

Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board  
Regular Quarterly Meeting  
Monday, January 28, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.  
Deep Creek Lake State Park – Discovery Center

In Attendance: David Myerberg, Chairman; John Stakem, Barbara Beelar, Bob Browning, Bob Hoffmann, Susan Fowler, Garrett County Commissioner Bob Gatto, David Moe for Delegate Beitzel

Absent: Senator George Edwards and Delegate Wendell Beitzel

Jamie Coyle, MD Bass Federation representative has stepped down, no appointment made yet to replace him

DNR Representatives: MD Park Service, Carolyn Mathews – Manager Deep Creek Lake Recreation Area; Eric Null – Natural Resource Planner for DCL; Major Cindy Ecker – Western Regional Manager; NRP – Sgt. Dave Marple; and Bruce Michael, Director of DNR Resource Assessment Service

18 members of the public in attendance

**MINUTES:** Chairman Myerberg called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Minutes from the last meeting, dated October 22, 2012 were circulated to the board members prior to the meeting.

Questions: Bob Hoffmann asked for clarification to the paragraph titled erosion walls and the fees associated with permitting. Carolyn said the information in the minutes was the proposed change, it has not happened yet. No change to the minutes was needed.

Comment: Barbara Beelar made note to Carolyn Mathews and Debra Spurrier on the high-quality of the minutes provided.

Comment: Commissioner Bob Gatto wanted his comments changed from “each gallon of water in the lake” to say “each foot of water”. This change was made to those minutes for the record.

**MOTION:** October 22, 2012 minutes for approval – Barbara Beelar; Seconded by John Stakem; unanimously approved by board.

Chairman Myerberg introduced Chris Shepherd (Walton C. Shepherd) a WVU law student who is preparing a “guide to regulations” that are in effect on the buffer strip and the lake. The strip of land around the lake managed by the DCL Management office, the lake bottom and the waters of

the lake itself are covered by a number of other regulations not only the DCL regulations which focus on uses of the lake and buffer strip. The regulations of a number of DNR units and State agencies are in effect to protect the resource known as Deep Creek Lake.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Myerberg took a few minutes to describe his ventures of the past months which included conversations about DCL with a number of people representing various interests. He shared his vision for the future of the Board. His comments are attached to the minutes.

Question: Barbara Beelar thanked Chairman Myerberg for his work in framing the future of the Board's work in a proactive way. Is the Watershed Task Force something that has been formed?

Answer: Nothing has been formed yet. County Commissioners and DNR are working together to develop this concept.

Question: David Moe asked for clarification if this work is contingent on the COMAR findings or will it be in the works simultaneously.

Answer: It will be worked simultaneously. The Lake Manager said the COMAR compilation could take approximately 5 months. Chairman Myerberg said Rich Norling's report should be finished before that, possibly in one to two months.

Comment: Commissioner Bob Gatto said the County Commissioners are working on some issues and boundaries necessary to create the afore mentioned Task Force. The Commissioners are looking forward to the Sediment Study report which will lend guidance on forming the Watershed Task Force.

Comment: Barbara Beelar shared information about DNR's Watershed Ecosystem Planning Office. Bruce Michael commented that Rich Norling will have access to all DNR programs and staff for his work.

**Boat Length Discussion:** Chairman Myerberg reminded the Board that a letter was sent to Secretary Griffin about this issue. The Chairman distributed copies of the January 11, 2013 Maryland Register to the board showing the notice of proposed action. If there are people who have comments, they should provide them to Boating Services on their webpage. Carolyn Mathews made note that the public comment period was presently open.

Questions: Audience member asked if this policy has any affect on the food boats.

Carolyn Mathews said no. Dave Moe asked when the comment period closes. Carolyn Mathews responded February 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Erosion Walls:** Commissioner Gatto said a lot of people want to improve the shoreline, but are concerned about the permit fees. Recently the Commissioners designated funds for a homeowner rebate for shoreline erosion wall construction. Lake Management advised the county that while the number of applications varies from year to year, there could be 10-15 permits applied for this year. Money was put aside from carry-over funds, and the County is allowing \$1,600 to be paid out to a certain number of applicants after approval and inspection of completed erosion walls. The Commissioners are also hoping DNR and MDE will create a set of shoreline erosion templates to streamline the permitting process.

