

Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board

Meeting Minutes

Monday October 24, 2022

In Attendance : Chairman Bob Browning, Patty Manowan Mash, Bob Sutton, , Commissioner Paul Edwards, Dr. Jim George, Larry Iden, Senator George Edwards, Delegate Wendell Beitzel
Marta Schroyer, DNR: Eric Null, Julie Bortz, Emily Vainieri

Action Agenda

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

Old Business

Canada Geese

Mr. Null stated that the annual goose hunt would be the three days before Thanksgiving. He stated that Wildlife and Heritage have changed the hunt to include all waterfowl to make the opportunity more attractive for participants. He informed the Board that there would be more meetings to discuss the expansion of the hunting areas and hunting season on the lake.

Lake Management Budget

Mr. Null stated that he received information from Park Headquarters that the County has requested that the Lake Management Budget would pay the entire cost for the County Watershed Coordinator position. Commissioner Edwards stated that he was unaware that a request of that much money had been submitted to the State. Chairman Browning asked Mr. Null to request a copy of the request from Park Headquarters. Mr. Null agreed to ask for the hard copy of the request. Senator Edwards asked Mr. Null to what position in the Park Service was the request sent. Mr. Null stated that the request was send to the Superintendent of the Park Service.

Chairman Browning asked the Board to pause business for a few minutes to recognize the careers and the many contributions of Senator Edwards and Delegate Beitzel. He stated that the Senator and Delegate have been responsible for the many programs that are supported around the lake, as well as, being instrumental in the States purchase of the lake. He presented each of the legislators with a letter from the Board thanking them for their many years of service to the State of Maryland and the Deep Creek Lake Community.

Water Quality Monitoring

Ms. Julie Bortz stated that the department continued the water quality sampling protocols for the lake in 2022. She stated that the continuous monitoring program has one more season of sampling to achieve baseline seasonal data in all of the Deep Creek Lake coves. She thanked the Watershed Foundation and POA for their generous donations of continuous water quality monitoring equipment. She updated the Board on the status of the Hydrilla treatment program; she stated that there were no new areas of Hydrilla found in 2022 and it has been two years since any Hydrilla has been found in DCL. The treatment program is successful and the department will be able to stop treating several sites in 2023. She asked Mr. Null if there were any updates on the Launch Steward Program. Mr. Null stated that boating levels were at 2016 levels this year. He attributes that drop in boating to the nationwide high gas prices. He stated that there were fewer boats harboring invasive species this year and that the demographic of vessels on DCL came from more local areas than usual.

Water Level Request

Mr. Morgan France of the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Foundation presented information to the Board concerning the positive impacts of annually drawing the water level to 2455.5. He provided data that indicated that this annual drawdown would scour away fine material and deposit the material in deeper water where it would not be a navigation hazard. He stated that the lack of fine material in the nearshore area would limit the growth of SAV around dock structures. He asked the Board to recommend that Brookfield lower the water level annually. Chairman Browning stated that the Board had already submitted a request to Brookfield to lower the water level. He asked Mr. Null to convey that the Board is still requesting an annual drawdown to the lower rule band.

Publicizing Deep Creek Lake Projects

Mr. Null stated that all of the applicants for the 2022 round of SEC Grants have been submitted to Annapolis. He stated that there is a new project coming in 2023. The project is titled the "10 in 10". The object of this community program is to achieve 10 percent woody vegetative coverage along the entire 65 miles of buffer strip within 10 years. He stated that the program is a partnership Between the Foundation, POA, Lake Management, Forestry and Cooperative Extension Service. He informed the Board that the Program will kick off with a demonstration project at the State Park boat ramp in spring 2023

County Commissioner Update

Mr. Bruce Michael stated that the Arrowhead Cove Project would be requesting a drawdown for the project. He stated that there would be public meetings to address the project once they acquire all of the permits. Senator Edwards asked if the dredging would be hydraulic or Dry dredging. Mr. Michael stated that dredging in the dry is the preferred method, and the material will be trucked to the landfill. Delegate Beitzel asked if they could have the lake drawn down below the lower rule band, Mr. Michael stated that there were too many regulatory hurdles inhibiting excursions below the lower rule band.

Commissioner Edwards stated that they have issued the bid for the straightening of Glendale Road. He stated that there are plans for a walking and bike lane. Mr. Sutton asked if the Glendale Road would be closed during construction. Commissioner Edwards stated that they have not determined if they will close the road or not.

New Business

Watershed Request for AIS Regulation Review

Mr. Bob Hoffman of the Watershed Foundation asked the PRB Regulatory Committee be convened to discuss the possibility of more AIS regulations on a statewide initiative. He stated that the regulation should have a clause that states an individual must clean their boat before launching in a Maryland Water Body. He stated that it is past time for the state to initiate better protection of our water bodies. He stated the Senator and Delegate would be needed to consult on the regulatory and legislative aspects of forming a regulation.

Mr. Sutton asked how the Bay be excluded, or would you just stay in the lakes. Delegate Beitzel stated that keeping the regulation to the State Lakes would be an easier process. Senator Edwards agreed that state lakes should be the initial focus then possibly expanded in the future.

Mr. Iden stated that their fishing tournaments would be impaired by the new regulation. Mr. Hoffman asked if they planned these tournaments, well in advance. Mr. Iden stated that they plan well in advance for these events. Mr. Hoffman suggested making cleaning of the boats part of the initial tournament entry package, so fishermen had plenty of advance notice. Mr. Hoffman stated that if we can get people use to cleaning boats then eventually, they will clean the vessel without being reminded. The Chairman asked the Mr. Null to distribute the information

Correspondence to DNR

Attorney General Office Update

Mr. Null stated that the Board has a draft of the new regulation that will allow the early deployment of docks. Ms. Vainieri stated that she had prepared the draft and asked the Board to review the draft. Mr. Sutton made a motion to approve the draft Ms. Manowan Mash second, all members approved. Senator Edwards advised to publicly announce when the regulation is approved and codified.

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 January 9, 2023 at 6:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Null

Lake Manager