

Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board
Regular Quarterly Meeting
Garrett College
Monday August 4, 2014

In Attendance: Chairman Dr. David Myerberg, David Moe, Senator George Edwards, John Stakem, Barbara Beelar, Robert Hoffman, County Commission Gatto, Larry Iden, Susan Fowler, Major Daryl Anthony, NRP Sergeant Michael Friend, NRP Lieutenant Harry Cage, NRP Captain Kelly Johnson, and 16 members of the public.

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 by Chairman Myerberg, stating that this was the Meeting for July, 2014.

Action Agenda: Chairman Myerberg asked if there were any changes or corrections to the April 28, 2014 minutes, no changes were noted. Mr. Myerberg asked for a motion to accept. Motion made by David Moe, seconded by John Stakeman, all approved. Minutes were accepted.

Old Business:

Posting of minutes:

Ms. Beelar stated, if you google Deep Creek Policy and Review Board, you get a set of options, if you choose the one with minutes you get old minutes from July 2013. You have to choose that one listed as Deep Creek Lake NRMA Department of Natural Resources. Ms. Beelar would like to recommend that there should be away for Annapolis to put a link that refers you to the new web site. Major Daryl Anthony stated that the entire DNR is going through a change with new email and web sites, it has been a big transaction and that in time the old websites will be inactive.

NRP Issues:

Ms. Beelar stated that she called to report two jet skies in her cove driving recklessly. When she called the NRP number she was given, she was transferred from one person to another. She was told that if she left information she would receive a call back. Barbara stated that she did not receive a call back. With the help of Major Daryl Anthony, Barbara was able to speak with NRP Sergeant Riley, who gave her more detail on what incidents take priority. At the time of Ms. Beelar's call there was a head trauma that took priority over her call. Lt. Harry Cage retrieved tapes of Ms. Beelar's calls and the calls were made on Tuesday not Saturday an Officer made a call back to Ms. Beelar but was unable to reach her. The officer went to the site which, was called in as the Southern end of the lake, and at that time the officer saw no violations. Lt. Cage also stated that they have 3 vessels on the lake though the week and more on weekends. Major Daryl Anthony wanted to clarify that dispatch was on 24/7 365. Captain Johnson stated that you should never receive a recording if using 410-260-8888 or 1-800-268-9944.

Watershed Management Plan:

The first round has been completed. A 39 page document is online, with 70-75 pages of characteristics and backgrounds. The document will be even larger when all references are included. The finished plan will be about 200 pages. The steering committee used all the suggestions of the DNR and the County to produce a foundation for organization that will oversee the lake for years to come. This foundation will take time to implement given that all parties must agree to any new management of the lake. The lake must maintain its current trophic level and stakeholders must strive to make the lake even better quality. There will be a public meeting on Saturday at 10 am at the Wisp, this location was made possible by a generous donation by Pete Versteegen. Dr. David Myerberg asked for any more comments. It was noted that a hard copy of the Watershed Management Plan was available in Debbie Carpenters office located at the Garrett County Planning and Zoning Office.

Sub Committee:

Canada Geese

Dr. Myerberg stated that DNR were out on the lake in Spring-Summer treating oiling eggs in the t nests. He has tried to contact Paul Peditto to see how many eggs but was unable to reach Mr. Peditto. He felt that it was more than 90 over last year. Dr. Myerberg stated that he has not seen as many baby geese this summer. Barbara Beelar stated that the higher lake level had drowned out parts the nests.

Lake Budget

The subcommittee has not had the opportunity to have a meeting. Mark Hoffman has stated he will be glad to meet on this subject. Dr. Myerberg is hoping to get have a meeting soon.

Laws and Regulations impacting the Watershed

Compendium of laws for the Watershed, are available online. The document is about 100 pages with over 700 footnotes. Dr. Myerberg thanked the DNR for the funding for Craig Sheppard the law student, who composed the document and also, Mr. Getty, John Nelson, and Debbie Carpenter for their time and contributions to the document. Dr. Myerberg hopes to keep this document updated on a yearly basis and available online. Ms. Beelar stated that she has sent several documents to review by email and has not had any response, Dr. Myerberg asked her to resend and he would review the documents.

SAV's update on Hydrilla and Volunteers:

Ms. Beelar stated there is an article in the North American Lake Management Society newsletter titled Benefits of Controlling Nuisance Aquatic Plants and Algae. She will send the link to the article to the board. Barbara welcomed the Keith Stipe and John Major who were student interns with Friend of Deep Creek Lake and volunteered with the stewardship program. They presented a power point presentation on hydrilla. They worked with DNR's Julie Boritz on areas of hydrilla that she feels may have the potential to spread. They have launched a program called Hydrilla Watch, which can help DNR scientist with surveillance work. They are effectively training volunteers to be in the water and to be able to identify hydrilla. They presented a device that is used to drag the bottom, they first have to use a GPS and log where the area of the lake which they are sampling and then place the finding in plastic bags to be identified by DNR biologists. They have been working with Deep Creek Lake Yacht Club. Together they have designed a model of a sign that shows how to correctly clean their boats. John Major called the number to report invasive species, which is the general number for DNR and was then transferred the Wildlife Heritage division who transferred to his call to Jonathan McKnight, who used to be the team leader of the invasive species matrix team. The matrix team had dissolved last year, so there is no where to report invasive plants. With the help of Wendell Beitzel and Senator George Edwards a letter was sent to the Attorney General's office seeking an option of Maryland State law, to investigate if the Department of Natural Resources can inspect private vessels. They are currently awaiting answer.