Carolyn Mathews said one thing her office is still struggling with is the Maryland Home Improvement Contractors Licensing requirement, and if that should be applied to all Garrett County construction projects as it is in the majority of the counties in Maryland.

Comment: Bob Browning stated that most of the contractors you are approving for work on the lake are licensed. Carolyn Mathews said two have licenses and many others don't have the license. This is one of the things Chris Shepherd is going to be looking at with his project. Because the County does not require contractors to be licensed, we don't require it.

Question: David Moe asked if there was any history of any non-licensed contractor who has completed jobs to the detriment of the shoreline.

Answer: A Lake Management staff member attempts to inspect weekly when a shoreline erosion project is underway to avoid this situation. Presently most walls are constructed by non-MHIC licensed contractors. Problems with the final product may or may not relate to whether the work was done by a licensed contractor.

Question: David Moe asked how the \$1,600 figure was determined.

Answer: Carolyn Mathews explained the math as \$750 + \$750 due to MDE, plus DNR's \$70 special permit fee but it is a reimbursement paid out by the County so they may consider it in a different light.

Question: Bob Hoffmann asked if POA should communicate this to the membership to promote the program.

Answer: No, because this is the end of wall construction season for the lake – the water will begin rising and wall construction is only permitted at DCL when the water levels are drawn down for winter.

Question: Bob Hoffmann asked who the contact at the County for this program is.

Answer: John Nelson, Director of Planning and Land Development

Commissioner Gatto reported that this is a trial program, and DNR advised the County that six property owners applied for shoreline erosion control permits this year. Commissioner Jim Raley is working with Northern and Southern High School to see if they could grow the vegetation needed for living shoreline projects. Carolyn Mathews shared that the dropping of the lake's water level in the winter to expose the near shore area to extended periods of freezing temperatures may not allow sustaining any type of near shore grass growth. Shoreline grasses may not be practical for Deep Creek Lake, but she supports the experimentation of this idea. Barbara Beelar said the County made available \$500 for a pilot project for Friends of Deep Creek Lake to try out the grass implantation in some areas that might succeed, going beyond the buffer zone and into culvert swales.

Chairman Myerberg passed around pictures of a new shoreline wall constructed from Rosetta stone. This is a new manufactured stone product which is very expensive but the end result is a reasonable facsimile of a rocky outcrop. Myerberg estimated a 150' X 4' wall to cost \$60,000 using information gathered from a friend.

Question: Are they lock-in stones? Carolyn Mathews explained the stones are very heavy and nest on each other.

**Phase II Sediment Study** – Should have more information in the spring. According to Bruce Michael, all field work has been done and DNR is waiting for the Board of Public Works to sign contracts. We want everything done by June 30, 2013.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Water Level** – No report from the committee. Chairman Myerberg asked what has proceeded in relation to Jeff Long's FOIA request to MDE. He has a CD with information and has to go to Baltimore to make copies of files when he has time.

Question: David Moe asked if the Board could ask the elected officials to waive the fee from MDE associated with the reproduction of requested documents by state employees to keep Jeff from having to travel to Baltimore. Chairman Myerberg suggested not getting in the middle of the situation to retain the positive working relationship he has formed with MDE.

Carolyn Mathews gave the winter precipitation report, saying November's precipitation with Hurricane Sandy brought the annual precipitation for 2012 to within average of the last few years. As of the end of January 2013, we are 1 ½ inch below normal precipitation for the first month of the new year.

Chairman Myerberg asked if the Board had a need for any future meetings of this committee. We don't know what is going to happen with the whole watershed management issue, and hopefully this issue will become part of what this committee discussed. Bob Hoffmann said he spoke to

Senator Edwards and Delegate Beitzel on December 8<sup>th</sup> at a pre-legislative session meeting and requested they consider making minor changes to existing legislation. He suggested that a seat be created for MDE on the DCL Policy and Review Board. He received a response that at this time, the State will not grant this request due to their long-term vision for a watershed management plan.

**Finance and Programs** – Chairman Myerberg believes this committee is the same issue and should not be continued at this time. Barbara Beelar said she was concerned about the budget situation related to the generation of dock fees.

**Revision of COMAR regulations for Deep Creek Lake:** Chairman Myerberg said Chris Shepherd is funded for 200 hours of work for this project. He urged each Board member to encourage their organizations to be cooperative and forthcoming with information Chris may request. Chris' contact information is included in the resume the Chairman provided to each Board member. If any organization has specific requests, send them to Chris and cc Chairman Myerberg on the email. Chairman Myerberg hopes the product will be a living document that is very useful to anyone who impacts the Deep Creek Lake watershed.

