

## Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board

### Meeting Minutes

Monday February 8, 2021

In Attendance (in person at the Lake Management Office): Acting Chairwoman Patty Manown Mash, Eric Null DNR. Attendees joining from Garrett County: Bob Sutton, David Moe for Delegate Wendell Beitzel, Marta Schroyer, Larry Iden, Steve Green for Senator George Edwards, Robert Kelly, Jim Bailey  
Attendees joining from outside Garrett County: Chairman Bob Browning, Dr. Jim George, DNR: Bruce Michael, Emily Vainieri, Julie Bortz

#### **Action Agenda**

Acting Chairwoman Patty Manown Mash asked Mr. Null for a roll call of the Board members and where they were broadcasting from, Mr. Null proceeded with the roll call. The Chairwoman asked for the status of the November meeting minutes. Mr. Null stated they were approved and posted to the NRMA web site in on January 19, 2021.

#### **Old Business**

##### Canada Geese

Mr. Null stated that there will be the same three day hunt this year. He stated that if Covid restrictions are eased Wildlife and Heritage Service and Lake Management are going to explore some private shoreline areas that are interested in allowing goose hunting.

##### Lake Management Budget

Mr. Null stated that the budget is doing well this year from the State Lake Fund covering the Hydrilla treatment expenditure. He stated that Lake Management was able to purchase two more continuous water quality monitoring sondes and other technology that will aide with the water quality monitoring program. He stated that the total expenditure was approximately \$50k. He stated that it looks like there will be a surplus in the budget although they must repair the gutters on the Lake Management Office.

##### Water Quality Monitoring

Mr. Null stated that the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Foundation (DCLWF) has worked very tirelessly to help fund the DCL water quality monitoring program. Mr. Null was pleased to announce that a

partnership with the DCLWF has been established and that the DCLWF purchased four continuous water quality monitoring meters for the program bringing the total expenditure for the program to over \$115k for this year. Mr. Null stated that the partnership will allow Lake Management to collect the much-needed baseline data in the cove areas much faster and with more accuracy.

Mr. Michael stated that he too would like to thank that DCLWF since there is not a lot of available funding, he is appreciative of all the help they can provide. He stated that Hydrilla treatment will occur in 2021 but will be reduced due to the effectiveness of the treatment. He stated that they have received federal grant money to evaluate EDNA as a potential detection tool for hydrilla and zebra mussels. He states that they are working with the administrative council to evaluate their aquatic invasive species website. He stated that the final thing is that there are several bills in General Assembly for the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund to remove the sunset on the Fund so that funding would continue to be given to the state lakes. Another Bill is being reviewed to increase the amount of funding for the fund. The fund has been very successful especially at Deep Creek Lake.

Mr. Sutton asked if they could use another water quality meter, Mr. Michael stated that since these meters take a lot of staff time to use, he would have to evaluate if there was sufficient staffing for the current meters that were purchased by the DCLWF. Mr. Sutton asked Mr. Michael to let him know since the POA would consider purchasing another meter. Mr. Michael stated that Brookfield and The DCLWF have committed money to Zebra Mussel Monitoring. He stated that they would have to evaluate what was more important to focus on.

Mr. Steve Green asked with the additional water quality meters if DNR could process the data or will it be too much data. Mr. Michael stated that they would be doing the data management with new meters. Mr. Sutton stated that he would be testifying on behalf of the State Lakes Fund bills.

### Water Level Request

Mr. Null Stated that Chairman Browning wanted this to stay on the agenda due to all of the projects that were relying on the drop of the water level. Mr. Sutton stated that Brookfield stated that they have a projected power out put for the year and if we want water levels to be lower, we need to request that by March for the following year. Mr. Null asked if the Board would like to request the water level be lowered in winter 2021. Mr. Sutton made the motion for requesting the water level be dropped in the winter for four weeks, Ms. Schroyer second. Mr. Green asked what the purpose for the request is, Mr. Null stated SAV management for the near shore, and to aide with shoreline erosion control projects. Mr. Green asked if it would inhibit the Wisp ability to make snow, Mr. Null stated that it would not. Ms. Manowan Mash asked for a vote. All were in favor, the motion to request that Brookfield lower the lake level in the winter passed.

### Publicizing Deep Creek Lake Projects

Mr. Null stated that he will begin the inspections for the second round of the shoreline erosion control grants. He stated that there will be \$250k available for 25 grants for \$10k. He stated that in year one the

grant helped protect over a mile of shoreline, plant over 600 native species and install over 200 fish habitat structures. Mr. Null stated that he hopes that this program continues into the foreseeable future.

Mr. Null asked Mr. Bob Hoffman if he would like to speak about the partnership with the DCLWF. Mr. Hoffman stated that the DCLWF is dedicated to the implementation of the DCL Watershed Plan. He stated that one of the most important projects is water quality. He stated that they started a campaign in 2020 for the water quality monitoring program. He stated that they were able to purchase four meters that will be delivered to the Lake Management Office.

Mr. Kelly asked after an individual receives the \$10k grant, how much more does a shoreline revetment cost. Mr. Null stated that revetments cost between \$10k - \$350k depending on multiple factors. He stated that they typically cost between \$250-\$450 per linear foot.

#### County Commissioner Update

Commissioner Paul Edwards stated that they have a waterline project that the county requested that the lake level be reduced, he stated that after some more engineering review that they would be able to install the project at the current level as soon as the ice is gone. Commissioner Edwards stated that the county is looking for funding for the dredging project and has inquired with DNR about applying to the federal government for Great Outdoors Grant money, they also requested some general funding from the Governor's budget.

#### Correspondence to DNR

Mr. Null stated that he spoke to the BAAC the North Glade Cove Minimum Wake zone has been reviewed by Assistant Secretary Anderson and has been sent to the Secretary.

Mr. Kelly asked if anyone has investigated AgriLaser as a geese deterrent. Mr. Null stated that he would have to investigate the product and have it reviewed by the department. Mr. Null stated he would look at the product.

#### Office of the Attorney General Update

No Update at this time

#### Public Comment

Randy Brooks asked for some more information on the piolet project for dredging. Commissioner Edwards stated that the county applied for money to do a test project on Arrowhead cove. He stated that the county received some money for the project but the estimate for the project is \$3 million dollars. HE stated they need 1.5 million dollars to do the project.

William Mitchell asked where the nine locations were located for hydrilla treatment. Mr. Null stated that if he would send him an email that he would send Mr. Mitchell a map of the sites.

Mr. Michael stated he is planning on retiring in April and Tom Parham will be participating in the PRB meetings. He thanked the board for their support.

Mr. Sutton made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Edwards second, all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting is April 26, 2021 from 4-6pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Null

Lake Manager