

Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board
Regular Quarterly Meeting
Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center
Monday July 17, 2017

In attendance: PRB Board Members; Bob Hoffman (Acting Chairman), James Bailey, Bob Browning, Sen. George Edwards, Larry Iden, Robert Kelly, Delegate Wendell Beitzel, DNR staff; Eric Null, Julie Bortz

Acting Chairman Bob Hoffman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2017 meeting. Mr. Browning made a motion to approve the April 2017 minutes, Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. All members were in favor, the minutes were approved with no changes.

OLD BUSINESS

Canada Goose Hunt

Mr. Null reported that there was no further update on the hunt, but he would be in contact with the Wildlife and Heritage Service in the next month to draft the details of this year's hunt.

Lake Management Budget Update

Mr. Null referred the board to the packet that was handed out before the meeting to the board members. Mr. Null stated that there were notations on the spreadsheets since the end balance of the budget for FY17 has a surplus of \$113K. Mr. Null stated that this number was lower since due to the timing of some large contract billings and encumbrances, these expenditures had been encumbered in the FY 18 budget. Mr. Null stated after these encumbrances there was actually only \$35-40K moved to the reserve fund.

Mr. Hoffman asked Mr. Null if the money in the reserve fund was accessible by Lake Management. Mr. Null stated that it was by request. Mr. Null stated that he would like to eventually have around \$200k in the reserve fund in case of emergencies such as vessel replacement and infrastructure repair. He stated that the Lake Management Office is in need of a new roof and most likely that expense will come from the reserve fund. He also stated that with a larger reserve Lake Management could afford to increase water quality monitoring by purchasing more water quality meters. Mr. Hoffman asked Mr. Null to discuss the FY 18 Budget. Mr. Null

Stated that the FY 18 budget is approximately \$962K , which is approximately \$50k more than the FY 17 budget.

Mr. Hoffman asked if the decision to encumber funds was made in Annapolis, Mr. Null stated yes. Mr. Hoffman stated that the cost of Hydrilla control has come down in price. Mr. Null stated that treatment was able to be more targeted since the success of the treatment has been good, which has reduced the cost of the herbicide.

Wake Boat Discussion

Mr. Null stated that to date Lake Management has had five complaint calls about wake boat operation. All of the calls came from the Thousand Acres area of the lake. Mr. Null also stated that Lake Management has created a map for NRP that shows the coves that are too narrow to wake surf according to the 200ft regulation. He stated that NRP will carry the map on their vessels for a quick reference. Mr. Null stated the map of the narrow areas will be supplied to the board once the Office of Communications has reviewed and approved the map.

Mr. Null stated that a gentleman had contacted him to inquire what DNR was doing about wake boats. He had a lengthy conversation with the gentleman informing him that DNR, the PRB, POA and the marinas were educating owners on proper operation of wake boats. Mr. Hoffman stated that the POA general membership meeting had a presentation by Larry Meddock, the wake board industry spokesman. Mr. Meddock agreed that education was a key component to reducing wake boat complaints.

Water Quality Monitoring Update

Ms. Julie Bortz stated that in 2017 DNR moved their water quality monitoring efforts from the deep water areas of the lake to the shallow areas. 50 sites were chosen throughout the lake for the shallow water sampling. Ms. Bortz stated that continuous monitoring devices that can record multiple water chemistry parameters every 15 minutes have been deployed in the lake. These meters will be rotated on two week intervals throughout the shallow areas of the lake. Ms. Bortz updated the board on the new installation of the USGS discharge gauge on North Glade Creek and the new USGS flow gauge on Arrowhead Creek. Ms. Bortz stated that the tributary data that was collected from 2015-2016 will be available publically soon.

Mr. Null stated that the partnership with USGS has been expanded to retrofit the Arrowhead flow gauge with discharge monitoring equipment. He stated that the three types of tributaries that flow into Deep Creek Lake will have discharge gauges on them. This will allow for more accurate inflow and possible pollution loading calculations. Mr. Null stated that this information is available in Real Time on the USGS water data website.

Ms. Bortz stated that Mr. Bruce Michael asked her to mention that the water quality monitoring data from past years is being incorporated into a publically accessible website called the

Maryland Waters Website. She stated the this site will be similar to the Eyes on the Bay website. Mr. Hoffman asked Ms. Bortz and Mr. Null if the three USGS stations would aid in determining sediment loading. Mr. Null stated with turbidity and sediment measurement of water samples loading could be calculated using discharge data form the USGS stations.

Mr. Kelly stated that the steps for dredging were out of place at Deep Creek Lake. He stated that first water monitoring should be done to analyze the sediment amounts and pollution amounts that are entering the lake, then they should be mitigated , and then dredging should take place. Mr. Kelly stated that Mr. Null only had two of the continuous water quality monitoring meters that he had to rotate between sites; at that rate it would take years to obtain the needed baseline data. Mr. Kelly proposed that the PRB suggest a one time , one year minimal dock fee increase to allow DNR to purchase more monitoring equipment to speed up the data collection, so that the questions that will be asked during the permit process for dredging can be answered better. Mr. Browning asked how pertinent to dredging is the water quality monitoring that is currently being performed? Mr. Null stated that this monitoring is the baseline data for what exists in the shallow water areas of Deep Creek Lake. He also stated that this data would aid in sedimentation mitigation.

Mr. Browning stated that raising fees may not be a good alternative, since even a small fee increase would greatly increase the total cost for large commercial permits. Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Null if there would be any way around that, Mr. Null stated that the board would have to make that decision. Mr. Hoffman asked how much would be needed for additional equipment. Mr. Null stated around \$90-110K. Mr. Hoffman asked Mr. Kelly to write a proposal and distribute it to the board to discuss at the October meeting.