**SAV's in 2012-2013 Update** – The Board has received a report from Bruce Michael, Director of Resource Assessment Service (RAS) on this issue and he is present to answer any questions. In summary – Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is not a dominant species of submerged aquatic vegetation in DCL. We will continue with the benthic mats this year making sure we do not interfere with the spawning season. We have evaluated all the EWM control strategies and there is no silver bullet solution. As overview of the report, the most effective control is 2-4-D in very low concentrations in very targeted areas. RAS understands and shares the concern about putting any chemical in the lake. Any area treated would be monitored closely, but if lake users do not want applications of such a chemical, treatment of this nature would not occur. Michael reported that RAS does not feel there is any need for chemical application at this time. DNR's view is that SAV's play a huge, important part in the balance of the ecosystem of DCL. They stabilize sediment, provide excellent habitat, keep oxygen levels up and clean the water. The report may be found at <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/western/deepcreeknrma.asp> under the Water Quality Reports tab at the bottom of the page.

Discussion: Bob Browning asked about the impact of high water and lack of freezing of the water to SAV's.

Answer: Michael's said biologists found EWM is more prevalent in the deeper water. We will see a variation every year and RAS hopes to continue to monitor the beds.

Bob Browning mentioned a lot of emphasis has been put on EWM but boaters don't care what kind of vegetation it is, just that underwater grasses hamper access to docks and

reduce recreational use of the lake. Michael replied that is where the mats come into play to keep vegetation down around the dock slips.

Bob Hoffmann asked how many years have SAV's been monitored at Deep Creek Lake. Michael responded 4 years, with a targeted assessment of the lake conducted last year. Browning asked if enough data had been collected to show how much SAV's have expanded. Michael said data is showing that there has not been much spreading at all.

Bob Hoffmann asked what kind of process is used to make a determination if something needs to be done. Michael responded that if biologists were to find EWM was out-competing native species, we would intervene with a pilot project to eradicate what had become an invasive species. We don't believe it is an invasive species at Deep Creek Lake at this time.

Barbara Beelar asked when the 2013 survey will be conducted. Michael replied at the end of June or early July.

Susan Fowler asked if an herbicide was used, what time of year would this be applied. Michael responded - May.

Chairman Myerberg asked if the POA board had discussed this issue at all. Hoffmann said the report had been sent to POA President Troy Ellington and pulsing the membership has been discussed by that board. Once Ellington has had time to digest it, Hoffmann suggested it be sent out to the membership via email and postal mail to survey the membership and solicit feedback. Carolyn Mathews said a map overlay would be helpful to illustrate where the affected area actually is, considering it is approximately 86 acres. Michael said only one area would be selected to do a pilot program if necessary and would be closely monitored.

Chairman Myerberg asked if 2-4-D would kill other SAV's. Michael replied it does, but it is specific to a broadleaf species like Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Michael said there is an SAV workgroup and the weevil idea was discussed. Michael advised that such a bug is not native to Maryland and would not be allowed introduction to this environment as we are not sure of unintended consequences. It is also a costly treatment since the weevils are a favorite food of blue gill.

Sue Fowler asked how many people used the mats this past year. Carolyn Mathews replied six permit holders had permits for the Benthic Mats. They were successful for their intended use. It is not an automatic renewal, the Lake Management Office needs to

assess each year. Bruce Michael reminded the board that they may not be placed on the lake bottom before spawning season has ended.

Barbara Beelar shared FODCL has completed surveys of EWM beds with volunteers in the past. Their concern is that the greatest distribution of EWM's requires waiting until the end of July or beginning of August. They don't see the DNR survey as being taken at the right time of the summer. It is a timing issue for these surveys. Michael said his SAV resource biologists are very aware of this.

**Culverts:** Commissioner Bob Gatto said the County continues to discuss. The following are issues we have:

1. Private property – harder to get those long standing problems corrected. We are looking at potentially purchasing equipment and working with other resources to plant vegetation.
2. Maintaining storm water facilities - The Commissioners met with Acting Secretary Mobley of State Highways Administration and will be working with Rick Cosner on corrective measures since they maintain the right-of-ways.
3. Educating Employees about cleaning up abrasives a little faster before it gets into the lake. We will be identifying areas in the near future that need special attention.

