

Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Monday January, 7 2019

In Attendance: Chairman Greg Snook, Bob Browning, Robert Kelly, Steve Green (For Senator Edwards), Larry Iden, Delegate Wendell Beitzel, Commissioner Paul Edwards, Paul Weiler DNR: Eric Null, Sgt. James Satterfield, Bruce Michael, Julie Bortz

Action Agenda

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Snook at 6:00pm. Mr. Snook asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting, Mr. Browning made the motion, the motion was second by Mr. Weiler, all board members were in favor. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Canada Geese

Mr. Null stated that the Wildlife and Heritage Service reported that there were no participants in the goose hunt for the 2018 season. The lack of participation was due to the extremely cold, windy weather and that the lake had begun to build ice. Mr. Null stated that the Wildlife and Heritage Service did perform egg oiling in the spring. Mr. Null stated that he would be talking with director Paul Peditto of the Wildlife and Heritage Service and asking if he would speak at the April meeting. Mr. Kelly suggested that the County Commissioners be contacted to help seek land owner permission for hunts on private land.

Lake Management Budget Update

Mr. Null stated that he did not have a quarterly budget report from Annapolis for this meeting. Chairman Snook asked if the Lake Management Office was within its budget and had a surplus. Mr. Null stated yes to both. Mr. Browning asked if Mr. Null anticipated being able to keep the surplus in the reserve fund, Mr. Null stated that he would like to keep it in the reserve. Mr. Browning stated that he had better keep the Lake Management surplus money in the reserve fund. Chairman Snook stated that he hoped after the last meeting that issue with the missing funds in the reserve had been handled.

Wake Boats

Mr. Null stated that there was nothing new to report under the wake boat topic, that the bulk of the update would occur under the minimum wake zone topic.

Water Quality Update

Chairman Snook asked Mr. Bruce Michael for the update on the water quality and several other items that Mr. Michael had to announce. Mr. Michael stated that the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund had five open house meetings to gather public input on the areas where they thought that funding should be awarded. Mr. Michael stated that the meetings were very successful and the one held in Western Maryland had the largest attendance. Mr. Michael stated that they had assembled the comments from the Western Maryland meeting into categories, the categories were; invasive species, shoreline erosion, wake zones, fishing structure, and increasing Natural Resource Police on the lake. He stated that the next step was meeting with all the units of DNR internally to discuss funding appropriations and that Deep Creek Lake being the largest state lake would probably receive a large portion of the funding.

Mr. Weiler asked if there were criteria set for project ranking, Mr. Michael stated that they had established criteria and he would distribute the criteria after DNR units had met. Mr. Kelly asked if the individuals in the department were familiar with the lake? Mr. Michael stated that they were not, but all park managers would have input and that Mr. Null would have direct input into the process. Chairman Snook asked how Deep Creek Lake rates compared to the other state lakes, as far as, the complexity of its issues. Mr. Michael stated that many of the other lake shared the same problems as Deep Creek. Invasive species are a major concern in all lakes. Mr. Iden stated that any installation of fish structure additions could be aided by the bass clubs, since they have a large man power resource. Mr. Michael stated that they would welcome their help.

Chairman Snook asked for an update on the sediment mitigation plan. Mr. Michael stated that they had a meeting on December 7, 2018 about the sedimentation plan. He stated that everyone agreed about moving forward with an RFP. Mr. Michael stated that the plan would address Goal 6 of the watershed plan and identify sources and remediation of sediment entering the lake before dredging occurred. Mr. Michael stated that if the plan is done through the department it could take six to nine months, so he has discussed the submission of an RFP with the county. Commissioner Paul Edwards stated that the County can facilitate the RFP to save time. Commissioner Edwards stated that the County would be the vendor and the contractor chosen would be the customer.

Mr. Michael stated that the third thing that he wanted to touch on was the partnership with the Watershed Foundation and Brookfield for the zebra mussel monitoring project. Mr. Michael stated that this year results for the chemical analysis is lower than the 2009 results, which makes the chemistry less suitable for zebra mussels. He stated that this was an abnormally wet year and that data should be collected next year to assess calcium levels over a period of normal precipitation. He stated that he hoped that Brookfield and the Foundation would be willing to contribute to the program in 2019.

