

Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board
Regular Quarterly Meeting
Monday, April 30, 2012 at 6:00 pm
Deep Creek Lake State Park – Discovery Center

In Attendance: David Myerberg, Chairman; John Stakem, Susan Fowler, Barbara Beelar, Troy Ellington, POA representative; Jamie Coyle, Commissioner Bob Gatto, Senator George Edwards and Delegate Wendell Beitzel and their alternates Steve Green and David Moe

Absent: Bob Browning

DNR Representatives: MD Park Service, Carolyn Mathew – Manager Deep Creek Lake Recreation Area; Eric Null- Natural Resource Planner for DCL; Mark Spurrier – Assistant Manager, DCL RA; NRP – Sgt. Dave Marple, Sgt. Jim Clise; Assistant Attorney General Marianne Dise

15 members of the public in attendance

MINUTES: Chairman Myerberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Minutes from the last meeting dated January 23, 2012 were circulated to the board members prior to the meeting.

Motion: January 23, 2012 minutes for approval - Approved

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Barbara Beelar reported on the recent Water Quality Work Group (WQWG) meeting. She requested that the reports from last year's work be emailed out to the PRB members again and asked that the summaries of each report be summarized in another manner and also distributed. She also expressed interest in gathering more information from the Garrett County Health Department and from MDE on water quality concerns. She feels that the Water Quality Work group needs better communication and dissemination of information to the public.

Phase II Sedimentation study is underway (in the snowy conditions of late April). Chairman Myerberg on behalf of the PRB thanked all who contributed to crafting the scope of work (SOW) and those who are financially supporting this study. Garrett County put in \$95,000, the DCL Property Owners Association contributed \$20,000 and the balance of \$65,000 came from DNR Waterway Improvement Funds. Total project: \$180,000. Commissioner Gatto distributed copies of the Phase II scope of work to the board members. Community members who contributed to the review of the SOW for the County were Bob Hoffman, Morgan France, and Pete Verstegen. There will be Best Management Practices (BMP's) to be applied throughout the watershed of the lake as action items generated from the study. A rewrite of the Code of Maryland Regulations is

underway to update definitions and improve understanding of and compliance with the regulations. The PRB will ask for an update on the study at the quarterly meeting in July.

Culvert project: Barbara Beelar made comments on the efforts of The Friends of Deep Creek Lake who over the past year conducted a survey of road culverts in the DCL drainage area. The information has been provided to the county commissioners. The Friends of Deep Creek Lake is interested in seeing improved or updated stormwater management throughout the watershed. Steve Green asked if there is presently a BMP for culverts and no one indicated any familiarization with such at this time.

Solicitations for support: Chairman Myerberg shared that there has been at least one non-profit group which has sought written support from the PRB for a grant application. There was discussion that it is within the purview of the board to make recommendations to the Secretary of DNR. If the board does write a letter to the Secretary the organization can be copied.

Canada Geese: the size of the population of geese that live on the lake is a growing concern. The regulations pertaining to geese and their management are in part under the authority of the MD Wildlife Service. There are also Federal regulations that protect migratory waterfowl. Susan Fowler, Barbara Beelar and David Myerberg will get together to discuss this topic of interest further.

Garrett County topics of interest to the PRB were shared by Commissioner Gatto:

- 1) Adventure Sport Center International (ASCI) - the whitewater course on top of Marsh Mountain - is now owned by the county. There will be an advisory board of 15 people appointed in the near future. The PRB is aware of and continues to be interested in the water appropriation from DCL for this business.
- 2) The property tax was held at \$.99.
- 3) The subject of county wide zoning is under discussion. There have been four public meetings to date on this matter. Deliberations will continue and the comments will be published.

New Business:

DCL manager Carolyn Mathews shared for discussion and information two items that came to her attention in the past month that board members perhaps would find interesting.

- 1). the application for the summer sailing races requested a separate course for each of the two types of sailboats in the races. For safety reasons they asked that the Lasers run a different course from the Flying Scots. Past years the two types of sailboats have run the same course at the same time. Running two races on two separate courses will require the members of the racing club to put another committee boat and another course boat onto the lake for supervision of the races. They are prepared to do that and will provide comment and evaluation to the Lake Management office about this modification to the race course at the end of the season. Lake Management staff will also make periodic evaluations of this activity throughout the summer.

2). Bill Meagher of the Lakeside Creamery has applied for permission to rent jet skis and pontoon boats from this commercial permit site. The application has been reviewed. Lake Management approval for this use of the lake will be subject to a number of conditions of operation but must first have approval from the GC Planning office (there are variance or zoning exception situations to resolve), before this office can issue a permit. These will be new rentals on the lake. The request falls within the parameters of the lake regulations and the lake use data available.

Legislative Report – Delegate Wendell Beitzel discussed the work of the General Assembly this past legislative session. There were 22 bills related to the gas extraction industry proposed – none passed. One bill that did pass out of the House and then was amended in the Senate involved the preponderance of evidence vs. a presumption of guilt for environmental or property damage.

He noted that DNR Resource Assessment Service is heavily involved in assessing the present condition of waterways in the county. The assessment includes macro invertebrate sampling, water chemistry data collection and physical habitat evaluations.

MOTION: At 8:10 Chairman Myerberg requested a motion to extend the meeting. Seconded and Approved

Deep Creek Lake watershed and Youghiogeny River audit

Assistant Attorney General Marianne Dise informed the board that MD Attorney General Doug Gansler has scheduled a “water audit” of the DCL watershed and the Youghiogeny River for May 16th. He does an audit of a waterway each year. The audit involves meetings with local government and environmental leaders and a tour of the waterway(s) under audit.

CORRESPONDENCE: none this quarter

Comments from the public:

Ralph Schmidt’s email to the board about stormwater was noted as comment.

Judie Thang stated that she thinks the money for the studies/research is not being well spent. She believes that the science is bad science and those conducting the studies are not following protocols.

David Burch representing the Sailing Association sketched a map on the white board to help the board members understand the proposed changes to the sailing race course.

Pete Versteegen briefly explained the activities of a group of lake supporters who call themselves “SPORE”. They have started a website called www.DeepCreekAnswers.com. They want to support the dissemination of real data information by bringing the discussion of technical information to the lay people in more easily understandable language. They hope to be a helpful resource.

The next meeting date was set for July 23, 2012 at 6:00 pm

MOTION: a motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:32 pm
Seconded and approved

Respectfully submitted:

Carolyn Mathews, DCL Manager