Barbara Beelar said she is working with Sandy Hertz of the SHA Department of Environmental Design. She took photos of the recent snow melt where gravel, runoff and buffer strip erosion were evident.

David Moe made the correction that Acting Secretary Mobley is from MDOT, Melinda Peters is from the MD State Highway Administration.

**Canada Geese:** Chairman Myerberg shared that when he was meeting with Secretary Griffin he mentioned the Canada Geese issue. Secretary Griffin pointed him to Paul Peditto, Director of DNR Wildlife division. He has a home at Deep Creek Lake and said this is the first time he was aware of this as an issue. The resulting conversation ended with Wildlife Service Director Peditto agreeing to gather some data and come up with a plan of action. Catching and moving them does not work; it is possible to addle the eggs, but Peditto hasn't noticed much nesting; and lethal control is another choice that was recently authorized at Rocky Gap State Park. There will be a presentation at the April 2013 meeting of the PRB.

**Update from County Commissioners** - Commissioner Bob Gatto and the other Commissioners met with Brookfield Power last week and had a good discussion. Thayerville Water Project is still on course for this spring. Residents are asked to make sure they have 911 addresses visible – Hurricane Sandy response was hindered by lack of visible numbers. The County waived tipping

fees after Hurricane Sandy and will look at doing that again in the spring. The Western Conveyance was brought up again and discussed. The plant has been upgraded to meet the need. The County will be having public meetings this spring to discuss further and look at costs. It would benefit the County to do this because it would give maintenance a complete loop for an emergency situation. More information is on the County website. The appeals on the zoning issues of last summer were consolidated and will be heard on March 29 at 9:30 a.m. During this litigation process some discrepancies were found in language. That language has been changed to now be consistent.

Question: Barbara Beelar asked if there has been any conversation about extending the sewer system south. No, it would have to be a whole separate system. Bob Browning asked if area residents could petition for one. Gatto replied 25 residents are needed to sign a petition, and then a fact-finding study would be done.

### **Boating Services – New Wake Surfing and Ballast Labeling Regulation**

Chairman Myerberg circulated the wording of this new regulation to the Board in an email on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. It has been passed and is part of COMAR at this point. Bob Browning and Chairman Myerberg feel that this Board, because it is a regulation change that affects Deep Creek Lake, the PRB has the charge to approve any regulation change.

Discussion: The Board had been made aware of this policy change at prior meetings, but no action was taken. An audience member asked if wake surfing will be able to go under the bridges since you have to stay within 200 feet from any structure. Mathews said you cannot go under the bridges while wake surfing behind a vessel.

Hoffman asked Carolyn Mathews “is this regulation enforceable on Deep Creek Lake? How does NRP know what 200 feet is from a structure?” Carolyn Mathews passed out maps marked with lines showing the 300 feet from the shoreline wake surfers cannot travel within (100 for the no wake zone and the additional 200 feet for the new regulation requirements). DNR will be posting this new State-wide boating regulation on bulletin boards. There are some coves where wake surfing will be totally off limits because there is not enough water surface area for this form of recreation to take place with the new safety area requirement (200 feet). There may not be much of an impact to boaters as this is an activity (wake surfing) that isn’t seen much on this lake.

The public comment period for this policy was from the early part of September through the early part of October. Carolyn Mathews was made aware Sept 15<sup>th</sup> of the comment period and she shot out an email to the Board members. However, she later found out that the Boat Act Advisory Committee had been discussing this change in the State-wide



boating regulations for over a year. Chairman Myerberg received no comments. Bob Browning sent his comments directly to Boating Services.

**MOTION:** Bob Browning moved to send a letter stating that the PRB “ok’s” the new wake surfing regulations.

Discussion: Audience member mentioned that the DNR has a representative assigned to the Boating Act Advisory Committee who is very active and needs to communicate more actively with this board. Another audience member mentioned the minutes to the Boating Act Advisory Committee are online in great detail. They meet regularly and perhaps everyone should monitor their meeting minutes.

Chairman Myerberg admitted he should have called a special meeting for a vote and apologized for the oversight.

Sgt. Dave Marple assured the PRB that NRP will handle the new requirements like they have any new regulation in the past. The first year it will be treated like an educational situation with not a lot of citations issued. He said they have tools in place to enforce the regulation.