Mr. Michael stated that the water quality monitoring and hydrilla treatment was going to continue in 2019 as it had in previous years. Mr. Michael stated that there were no new beds of hydrilla found this year. Delegate Beitzel asked if the treatment was working, Mr. Michael stated yes and hopefully there will be a time when we can stop treatment. Chairman Snook asked Mr. Michael if they monitored that native grasses while monitoring the hydrilla treatment. Mr. Michael stated that they did monitor the native SAV and that the native plants were still growing in the treatment areas. Delegate Beitzel stated that there are many people that complain of the SAV restricting swimming and boating, Mr. Michael stated that the SAV are native and good SAV, so the Department does not want to kill the good SAV. He

stated that a large amount of research went into the application of herbicide for hydrilla to ensure that it had minimal impact on the native populations.

Mr. Browning stated that at some point mowing the SAV in parts of the lake will be needed. Mr. Michael stated that this could be a possibility. Mr. Browning asked if mower could be brought in for this purpose. Mr. Null stated that a project like this had never been done at Deep Creek Lake and that before it was, the proposal would have to go through a full departmental review. Mr. Kelly expressed concern with how the weighting system for funding for the State Lake Fund money would be established. He asked that when Annapolis has the weighting system if they could send the system to Mr. Null to send to the Board. Mr. Michael stated that they would send it to the Board.

Minimum Wake Zones

Mr. Null stated that the Board had the new POA brochure on towing in front of them. He stated that the brochure would be enclosed with everyone's Buffer Strip Use Permit for 2019. He stated that the brochure was printed on waterproof paper and contained the boating regulations and safety suggestions for water sports. The brochure also contained a map of Deep Creek Lake highlighting restricted areas where watersports are prohibited due to existing boating regulations. Mr. Null also thanked the POA and NRP for their efforts and input into the brochure.

Mr. Null stated that the Board discussed at the last meeting adopting the BAAC criteria for the review of proposed minimum wake zones. He stated that the Board tabled the vote for until this meeting. Mr. Weiler made a motion for the Board to adopt the criteria for review of minimum wake zones. Mr. Kelly second the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed. Mr. Null stated that he would review a proposed minimum wake zone against the criteria and send a report to the Board to review, if the Board accepted the proposal a committee would be formed to collect public input on the proposal and the Board would vote after the committee report to send the proposal to BAAC.

County Commissioners Update

Commissioner Paul Edwards stated that there was not a great deal to report but that he wanted to clarify his previous statement about the RFP for the sediment mitigation plan. He stated that conceptually the County was okay with the proposal but still needed an official vote by the County. Commissioner Edwards asked Gary Aronhalt to give an abridged version of the presentation he gave at the public meeting today. Mr. Aronhalt stated that the Educational Advisory Committee came up with a logo that represents their organization. The logo will be used in all outreach material that the EAC provides to the public. He stated that the EAC plans to explore marketing strategies in 2019.

Chairman Snook asked Delegate Beitzel if there was any new legislation that was going to be introduced this session that pertained to Deep Creek Lake. Delegate Beitzel stated that they were going to try to extend the funding of the State Lakes Fund beyond three years and add additional funding. He also stated that he would be resubmitting the bill to reducing the cost of permitting for shoreline stabilization on state owned lakes.

Public Comment

Mr. Bob Sutton thanked DNR for helping with the new brochure. He stated that they had 5,000 printed and would distribute them to the marinas and local shops.

Mr. Ed King stated that more had to be done about the control of Canada Geese. He stated that the hunting opportunities had to be expanded both in places to hunt and seasons that could be hunted. He stated that many aspects of hunting geese should be explored, such as type of weapon used and additional seasons beyond the regular seasons.

Mr. Hoffman stated that he had a couple of items for the Board to consider. One of the items was the reduction of the cost of hydrilla treatment to hopefully zero for Deep Creek Lake. He also stated that places like Lake Habeeb at Rocky Gap have hydrilla infestations and it is also a state-owned lake. Its proximity to Deep Creek Lake puts Deep Creek at risk of future introductions, so funding should be allocated to treat Lake Habeeb, to protect Deep Creek Lake. He also stated that if criteria for minimum wake zones that were adopted tonight be made public then HOA's could evaluate if they meet criteria, saving the Lake Manager time in review. Mr. Null offered that if an HOA wanted to submit a formal petition but wanted more information besides the criteria they could schedule an appointment with him, and he would explain in detail the criteria and existing regulations.

Mr. Gary Love asked if there was an update on the Brookfield MDE permit renewal? Mr. Jeff White stated that Brookfield has submitted their application and will now hold stakeholder group meetings to gather public input. He stated that we should expect the MGD discharge with in the permit to increase due to a longer record of data of inflow and out flow.

Chairman Snook stated that he will be stepping down from the PRB after this meeting, he thanked the public, board, and DNR for their help and wished all good luck. He thanked Bob Hoffman for all the time he spent with the Chairman in the beginning bringing him up to speed with all the Boards issues.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 22.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Null