

## Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board

### Meeting Minutes

Monday May 2 , 2022

In Attendance : Chairman Bob Browning, Patty Manowan Mash, Bob Sutton, Delegate Wendell Beitzel, Steve Green for Senator George Edwards, Robert Kelly, Jim Bailey, Commissioner Paul Edwards, Dr. Jim George, Marta Shroyer, Larry Iden. DNR: Eric Null, Emily Vainieri, Daryl Anthony, Julie Bortz

#### **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 for March 2022.

#### **Old Business**

##### Canada Geese

Mr. Null indicated he had a verbal confirmation from the Park Superintendent to expand the goose hunting season. He stated that one of the biologist that works for the Wildlife and Heritage Service harvested over 200 geese on a neighboring farm and another farm harvested over 300. He stated that Wildlife and Heritage would be incorporating DCL geese into their mark recapture studies. Mr. Kelly asked if these geese were the permanent geese on the lake. Mr. Null said that they were and that hunting participation is growing in Garrett County. Mr. Iden asked if the egg oiling is still being done. Mr. Null stated that it is.

##### Lake Management Budget

Mr. Null stated that the inflation is impacting the Lake Management budget. He noted that the budget buffer that the office usually has will be reduced due to high prices. Delegate Beitzel stated that he had a financial report from legislative services. He asked Mr. Null how much his total budget was, Mr. Null answered it was approximately \$940k. Delegate Beitzel asked if Mr. Null is the individual that submits the budget request directly to the office of budget management. Mr. Null replied Park Service submits the requests, he only submits his request to his regional manager. Delegate Beitzel stated that the report he received had the Lake Management budget at over 1 million dollars. Chairman Browning stated that the Budget sub-Committee will review the legislative service report. Delegate Beitzel asked what was driving the expenditure increases. Mr. Null stated that the mandated Human Resources seasonal hourly rate increase and rising inflation given the budget was approved before the fiscal year started.

Mr. Kelly stated that the Budget Committee was concerned that the Lake Manager could not directly access the reserve fund. The report received by Delegate Beitzel noted that the reserve fund has over \$400k Mr. Null was unaware of the number until the Delegate gave his report. Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Null what all the steps between legislative services and his budget were. Mr. Daryl Anthony stated that he could comment on the budget process in general. He stated that when money comes to DNR it first stops at the Secretary's Office after being approved by legislature and budget management. The final budget for the next Fiscal Year has not been disseminated to DNR yet, since the legislative session has just ended. Mr. Null will not receive his budget numbers until the final DNR budget is submitted to the Secretary's Office.

Delegate Beitzel stated that they tried to extend the State Lakes Fund for three more years but the bill did not pass. However, through the Maryland Great Outdoors Act there is one million dollars a year for three years. Steve Green asked if there were direct funds approved for Deep Creek Lake in the Maryland Great Outdoors Act. Delegate Beitzel stated that Deep Creek Lake does not have any direct funding at this point. Mr. Anthony added that the Maryland Great Outdoors Act was just approved and that DNR does not know how much money or where it will be directed within the department. He stated that once the new fiscal year arrives the department will know more.

Delegate Beitzel added that due to the surplus of federal funds there is money which will be allocated all over the state. He stated that every rural county will receive 1 million dollars and the money will be directed to critical maintenance projects on state facilities. Further, he noted the legislature approved 4 million dollars to design and build a biking/walking trail along the Yough River from Sang Run to Swallow Falls.

Chairman Browning noted that the numbers that the Delegate provided will be reviewed and that any funding from the State Lakes Fund will provide relief to the budget. He stated that it is not an immediate problem, but it must be projected out to determine if and when it will become a problem.

Chairman Browning asked when a good date and time would be for the next Budget Committee meeting. It was decided that the meeting would be May 16, 2022 at 10:00am.

### Water Quality Monitoring

Ms. Julie Bortz stated that zebra mussel monitoring for the previous season did not detect zebra mussels in the lake. She stated that the chemical analysis of the water determined that the lake has low calcium levels that coincides with poor habitat for zebra mussels. She stated that the average calcium level was 7 mg/l which is low for the mussels but not low enough to negate their colonization. Her recommendation was to sample calcium biannually.

Ms. Bortz stated that the Launch Steward program will continue. She asked Mr. Null to comment on the program. The program has a 98% approval rating with the public. Ms. Bortz stated that the program is trying to expand to other state access points. Chairman Browning asked if it was true boats coming to Deep Creek Lake had to remain out of the lake for three days. Ms. Bortz stated only if the boat is contaminated, then it must be decontaminated by one of the marinas. The time delay for a contaminated boat is dependent on the time that the marina requires to service the vessel. She stated that the water quality monitoring contract is still being finalized and it should be finalized by the next meeting and continuous monitoring will continue this season.