After discussion and noting that the board had previously reviewed the proposed regulation changes and it had already passed, Bob Browning withdrew his motion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion on Proposal to Change the Composition of the PRB**

Tabled at this point

### **Resignation of Mr. Jamie Coyle from PRB**

The MD Bass Federation seat will be filled by an appointment. The Board has not received notice from the Governor’s appointments office of who that will be at this point. Chairman Myerberg publicly thanked Mr. Coyle for all his time and dedication to the PRB for the past 7 years.

**Correspondence Received by DNR** was covered in other discussions.

### **Comments from the public:**

Lindsley Williams – sent an email to the PRB Board covering his concerns. He had two concerns in particular – noise and high water. The winter rule band has been exceeded several times this

month. He had asked Carolyn Mathews and her staff to send an email to the power company and they did so, but Brookfield Power still let it get 11 inches above the rule band. It would be beneficial to have Brookfield Power dam operator in the room to hear our concern. Morgan France responded saying that rain after snowfall contributed to a larger increase in lake water. An audience member said there is worry there isn't a way to get the water out if needed in an emergency.

**MOTION:** At 8:00 p.m., Bob Browning moved to extend the meeting beyond 8 p.m. John Stakem seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Bob Browning expressed concern about the shoreline and the environmental effects of removing and installing docks. He feels some consideration should be given to allow docks in certain areas to be left in over the winter. He also reiterated Brookfield needs to keep the water level within the rule band.

Dick Bolt – Asked Carolyn if DNR will be doing a 2013 capacity study for Deep Creek Lake. She replied, not to her knowledge. The question was asked if it is supposed to be conducted every 10 years, and Carolyn replied it is a recommendation in the earlier report but not required. Eric Null has been working on a report that compiles the last 25 years of boat count data. Carolyn has the draft of it at this point and is reviewing it, then will send it up through the chain for approval before sharing it with the PRB. Boating capacity has basically stayed the same. Mr. Bolt was hoping to hear there was some safety data in such a report. Mathews replied it doesn't touch at all on safety data. Null said the lake has reached the recommended capacity level only 12 % of the time over the last 25 years. The lake carrying capacity is a social capacity, or measures how comfortable people feel when boating around a certain number of other boats. It was noted in the 2003 carrying capacity study that this lake is "self- regulating". When boat operators feel unsafe they get off of the lake. Boating accidents were not part of the 2003 boat carrying capacity study.

Chairman Myerberg put out the request for agenda topics for the next meeting. These can be emailed to him.

Barbara Beelar asked what the transition plan was for Carolyn Mathew's retirement. Cindy Ecker responded she is working with the Park Service Superintendent on a transition plan. Technically we cannot start the process until the Lake Manager officially announces her retirement date. It typically takes 4-6 months after a position is vacant to fill it. Bruce Michaels said there might be a way to expedite the replacement. Barbara Beelar asked the Chairman to write a letter to the Secretary of DNR explaining the special circumstances and ask that a replacement be named sooner rather than later. Chairman Myerberg said he has already had a conversation of this sort with the Secretary.

David Moe took the opportunity to thank Carolyn Mathews for her service to the PRB, saying she has been very kind and responsive. Chairman Myerberg also thanked Carolyn for her service.

The next meeting date was set for Monday, April 29, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dave Moe at 8:25 p.m., and seconded by Bob Hoffmann. Motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra Spurrier on behalf of Carolyn Mathews, DCL Manager

Correspondence received: Lindsley Williams email

Cc: John Griffin, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Nita Settina, Superintendent of the Maryland Park Service  
Cindy Ecker, Regional Manager, Maryland Park Service

**David Myerberg - remarks on fall meetings and trip east**

1. I have come to the following conclusions:
  - a. LAWS: We need to get our arms around the federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances that affect the DCL watershed
  - b. PLANS: We need to synthesize all of the previous plans that have been done that might affect the watershed
  - c. GOALS: We need to develop a plan for the watershed that lays out clear, long term and short term goals, timelines for these goals and funding sources for these goals.
  - d. GOVERNING BODY: We need to determine what will be the most effective way to govern the watershed for the protection of the lake and the interests of those who use the lake water.

