Deep Creek Lake

Options for Improved Management, Coordination and Accountability
Options

• No Change
• Augment existing infrastructure
• Cooperative Agreement
• 501c (3) Non Profit
• Watershed District Authority
Augment Existing Infrastructure

Two approaches:

– Add staffing to the State and County
– Expand responsibilities for the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board
Augment Existing Infrastructure

**Benefits**
- Does not require legislative changes or other formal agreement.
- Familiar to lake owners
- Improvement over the current staffing level and responsiveness.
- Potentially more politically acceptable approach.

**Challenges**
- Funding for staff needed.
- Will need to develop and strengthen mechanisms to connect gaps and improve coordination.
- For PRB augmentation – Legislative changes needed
# Cooperative Agreement

**Benefits**
- Provides a clear path for operations related to the Lake.
- All parties are agreeing to specific terms and commitments.
- Higher likelihood of being acceptable approach to State and local government.
- Can be combined with other options.

**Challenges**
- Developing Agreement language.
- Developing and agreeing to an annual work plan or action strategy.
- Oversight entity needed (NGO, State or County agency).
- Additional staffing needed for implementation oversight.
- Additional funding needed.
- Authorities would not change.
Establish or Augment an Existing 501c3-Non-Profit

Two approaches:

– Non-profit independent of Homeowners Association
– Non-profit organized and managed by homeowners as an HOA
Establish or Augment an Existing 501c3-Non-Profit

Benefits
- Provides a level of independence from State or local government
- Board of Directors includes State or local government
- Broader options for fund raising and financing which can include donations and endowments
- Independent oversight of all partner’s implementing the action plan.
- Can support state and local policies and funding.

Challenges
- Fundraising requires a dedicated staff.
- Need a paid Executive Director and/or staff to run the non-profit and provide fiscal management
- Authority is limited.
- Responsibilities can include monitoring, educational programs, and advisory to the State and County.
Watershed District Authority

**Benefits**

- Creates an independent governmental entity (third party) to develop and oversee policies, programs, and funding.
- Allows for more stringent rules and regulations with local enforcement.

**Challenges**

- Must be strongly funded, structured, and staffed.
- Requires legislative action
- Usurps some state and local authority
- Most examples of this type of authority were established in the 1960’s and 70’s when local zoning and regulatory authority was not strong.
- Local land use authority for strengthened over the years in Maryland which would be difficult to change through State legislation
Discussion

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