

Approved 10/28/13 EN

**Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board
Regular Quarterly Meeting
Monday, July 29, 2013 at 6:00 pm
Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center**

In Attendance: David Myerberg, Chairman; John Stakem, Barbara Beelar, Steve Green, Commissioner Robert Gatto, Delegate Wendell Beitzel, Susan Fowler, Larry Iden, Bob Hoffmann, Cindy Ecker, Eric Null, Dave Marple, Jeff Sweitzer 12 members of the public.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman David Myerberg at 6:00 pm

Minutes from the April 29, 2013 were read and approved with no changes.

Old Business:

Progress on the Watershed Management Plan: Bob Gatto shared that a "State of the Lake" press release and MOU was sent out to DNR by Josh Davidsburg. Questions were raised with concerns that the Policy and Review Board was not on the Steering Committee, however it was clarified that someone from the Board would be on the committee. Committee size was to be 7-9 people with possibly five of those being citizens. DNR, and County Government would provide staff for the committee. Discussion continued with the concern of the committee being only 7-9 persons. Delegate Wendell Beitzel shared that a smaller group tends to be more productive than larger groups due to the lengthy discussions that occur. Delegate Beitzel also shared that he was impressed that the county was willing to work with DNR with lake issues. No individual names for the Steering committee positions have been selected yet from County Government. Anyone interested in being on the Steering Committee will need to submit their name to Monty Peganhardt. Barbara Beelar expressed concerns that it is unclear what the Policy and Review Board's role will be with the Watershed Management Plan and that the local schools should also be involved with this process. It was also noted that persons with interest in the watershed should be involved. The County and DNR will be making the decision on appointments and will be announced August 13, 2013.

Phase II Sediment Study: Sediment Study Plan still scheduled to be done at the end of this year. At the State of Lake address, ten coves are being focused on with less than one foot of sediment. This sediment has been analyzed and is "clean". A more complete report is forthcoming with what it means to be "clean" with the results being presented to the Deep Creek Lake community. A sediment management & prevention plan should be ready by the end of the year. A sediment map was displayed in the meeting room. Barbara Beelar shared that with the completion of this study that down the road we will be able to ask for legislative funding to help with the Plan, however that may not be possible until the 2016 legislative session.

Canada Geese: Barbara Beelar and Susan Fowler put together a list of possible Canada Goose population control ideas. David Myerberg reported that he contacted Paul Peditto and asked if he felt that Deep Creek Lake is impaired by the Geese that we have. The Management of the Geese falls under the US Forest & Wildlife Statute

10-206 Natural Resource Code for migratory birds. However we do have some authority on how we manage the geese, it is just a question of how. Barbara Beelar went over some of the things that can be done. This was drafted over a month ago and now we need to focus on what can be done in the summer months and then again in the fall.

- Dawn Beitzel reported that she has a verbal agreement with the rental companies to include geese information in their rental packages.
- The plan should reach out to local properties affected such as Uno's, Golf Courses and large commercial property owners as to where the geese are. This would be helpful in reporting to DNR where the geese are and any problems they may have.
- Paul Peditto asked that geese sightings such as nesting and when the goslings are coming out be reported, but there is no system for this and something needs to be put in place for it.
- Public Education needs to include how to keep them from coming onto docks such as growing grass to the shoreline to deter the geese from coming in. Lake Management needs to continue with the public education of planting on the shoreline.
- As we get into the Fall, we need to have a conversation with the Deep Creek Lake Community on the possibility of a lethal hunt on DNR property. Also, we need to meet with the local Agriculture because of the crop depredation.
- A request for a Legal hunt would need to be sent to Paul Peditto now in preparation for the fall season. A permit would then be issued the same as they have been for other DNR areas for Deer damage, etc.
- A committee needs to assemble a plan that would include the spring egg addling, and then be submitted to DNR for implementation since they are the responsible party. It was noted that no egg addling can be done on DNR Land without the presence of a DNR official. Private landowners must apply to the Federal Fish & Wildlife for a permit to do this on their property.
- A question was raised if it would be possible for a Grant to be obtained to minimize the number of geese, but most of the grants issued are more for water restoration. Animal eradication grants are hard to get through unless crop damage is involved.
- David Myerberg will get a letter together and circulate it, then put a proposal together for an integrated plan to Paul Peditto.