2. Over that last several months, I have met with a number of persons and organizations who are integral parts of the DCL watershed and are local residents and property owners. These included:
  - a. Wendell Beitzel and George Edwards;
  - b. The County Commissioners, Mr. Pagenhart and Mr. Nelson;
  - c. The POA Board;
  - d. The Chamber of Commerce;
  - e. The Board of Realtors;
  - f. SPORE (Stakeholders, Professionals, Old Retired and Experienced);
  - g. Save Deep Creek Lake: Bob Hoffman and Jeff Long
  - h. Friends of Deep Creek Lake Board Members.
3. I traveled East to meet with several persons. These included:
  - a. Bill Stack at Center for Watershed Protection – Ellicott City, MD;
  - b. Joanne Throwe from UMD Environmental Finance Center;
  - c. Heath Kelsey, PhD, UMD, Center for Environmental Science (CES);
  - d. John Griffin, Joe Gill, John Wilson, Bruce Michael and Rich Norling of Maryland DNR
4. Each of these meetings showed me a different perspective on the issues that we have been addressing on the PRB for the last two years.
  - a. However, it became very clear from the start that Marianne Dise and Carolyn Mathews had great foresight when they started the process of revamping the Maryland Code sections that apply to DCL watershed. Great foresight, but the task soon became overwhelming, requiring time and resources that were not immediately available.
    - i. During my meeting with Secretary Griffin and his Lieutenants, the Secretary agreed to fund a review of these laws and regulations.

Today, I want to introduce you to Chris Shepherd, a third year law student, who will take on this task over the next 5 months.

- ii. Chris will create a compendium of the laws and regulations that impact the DCL Watershed and he will create a Guidebook for this law that can be used by anyone who cares to navigate through it. We have Joe Gill and Secretary Griffin to thank for funding Chris.

- b. In preparation for these meetings I read a dizzying array of planning documents from the last 13 years related to DCL and the watershed. I forwarded these to Joe Gill, Assistant Secretary of Maryland DNR prior to our meeting with Secretary Griffin. Joe immediately involved Rich Norling, who is a DNR policy expert, to digest over 1000 pages and try to come up with the essence of the plans that have been proposed in Garrett County over more than a decade. Over the last month, Rich has been working on this and within a short time DNR will present to the PRB, to the County Commissioners and to the POA, Rich's first document on this synthesis. This will be a start on synthesizing what we are trying to do in the DCL watershed based upon the work of tens of persons since the turn of this century.
- c. The people with whom I spoke mentioned a variety of goals that will be important to focus on for the preservation of the DCL watershed. We have addressed many of these on this Board for the two years that I have been chairman. But, the approach that we all have taken has been very much like western medicine. We have all been putting out fires rather than finding a way to keep the fires from starting. We need a proactive approach to the DCL watershed with short and long term goals, timelines and established funding sources. It is my impression from talking to Bill Stack, Joanne Throwe and Heath Kelsey that some funding sources will be made available if we develop a reasonable watershed plan.

- i. In this regard, I spoke with Bob Summers, PhD, Maryland Secretary of the Environment. Dr. Summers agrees that his Department will actively engage in the process of developing these goals, timelines and funding sources.
  - ii. He also agreed that if we develop a task force to address watershed planning, that he will gladly assign someone from Maryland DE to that task force.
  - iii. And he agreed that when we have a watershed plan in place for DCL, he will put us in touch with his contacts in the EPA Department of Water and try to help us with any available funding there and elsewhere.
  - iv. I have also asked Secretary Griffin to consider funding a ½ time position to assist the PRB in this initiative. He wants to see what comes out of the legal internship and the formation of a Watershed task force before he decides on this. I have emphasized how important this position will be.
  - v. Bruce Michael has met with representatives of Brookfield to seek to engage them in this process. Shannon Ames has conveyed that Brookfield is very interested in joining this process. I am hoping to talk with Shannon about this this week.
- d. At the same time we must determine what will be the most effective way to govern the watershed for the protection of the lake and the interests of those who use the lake water. It is clear that our husbandry of the Goose that lays the golden eggs needs some work. Secretary Griffin and his team and the County Commissioners are considering the way forward in this regard. Some of us recently had a phone conference with Nick Spinelli, of the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District. This is a lake in

Pennsylvania that is similar to Deep Creek Lake, where the development of a WMD has been instrumental in attracting large amounts of funds and helping to preserve that lake for generations to come.

- e. I feel very positive that we can do this sort of thing in the Deep Creek Lake watershed and I believe that this Board, the DNR, MDE the Commissioners, the POA and many others will be instrumental in helping to make the plans come true and help to structure the governing entities to make this happen.