

**Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board Meeting**  
**October 28, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

- Bob Browning - Chairman
- Bob Sutton – Property Owners Association
- Patty Manown Mash – Chamber of Commerce
- Steve Green - Alternate for Delegate Jim Hinebaugh
- Jim Iden – Bass Federation
- Wendell Beitzel -Member
- Bob Hoffman - Alternate for Senator McKay
- Marta Schroyer -Member
- Dr. Jim George – Maryland Department of the Environment

**Meeting Summary:**

The October 28 Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board (PRB) Meeting covered several important issues:

- Discussion of Lake Management staffing changes, including reclassifying the lake manager position and adding two full-time and one long-term contractual planner positions.
- The PRB approved a \$200 fee that would apply to private dock rentals, with a cap of one dock per permit and subject to other local and state requirements.
- Public input regarding the impact of wake boats on shoreline erosion.
- There was also a discussion about the need for better communication with Brookfield Renewable.

**Action Items**

- DNR to draft a new regulation consistent with the recommendation of the PRB Regulation Committee and full PRB. The regulation will govern new dock slip rentals on the lake.
- DNR to report back to the board after the upcoming season on the number of rental slip permits 'sold'.
- PRB and/or DNR to reinstitute boat counts on busy days.
- PRB and DNR to work with Brookfield Renewable to improve communication and transparency around lake management issues.

**Detailed Minutes**

**Introductions**

- PRB members, proxies and DNR staff were introduced.

## **Staffing and Office Reorganization**

- DNR discussed the reclassification and upgrade of the lake manager position to a level equivalent with park managers across the state.
- The vacating of the administrative position will be replaced with a planner.
- DNR discusses plans to have three planners for the lake management to ensure efficient customer service and response to field needs.
- The plan also includes purchasing a new workboat to improve field operations, with a bid process ongoing.

## **Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Chair Browning called for the adoption of the minutes from the July 29, 2024 Policy and Review Board meeting. Steve Green made a motion to adopt the minutes, which was seconded by Jim Iden. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Chair also noted the extensive time spent by the regulation committee. The minutes from the October 16, 2024 regulation committee were read, detailing the attendance and the review and approval of revised minutes.
- The Chair and regulation committee members noted that the committee discussed the two advice memos on dock rentals from the office of the Attorney General at the Legislature and at DNR. The Committee members reported out to the PRB that a motion was made and passed to adopt an additional \$200 fee for new residential dock rentals, subject to a maximum of one dock rental.

## **Discussion on Dock Rental Regulations**

- Chairman explained the background and concerns about the quality of the recreational experience at Deep Creek Lake, balancing public access with property owner concerns.
- A discussion occurred regarding the conflicting advice from the Attorney General's, but the PRB concluded that there were two options: either not allowing dock rentals or modifying the regulations to accept them.
- Karen Meyers, a member of the regulation committee, indicated support for the new regulation, emphasizing the need for enforcement and the potential income generation for the system.

## **Proposed Dock Rental Regulation Changes**

- The proposed regulation change was offered to the PRB, including the removal of the undefined word "nonprofit" and the limitation of dock slips to one rental per permit.
- The regulation does not supersede HOA restrictions.
- The group discussed the potential impact on boat counts and the need for monitoring and enforcement.
- At the end of the discussion, Bob Sutton made a motion to approve the proposed dock slip rental regulation as drafted and move it forward to the Department. The motion

was seconded by Marta Schroyer. The motion passed 5-0, with Chair Browning and Steve Green abstaining.

### **Budget and Communication Updates**

- DNR Regional Manager, Sarah Milbourne, provided a budget update, noting the current budget of around \$1.24 million and the adequate funding for personnel and equipment changes.
- Sarah emphasized the importance of communication and the efforts to improve information sharing with stakeholders.

### **Water Quality and Sav Control Workshop**

- Tom Parham from DNR provides updates on water quality monitoring, continuous monitoring sites, and the upcoming sav control workshop on December 10.
- Tom mentions the rediscovery of hydrilla in Meadow Mountain Cove and the ongoing treatment efforts.
- Tom highlights the upcoming 100th anniversary of Deep Creek Lake and the plans for a water quality kiosk.

### **Brookfield Renewable Update and Public Comments**

- Dustin Droege from Brookfield Renewable provides an update on the lack of progress in the legislative process and the upcoming meeting on October 30.
- Dustin acknowledges the frustration from stakeholders and emphasizes the need for transparency and communication.
- Bob Browning and Bob Sutton express concerns about the lack of cooperation from Brookfield and the impact on the lake's water quality and recreational experience.

### **Public Comments and Closing Remarks**

- Vicky Elwin shares her concerns about the environmental impact and the erosion of property due to wake boats.
- Vicky suggests the need for regulations on boat sizes and the enforcement of existing laws to protect property and the environment.
- Rick Egbit raises questions about the fairness of the proposed dock rental fees and the need for consistency across commercial and residential slips.
- Speaker from Friendsville expresses frustration with the lack of involvement from the legislature with stakeholders and the need for transparency in the legislative process.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:01 PM.