Ms. Bortz gave an update on the Hydrilla treatment. Ms. Bortz informed the board that the treatment has been very successful this year and that after this treatment they will concentrate their efforts on looking for any new Hydrilla beds. She informed the board that DNR completed the state lakes aquatic nuisance species plan, which will help with acquiring federal funding for invasive species management. She stated that DNR is seeking some funding to do invasive species EDNA testing in Deep Creek Lake as a tool to better detects invasive species. Ms. Bortz stated that many of the small historic beds of Hydrilla were not found this year, due to the treatment efficacy.

Mr. Browning asked if there had been any changes in the SAV transects that DNR has surveyed. Ms. Bortz stated that over the eight years the transects have been done that changes have been seen. One of these changes was Deep Creek Cove. It use to have a diverse SAV community then the SAV community disappeared, but is now coming back. She stated that this is a reason that shallow water monitoring is occurring, to relate the SAV findings directly to water quality to explain why changes are happening.

Ms. Bortz mentioned the recent DNR press release that covered the vessel from New York had viable zebra mussels attached to its motor. This boat was prohibited to launch by the Deep Creek launch stewards until it was properly decontaminated. Mr. Hoffman asked for an update on which private marinas were launching vessels and what precautions were they taking to prohibit invasive species introduction. Ms. Bortz stated that she had reached out to all marinas to ask their capabilities to properly decontaminate a vessel using high pressure hot water. She stated that two of the marinas, Silver Tree and Deep Creek Marina, had this capability. These two marinas contact information was given to the launch stewards to inform people with suspected invasive species where to go to have their boat decontaminated.

Mr. Null stated that most of the marinas have launch ramps and can technically launch public vessels, but they must pay DNR the launch fee for the vessels. He stated most of the marinas use their ramps to launch vessels that they repair. He stated that these vessels can come from anywhere and Julie and I have made the marinas aware to check and clean these vessels before launching them. Most marinas are inspecting vessels and have educational signage for invasive species.

Mr. Bailey asked if DNR had a procedure to check non powered vessels such as kayaks. Mr. Null stated if non powered vessels come through the park we will inspect them but there are over 2100 other entry sites on the lake for non-powered vessels that we cannot check. He stated that this is why DNR has a large education program in cooperation with the POA. Mr. Hoffman expressed his and the POA's appreciation of the work that DNR is doing to prevent invasive species. Mr. Null thanked the POA for all of their help and signage around the lake.

Mr. Iden asked if the Hydrilla treatment is fertilizing other SAV species because he has seen an increase in a slender small leafed plant. Ms. Bortz stated that this was a species of pondweed that had filled the area left behind by the decline in elodea. Mr. Iden asked why DNR did not control the pondweed. Mr. Null stated that ecologically the native pondweed provides habitat and enhances the ecosystem by filtration and nutrient uptake, where hydrilla, an invasive can grow so thick that it alters the ecosystem by removing oxygen, sunlight and providing poor habitat. Native pondweeds provide diverse habitat that enhance fish populations, where hydrilla provides habitat that is too dense to permit large fish movement and occupation. Ms. Bortz explained that hydrilla grows in a monotypic stand where the native vegetation is usually not a monoculture since multiple species can grow together.

Mr. Iden asked does the treatment deter fish from an area. Ms. Bortz stated that the chemical does not deter fish but in large hydrilla infested areas like Hickory Ridge, where the hydrilla is a monoculture, when it is treated and dies off there is no other vegetation to supply habitat for fish. The chemical is not deterring fish it is the lack of habitat in the large treated hydrilla zones.

NEW BUSINESS

PRB January Meeting

Mr. Hoffman asked the board on behalf of Chairman Snook if the January meeting should be held on the 8th or the 22nd. Mr. Hoffman stated that the 8th would allow the Senator and Delegate to be at the meeting before the general assembly. Senator Edwards informed the board that the caucuses meetings start on the 10th and may begin earlier. Mr. Null stated that the time of the meeting could be adjusted. The board agreed to wait on an update from the Senator and Delegate before scheduling the 8th.

Public Comment

Ms. Ellen Williams asked the board on behalf of Friends of Deep Creek Lake to support the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund by advising the Secretary of DNR to support the upcoming Waterways Improvement Fund grant being submitted for the pilot dredging project and advising the Secretary on the needs of Deep Creek Lake for equipment and water quality monitoring.

Ms. Barbara Beelar stated that the pilot dredging project in Arrowhead Cove was selected because of the criteria for the Waterway Improvement Grant funding which are the number of boat slips and engineering of the project. Ms. Beelar urged that board to support the recommendation and application of the dredging project by advising the Secretary of the importance of the project.

Mr. Richard Matlick stated that water quality was the main issue in Deep Creek Lake. He stated that sediment and dense SAV are signs of poor water quality. He urged that board to communicate with the Governor and Secretary to fund that Lakes Restoration Fund. He stated that the dense SAV were being caused by the sediment accumulation in the coves.

Mr. Richard Bolt asked DNR if they had a camera on the 219 Bridge. Mr. Null stated that Lake Management does not have a camera on the bridge. He also asked why DNR would issue warnings or citations to marinas for their repair and sale operations. Mr. Null stated that the marinas license to sell boats and operate on the lake is governed by Natural Resource Law, so violations of these license would be enforced by NRP.

Mr. Browning made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Kelly second the motion, all were in favor. Mr. Hoffman adjourned the meeting at 7:28pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Null

