulations that end balance must remain in the fund. Chairman Browning stated that there was an excerpt from COMAR that stated the regulations for the fund that he had sent to all Board members. Delegate Beitzel stated that there is a starred statement saying that if the fund does

not have enough money that it may access money for the Forest and Parks fund, he asked Mr. Null if he received any Forest and Parks money. Mr. Null stated that the fund has received money from Forest and Parks, but that amount has been decreasing every year.

Delegate Beitzel asked if the Hydrilla Control money had come from the Lake Management Fund, Mr. Null stated that it comes directly from the fund, except for the first year of control. The first year of hydrilla control came from a special budget amendment then Lake Management Funds had to be used as an emergency response to control Hydrilla, since no other funding was available.

Wake Boats

Chairman Browning asked for a wake boat update, Mr. Null stated that there had been not complaints yet. Mr. Null stated that he has been speaking with other organizations and that issues in narrow and shallow areas with wake boats are not limited to Deep Creek Lake, other areas are having the same complaints.

Water Quality Monitoring

Mr. Null stated that Bruce Michaels was not able to attend the meeting but Mike Naylor was in attendance to answer any questions. Mr. Null stated that the first round of lake sampling for 2019 begins tomorrow and that the department would continue to monitor SAV and water quality as they have done. He stated that the launch steward program with Garrett College would continue. Mr. Null stated that if budget money was released from Hydrilla control from funding granted by the State Lakes Fund there would be some large advancements in the water quality monitoring program to report at the next meeting.

Mr. Weiler asked how many monitoring units that Lake Management currently possessed. Ms. Julie Bortz stated that there were currently six units. Mr. Kelly asked if there were preliminary results from Arrowhead, Mr. Null stated that they had a complete year of data from Arrowhead and that the data was very interesting. Mr. Null hoped that they would hopefully have the large data set analyzed and a brief report for the next meeting.

Minimum Wake Zones

Mr. Null stated that with the change in Board Chairman, the Sky Valley proposal had been tabled for the new Chairman. Mr. Browning stated that the next step was to receive the review from Lake Management and to form a committee at the next meeting to hold a public comment meeting. After public comment is gathered then the Board can vote to send the proposal to the BAAC.

Mr. Browning asked for a motion to precede with the review of the Sky Valley proposal, Ms. Manown-Mash made the motion, Mr. Weiler second, all were in favor.

County Commissioners Update

Chairman Browning asked Commissioner Paul Edwards for an update from the county. Commissioner Edwards reported that the County received money from the Waterway Improvement Fund to begin work on the design of the dredging of Arrowhead cove. He stated that another project is the mitigation plan for Arrowhead Cove that would prevent future sediment from entering the cove after dredging.

Chairman Browning asked the Delegate and Senator for a legislative update. Senator Edwards informed the board that there was a new Secretary for DNR, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio. Senator Edwards stated that he and Delegate Beitzel submitted bills to repeal the sunset on the State Lakes Restoration and Protection Fund, but the bill had a tied vote in the House committee, and the committee chairman voted it down. He informed the Board that Delegate Beitzel and he would be meeting with the chairman of the committee this summer to discuss the resubmission of the bill in the next General Assembly.

Delegate Beitzel informed the Board that the Speaker of the House passed away the day before the session ended. He also stated that the Senate passed the State Lakes bill unanimously but that the bill did not leave the committee in the House. Delegate Beitzel stated that one bill did pass involving shoreline erosion permitting costs. He stated that the bill reduces that fee of the shoreline erosion control permit from \$750 to \$250 and that MDE must have three specified designs that can be used for erosion control. Delegate Beitzel stated that he had information showing the decreasing contributions from the Forest and Parks Fund to the Lake Management Fund from 2009-2013. He stated that there was an infusion of funds from the Forest and Parks Fund into the Lake Management Fun from 2014-2016 but these funds had also been reduced due to more money being necessary for Forest and Parks operations. Chairman Browning thanked the Delegate and Senator for the update.

New Business

Brookfield Permit Renewal

The Chairman asked Mr. Weiler for an update on the Brookfield stakeholder meetings. Mr. Weiler stated that Fisheries has asked for an extension to the temperature enhancement releases into September. He stated that the POA disagrees with the request and does not understand why they need the extra releases.

Public Comment

Mr. Time Klein stated that he did not want any new minimum wake regulations on the lake. He was also concerned that the mooring buoys that are permitted on the lake restricted recreation. He asked for clarification of DNR mapping on regulated areas.

Mr. Bob Sutton thanked the Board for proceeding on the minimum wake review for Sky Valley.

Ms. Barbara Beelar asked if the Board was going to make a statement to the Secretary about the lake water levels in the Brookfield permit review. Delegate Beitzel asked if the draft permit had become available for review; the Chairman stated that it was not yet available. Delegate Beitzel stated that a comment could not be made until they could review the draft permit. Ms. Beelar stated that since their was an MDE representative on the Board, could the Board advise the Secretary of MDE on lake matters? Delegate Beitzel stated that the Secretary of MDE would be kept advised, since there was now a representative from MDE on the Board.

Ms. Karen Myers congratulated the Chairman Browning on his new appointment.

Chairman Browning asked for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Weiler made the motion, Mr. Kelly second, all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Null

Lake Manager

Deep Creek Lake NRMA