

## Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board

### Meeting Minutes

Monday July 25, 2022

In Attendance : Chairman Bob Browning, Patty Manowan Mash, Bob Sutton, , Robert Kelly, Commissioner Paul Edwards, Dr. Jim George, Larry Iden, Senator George Edwards, Marta Schroyer, DNR: Eric Null, Julie Bortz, Tom Parham

#### **Action Agenda**

Chairman Browning asked for a roll call, Mr. Null preformed the roll call at the request of the Chairman. A quorum was confirmed. Minutes were approved and posted on the DCL NRMA website in May 2022

#### **Old Business**

##### Canada Geese

Mr. Null stated that a meeting with Wildlife and Heritage will take place this fall. He stated that Wildlife and Heritage Service are promoting goose hunting in Garrett County and there are more people interested in participating. Mr. Kelly asked how the number of geese shot in a season is determined? Mr. Null stated that the numbers come from the Wildlife and Heritage service employees that participate in the hunt, reporting by the public would be totally voluntary.

##### Lake Management Budget

Mr. Null stated that there were no new updates since the last meeting. Mr. Kelly asked if the Lake Management Budget was still paying the increased fees for staff, Mr. Null stated yes.

##### Minimum Wake Education

Chairman Browning asked Ms. Karen Myers for an update. She stated that the Water Sports Institute supplied the POA with an educational video that is now shown in Garrett Cinemas. They also provided educational materials that have been distributed around the lake. There were several adds that ran during the holiday weekend reminding boaters to mind their wake. Currently an educational brochure is being developed to distribute to the marinas and permit holders. She announced that the Water Sports Industry will hold a reception at Ace's Run on August 16<sup>th</sup> to promote smart boating practices.

Mr. Sutton made a proposal to change the regulation under the bridges to minimum wake for all vessels not just jet skis. Chairman Browning asked if there were any records of any problems with the current regulation. Mr. Null said he would have to ask NRP if they had any records of incidents under the

bridges. Chairman Browning stated that the regulation committee should schedule a meeting to discuss the matter.

#### Water Quality Monitoring

Mr. Tom Parham stated that monthly lake sampling is continuing throughout the summer, continuous monitors have also been installed in coves. These meters provide data sampling every 15 minutes. He thanked the Watershed Foundation and POA for their generous donation of meters. He informed the board that the State Lakes Fund has been extended for another 3 years, he informed the board to send questions to Mr. Null.

Ms. Bortz stated that it is the 9<sup>th</sup> year of hydrilla treatment, to date no new hydrilla beds have been discovered and no old hydrilla beds have been found. The treatment is very successful, DNR will continue monitoring of all the historic bed sites to ensure that hydrilla has been eradicated in those areas. She informed the Board that SAV surveys will continue this year with a design that will allow for the monitoring of draw down impacts on the SAV community. The Administrative Council asked the University of Maryland to research the topic of draw down impacts on SAV and the Watershed Foundation also commissioned a study on the same topic. Mr. Iden stated that the emergent grass community of the lake is almost gone. Ms. Bortz stated that the herbicide used for hydrilla should not impact the native vegetation, but there are other factors such as wakes, water level, etc. that can impact emergent communities.

Chairman Browning asked if the cost of treatment has come down. Mr. Null stated that as the Department eradicates areas of hydrilla, the cost of the herbicide increases due to inflation, so we have less treatment areas, but the cost is the same.

#### Water Level Request

Dr. Jim George contacted Amy at Brookfield for an update on the turbine repair. The white-water releases are not effective under 200 cfs of river flow without both turbines operating. They are monitoring flows closely to perform make up releases for whitewater. MDE has allowed the unscheduled releases due to the unique circumstances. TER releases have been extended due to the lower flow releases. The outage is not keeping Brookfield from meeting the rule band requirements. Chairman Browning stated that it will be interesting to see how this influences TER releases in the future.

#### Publicizing Deep Creek Lake Projects

Mr. Null stated that the next round of shoreline erosion control grant paperwork has been sent to eligible applicants but getting people to communicate with Lake Management to receive their paperwork has been a slow process. He does not know the reason for the slow pace in communication. Lake Management installed dozens of bundles of pine trees in the lake for fish habitat thanks to the partnership with Thousand Acres golf course.

#### County Commissioner Update

Commissioner Paul Edwards stated that with the primary election over, the county will have at least one new commissioner. He informed that board that the Glendale Road straightening project is going to finally take place. Mr. Bruce Michael stated that the dredging project will have to coordinate with the

Glendale project. The County will be meeting with State Highways about the coordination efforts. The permits to MDE and Army Corps have been submitted and they are currently working on the restoration plan. The start date is September next year and there will be public meetings held closer to the start time of the project.

Ms. Manowan Mash introduced Mr. Will Wroblewski The new Chamber President. Mr. Wroblewski stated that he is from New Hampshire, but his wife is from Garrett County. The Chamber is the largest business organization in the county. The Chamber promotes tourism and local business, it also serves tourists as a guide to Garrett County through the visitor center. He thanked all the Chamber Board members for their service.

#### Correspondence to DNR

#### Attorney General Office Update

No Update at this time

#### **New Business**

Mr. Morgan France updated the Board on the Watershed Foundations projects. He stated that the Foundation has spent over \$300k on watershed projects. Today representatives from Pennwest University at California are sampling 22 lake tributaries for water quality. The Foundation has used them before on Arrowhead Cove and for SAV research. The Foundation supports the Waterwise Program done by the extension office. The future project for the Foundation is the update to the water budget model. A model that can predict what volume of water will enter the lake, will allow for more precise releases from the dam to serve whitewater and fishing communities. The Foundation would like to install rain gauges at Hoyes Run and Cherry Creek to attain more accurate perception data. This will allow for more precise calculations of water inflow into the lake.

#### Public Comment

No Public Comment

Chairman Browning asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Sutton made the motion and Ms. Manowan Mash second. All were in favor.

The next meeting will be October 24, 2022 at 6:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Null

Lake Manager