Laws & Regulations: A 109 page document, Deep Creek Lake Legal Compendium drafted by Walton C. Shepard, a law student from WVU, funded by DNR, was distributed to all the Board members by Chairman Myerberg, however not all have reviewed it. This is the first draft of the document. Wendell Beitzel commented that

it is a great tool for looking up rules & regulations and for cross referencing. There are many footnotes that can be clicked on and you can go right into that cite. It is hoped that DNR will help to keep it updated as things go through legislation. It was suggested that the document be put on the DNR website, county website as well as the POA website with the statement that it is the first draft and comments and suggestions are welcome.

Barbara Beeler made a motion that the document be put on the county website for public review. This was tabled until all PRB Members have read and discussed.

EWM Update: EWM study revealed that 2% of the entire lake or 6% of the shallow part of the lake had EWM. The study included depths from 18 feet to the shoreline. The study will continue in 2014.

EnviroScience Project update: No last minute update however the report is being sent tomorrow and a report will be sent to the Board members. This project was to detect if the "Weevil" is present at the lake.

Update from County Commissioners:

Sewer System Update: The Shinglecamp/ Stockslager system is going to be a ten year process. It is still in the planning process. Commissioners plan on having public meetings to help keep people informed of the planning.

The Thayerville project was a 2003/2004 plan that was approved in 2010 and people were not notified. The policy for alerting people to the public meetings has been changed.

Garrett County Planning Commission approved the Boat Rental Amendment submitted by Bill Meagher.

Barbara Beelar asked for a final report on the Incentive Money for erosion barriers for lake front homeowners. Four applications were issued. The applications are accepted November – March with the work being done in the fall. The majority of the work will be for shoreline stabilization.

The Route 219 Water Project is impacting the businesses with the traffic delays. Barbara Beelar questioned who has the responsibility of managing the storm water runoff for construction. If the storm water runoff is shown not to comply with CWA standards for DCL then MDE would be responsible to undertake compliance actions.

New Business:

Sewage Issues: we have no mechanism to respond quickly to emergencies. Email works fine with the issues we have had in the past, however as systems get older maybe a better way can be implemented. Using cell phones was suggested.

Questions were raised as to how many dock slips can be issued to commercial and private owners. Residential slips are governed by COMAR, but there is no set number for Commercial. Clarification on the regulations is being requested from Jennifer Wazenski.

The Lake Management Office is open Monday through Friday with no weekend hours, DNR is on call if needed. The DCL Boat that sank is getting a new motor and will be back in service as soon as the wiring is redone.

Public Comments:

An issue involving the use of driveway sealants was brought up. The District of Columbia has a law that coal based sealant cannot be used because of it being detrimental to the environment. Asphalt sealant can be used. Dave Myerberg will check to see if there are any regulations for Garrett County.

Mike Logsdon voiced concerns on the size of the steering committee. He wanted to be sure that there were enough numbers to represent all concerned parties. Mike also wanted a clarification on how deep "shallow" is for the SAV's. The SAV's grow from 20' back to the shoreline due to the sunlight.

More discussion ensued on the number of people being notified of the Steering Committee and how to voice an interest in being on that committee. Barbara Beelar suggested that when the tax bills are mailed out that would be a good time to reach out to the 9,000 property holders and to give them the information regarding their property.

Meeting was extended ten minutes for Peter Versteegen to do a slide presentation of the water depth contours of Deep Creek Lake. The process of the study took six months to complete. Thirty two maps of the coves was generated from the study. A large map of the lake was posted with a great visual of the water depths of the lake. This information can be accessed at the website deepcreekanswers.com

Next meeting date was set for October 28, 2013 at 6:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.