#### Water Level Request

Dr. Jim George stated that to his knowledge there are no request for a drawdown for this coming year due to the Arrowhead Cove Project not occurring until next year. Mr. Sutton stated that the POA would like to see the water level lowered to control the near shore SAV. He stated that it should be a continued request to Brookfield. Chairman Browning stated that the concern of Brookfield is that there would not be sufficient water to refill the lake. Delegate Beitzel asked if there was any evidence of lowering the level helps. Mr. Sutton stated that the POA funded a study done by California University of Pennsylvania that shows that it can have an impact to SAV. Mr. Bruce Michael stated that the Administrative Council has contracted University of Maryland to perform a similar study. He stated that they would like to have a panel of experts to discuss the issue. Mr. Green stated water levels may control the SAV but also helps the contractors install the shoreline erosion control walls.

Dr. George stated that Brookfield needs a year advanced notice and we agreed to once every three years for a drawdown. The PRB may request but Brookfield does not have an obligation to perform drawdowns. He stated that the effects of Mercury and SAV impacts are what the State are analyzing to determine if drawdown is viable method for management. MDE has no position on the drawdown, as long as, the water level meets the permit requirements. Chairman Browning stated that in the past the large draw downs did not seem to have an effect on the fishery.

Dr. George stated that unit two power generation turbine is down and will not be repaired until July. He stated that Brookfield has informed the white-water community to discuss the possible reduction of releases. They are working on the temperature releases with one turbine.

#### Publicizing Deep Creek Lake Projects

Mr. Null stated that round three of the shoreline erosion control grants has started. Lake Management will be inspecting and issuing the agreements for the grant. He stated that fish habitat installation will begin in the next week, with a partnership with Thousand Acres Golf Course Lake Management has been supplied with pine trees to install as a multihabitat approach for fish habitat.

#### County Commissioner Update

Commissioner Paul Edwards stated that the Glendale Road realignment project will happen in late 2022 or early 2023. He stated that the County's Budget meeting will be May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Michael stated that the Arrowhead Cove project is moving forward. He stated that the money for the project was not received by DNR until the fall of 2021, and the County contracted MES to design the project. He stated that they are in the process of signing the contracts with the private property owners and that the permitting should be complete by early winter with a start in September 2023. Delegate Beitzel asked if there were

any plans to have sediment prevention to prevent future sedimentation from entering the cove. Mr. Michael state that the area to install a sediment trap is a pristine wetland that already cleans sediment from the stream. Mr. Michael stated that the Administrative Council will hold a Brunch and Learn on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the Watershed Management Plan.

#### Correspondence to DNR

No correspondence received

#### **New Business**

##### Office of Outdoor Recreation

Mr. Daryl Anthony stated that he was a former Regional Park Manager, Assistant Secretary of DNR, and now is the Director of the Office of Outdoor Recreation. The office is not unique, there are 17 other states that have an Office of Outdoor Recreation, the movement of this type of activity is coming from western states to the east. The mission of this office in Maryland is a result of the Governor's MORE commission. This group was composed of outdoor recreation specialists that evaluated the economic impact of outdoor recreation. He stated that he is charged with evaluating outdoor recreational opportunities in five ways ;1) what can we do to enhance the outdoor industry while still maintaining the environment and natural resources, 2) Education and workforce development, 3) Economic Development, increasing the economic opportunity for the local economy, 4) Public Health and Wellness for both mental and physical health, 5) Equity, Access, and Inclusion.

Mr. Anthony stated that his office's budget will be allocated in the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Sutton asked if Mr. Anthony is under DNR, Mr. Anthony stated that the position was developed between two cabinet Secretaries: DNR and Commerce. The decision was made to locate the office within DNR due to the sustainability of natural resources being the most important factor of outdoor recreation. Delegate Beitzel stated that this office is very important to Garrett County due to the County's large amount of recreational potential.

Mr. Kelly asked if Mr. Anthony must request his budget from both Commerce and DNR for funding? Mr. Anthony stated that the budget was determined before he was hired to the position his primary means to accomplish his mission is to work with the private sector to provide services within state parks that the state does not otherwise provide.

##### Deep Creek Lake Regulation

Mr. Kelly made a motion to extend the meeting past the 8:00pm time. Everyone was in favor of the motion, the meeting continued.

Mr. Null stated that there were two regulations that were proposed to be discussed: Wake Boat regulations, dock installation prior to April 1. He suggested that the discussion take place in a committee. \_Larry Iden, Bob Sutton and Chairman Browning volunteered for the committee. The Chairman welcomed other stake holders to volunteer for the committee.

#### Attorney General's Office Update

Ms. Vainieri stated that the rules and bylaw draft is complete, and she will send the draft to the Board for the next meeting.

Public Comment

Ed King stated that the Canada geese problem is still evident.

Parker Jacobs volunteered for the regulation committee.

Karen Myers Volunteered for the regulation committee.

Ms. Manowan Mash made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Kelly second the motion all were in favor.

The next meeting will be July 25, at 6:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Null

Lake Manager