

Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board

Meeting Minutes

Monday May 6, 2024

In Attendance : Chairman Bob Browning, Bob Sutton, Marta Schroyer, Delegate Jim Hinebaugh, Bob Hoffman for Senator McKay, Jim Iden, Dr. Jim George, Commissioner Ryan Savage, Bruce Michael for the County Commissioner, DNR Eric Null, Julia Vache, Sarah Milbourne .

Action Agenda

Chairman Browning asked for a roll call, Mr. Null preformed the roll call at the request of the Chairman. A quorum was present at the time of roll call. Minutes were approved and posted on the DCL NRMA website April 17, 2024.

Old Business

Canada Geese

The Chairman asked that this topic be removed from the agenda until something changes. Mr. Null stated that everything will remain the same as last year, the hunters harvested 16 geese. Mr. Null stated that the hunters enjoyed the new lottery platform. He stated that groups hunting the farms around the lake is becoming more popular with one group harvesting over 160. Hopefully as years progress, we will be able to correlate geese harvested on the lake with geese harvested in the fields around the lake.

Lake Management Budget

Mr. Null stated that the budget was in good shape and will be depositing money into the reserve. Mr. Hoffman asked if this was the last FY for the State Lakes Fund. Delegate Hinebaugh stated that he submitted a bill to extend the fund beyond 2025 but it was not approved due to the lack of funds available. He stated that the Chairman of Appropriations asked him to submit a bill next year for DCL. The Delegate informed the Board that the Appropriations Committee would be coming to Garrett County this summer. The Chairman asked Mr. Null how his staffing is for the year. He stated that he would have a full complement of seasonal employees by the end of the month. Mr. Null stated that the Lake Management office is open to the public during regular hours.

Regulation and Boater Education

The Chairman stated that we would have to begin discussion on the possible change of the AIS regulations. Mr. Null stated that the regulation change for early dock deployment has been put on the register for public comment.

Water Quality Monitoring

Mr. Null stated Christine King has been contacting permit holders for permission to deploy the continuous monitoring sensors at docks. One site will be Arrowhead cove. He stated that this year they will be monitoring main lake sites instead of coves, since they have baseline data on all of the coves. He stated that the lake behaves differently between the north and the south due to the change in topography. Mr. Null explained the turnover events at the lake and that it happened earlier this year than most years. Mr. Null stated that Hydrilla treatment will continue this year. He stated that next year we will be spending less because it has been eradicated in most areas. Mr. Michael stated that this treatment was a major success story.

Water Level Request

The Chairman stated that the bill that was submitted did not make it. The Delegate stated that the bill did not get out of committee on the House side. He stated that there was a big push at the end by Senator McKay, but the bill did not pass. He informed the Board that the Chairman of the House and Senate Committees asked to write a letter to Brookfield that would come from the Chairmen asking them to work with the County, DNR, MDE, and the legislators to manage the water levels. He stated that he is optimistic that something will come from the letter. The Chairman thanked the Delegate and Senator for their efforts. Delegate Hinebaugh stated that the Board should invite the Chairman of the Environment and Transportation Committee to the lake and that he and Senator McKay would work on inviting him to DCL. Mr. Sutton asked who should take the lead on this project. Delegate Hinebaugh stated that he would ask for input from Senator McKay. Mr. Sutton stated that Richard Ortt was assembling a work group on SAV control. Mr. Michael stated that there may be a chance to study the impact on SAV with the normal drawdown levels. The Chairman stated that since the water levels have been held high during the winter there has been a change in the vegetation in the lake. The Chairman suggested that he write a letter to DNR supporting the SAV workshop. Mr. Hoffman stated that these are parallel efforts, but they are two different efforts. He asked if the two efforts should be one. The Chairman stated that the Board should support both efforts separately. He stated that if Brookfield does not cooperate, then they will be investigating other opportunities to manage the vegetation. Mr. Michael stated that the work group can investigate species of SAV impacted and other ways to control SAV. Mr. Sutton stated that Brookfield stated that it takes 10 days to drop and fill the lake. Mr. Michael stated that for the dredging project it was 2-3 days.

Publicizing Deep Creek Lake Projects

Mr. Null stated that the Shoreline Erosion Control grant applications have been sent to eligible permit holders. He stated that staff installed over 130 trees donated by Mosser Meadows for fish habitat. He informed the Board that Samantha Miller will be handling the Shoreline Erosion Control Grant Program this year. Mr. Null stated that Hydrilla costs should go down this year and that the 10 in 10 program received \$10k from the State Lakes Fund. Mr. Hoffman informed the Board that there will be a Brunch and Learn on the 10 in 10 Program on May 15th. The Chairman suggested that there be an additional agenda item on current lake issues.

County Commissioner Update

Mr. Michael stated he handed out information to the Board on the Arrowhead Project. He stated that 11,000 cubic yards of material was removed. He stated that three weeks ago the contractor started on the upland restoration part of the project. They have removed the stone, planted trees and shrubs, and stabilized the site. He stated that the SAV restoration will begin this month. DNR grew native SAV in a greenhouse that will be transplanted in Arrowhead Cove. He informed the Board that there have been mostly positive comments on the project. He stated that he would be giving a presentation at the POA general meeting. Mr. Michael stated that the County hired a Watershed Coordinator, Molly Ramsey a PhD from Garrett County. She will start on June 1, 2024.

New Business

Correspondence to DNR

Mr. Null stated that there is an upcoming Development Permit Application

Attorney General Office Update

No update at this time.

Public Comment

Ms. Karen Myers informed the Board about the events that will be occurring in 2025. She stated that the POA will be heading the celebration, and it will be a county wide event. Some of the events will be a county celebration day, a gala, a boat parade, possibly free admission to the State Park for the boat parade, encourage Brookfield to do powerplant tours, a picture party, and videography. There are several sponsors, with WVU Medicine being the largest sponsor. There will be up to 12 kiosks around the lake with historical information along with a billboard to advertise the 100th. The POA has developed a logo to print on flags and banners. They are hoping to schedule a large event every month. The POA would like to have a float that would be in all the town parades. They are still looking for a keynote speaker. Mr. Null informed Ms. Myers that the amended dock regulation has been passed to the register for its public comment period.

Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn; Mr. Sutton made the motion, Mr. Iden second all were in favor.

The next meetings are as follows:

July 29, 2024

October 28, 2024

January 27, 2025

May 5, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Vache

Natural Resource Planner II