A current launch steward program has started at the public boat ramp located at Deep Creek Lake State Park. There is currently no wash station at the boat ramp. Susan Fowler asked if the hydrilla grows on the boat. The answer was, no it does not but it only take about 1in of hydrilla to start a new community. Ms. Fowler also asked if any had been found at boat launch. At this time no hydrilla has been found at the boat launch. It takes about 7 days of direct sunlight to effectively dry a boat enough to prevent SAV spread. Susan Fowler asked about how many boats are launched from boat ramp, Major Daryl Anthony answered about 300-350 weekend and 500 on holidays.

Larry Iden asked if the herbicide that they are using to kill hydrilla was harmful to any other SAV. Major Anthony said it can also kill Eurasian Watermilfoil, it is currently bleaching the leaves and the tops of the plants are dropping off. Larry Iden said that when fishing some areas the shoreline grass is no longer there. Barbara stated that in her cove the shoreline are now mounds of dirt and this grass is needed to stabilize the shoreline. Mr. Iden made the commit that the geese have been eating the top off of the grass in Chadderton School and Deep Creek cove. Mrs. Beelar exhibited concerns over a statement made by Bruce Michael in the state of lake meeting concerning Eurasian Watermilfoil. She said the Mr. Michael while addressing the hydrilla issue stated that DNR has no plans of any treatment on Eurasian Watermilfoil. Mr. Iden committed that Eurasian Watermilfoil is not as detrimental as hydrilla to Eurasian water milfoil not growing as thick as hydrilla.

Mr. Hoffman brought to the attention of the PRB an article that was in the NALMS journal. The article stated that hydrilla can produce a harmful bacteria that when eaten by waterfowl particularly coots that the bacteria can multiply and become toxic

to the predators to the coots such as the bald eagle. Mr. Hoffman forwarded this article to Mr. Michael and Mr. Michael replied it was not abundant enough to produce sufficient levels of toxic bacteria in Deep Creek Lake.

Sedimentation Study

The study was posted this week it's a very large document. Do to the document being controversial. Dr. Myerberg would like this group to review the study and comment on its content. Dr. Myerberg was open to any suggestions as to how to proceed with this review. Ms. Beelar has prepared a presentation showing the analysis that FoDCL had done on the sediment study. Dr Myerberg decided to table the presentation for a later work group meeting. Mr. Hoffman wanted to know what types of goals would Dr. Myerberg like for the group to accomplish while receiving the sediment study Dr. Myerberg suggests taking a second look at the sediment study do to the DNR conclusion of no dredging and analyzing what the consultant chose as the benefits of dredging and of not dredging

Bob Hoffmann suggest that someone from DNR associated with the study be brought into the board discussion of the study to clarify any points in the very large and comprehensive

Dr Myerberg suggests a possible sub committee for reviewing the sediment study.

John Stakeman questioned the long term effect of dredging and how many years of regeneration and the over effect of all of lake

Dr Myerberg suggest that some one from consultant firm should be in present in the review

Since DNR was not affiliated with the independent study. Ms.Beelar suggests bringing in a dredging contractor, that motion was tabled until the initial sediment study has be review. It is suggested Garrett County Economic Development and Planning review the study also and compare the proposed economic effects associated with the all the aspects of the study and the effects to the county economy.

Dr. Myerberg asked for any comment from Major Anthony regarding the sediment survey Major Anthony reported that the park service supports the finding of the sediment study

Update on the County Commissioner

Commissioner Gatto has two topics he wanted to cover. The first was the Western Covance sewer system that will provide sewer the Stockslager and Shingle Camp area.

Commissioner Gatto reported that there are some easement that are still in question and that the project has been in conception for 12 years the county will be addressing the easements and other project aspects to keep the project moving forward

The second topic is that the county is finalizing their master plan. The master plan has a ten year cycle and was to be updated in 2007 this plan enables the county to receive government funding for critical projects for county infrastructure

Commissioner Gatto informed the board that more traffic will be seen on 495 for bridge closure

New Business

Advertisement on lake slips. The consumer protection is getting a subpoena for the land group that was advertising a slip/dock slip, on the lake with lot.

Correspondence from DNR

Ms. Beelar asked if heard anything about MDE closing Bill's Marine gas station. Senator Edwards informed the board that there were leaks in pipes and was given a temporary action until season was over and then fix

Dr. Myerberg remind everybody about public meeting on Saturday August 9th for the watershed plan.

Public Comments

John Karlik 861 Shoreline Drive, Thousand Acres asked if dredging the lake would adjust the rule band so that if would be the max lake level would be lower than that could alleviate substantial shoreline erosion.

Next meeting is schedule for October 27th, 6 pm at Garrett College

Dr. Myerberg made motion to adjourn meeting and Mr. Hoffman second