

**Deep Creek Lake Policy Review Board
Regulation Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 11th, 2024**

Begin Meeting: 2:06pm

Regulation Committee Members: Karen Myers, Steve Green, Parker Jacobs, Bob Browning, Bob Sutton, Barry Weinberg

DNR Staff: Roy Musselwhite, Julia Vache, Paul Peditto

Old Business

Members discussed the status of the approved regulation authorizing earlier dock deployment. Paul Peditto informed the committee that the regulation is now in effect and will allow docks to be deployed two weeks earlier than previously prescribed (March 15 - subject to Departmental discretion related to public safety concerns).

Members discussed the ongoing proposed adjustments to the AIS regulation and fine schedules.

Members discussed the control of aquatic vegetation, proposals of how to manage if lake level adjustment requests are not met by Brookfield. Options of what species, if any, to target in management plans were discussed.

Members further discussed the implications if Brookfield Power does not meet the PRB's requests. The progress report for the lake levels is due to Senator Mike McKay on September 30th.

New Business

Members determined that the advice memo from counsel to the General Assembly states that offering a dock rental is not allowed except for residential, tenants and guests.

Members reviewed the verbal summary from Paul Peditto regarding advice of Assistant Attorney General Emily Vainieri. The summary included issuance of commercial Buffer Strip Use Permits for rental dock properties; or clarify current regulations defining "non-profit" clearly, with the goal to create a regulation that is clear and enforceable in COMAR.

The two forms of legal advice were considered. Members discussed the legal remedies for the choices available, including ensuring any regulation is enforceable and understandable.

Concerns for dock rentals included the discussion of parking spots for rental slips, the number of boats increasing or exceeding lake capacity, effects to existing commercial permit sites or dock rental companies, and management of HOA or deeded slip permits.

All members agreed that significant outreach and education will be required following any regulation change. A majority consensus of committee members agreed to work toward a change in regulation that would include a limit on slip rental, subject to an undetermined fee that will be added to their annual permit price.

Assistant Secretary Paul Peditto will work with Emily Vainieri and to create a draft regulation for dock rental allowance that will specify a maximum rental allowance for each permit site type. Members of the PRB regulation committee will review the draft prior to presenting to the PRB committee and the public.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:32pm

Next PRB meeting is scheduled for October 28th, 2024

The regulation committee will reconvene prior to the upcoming PRB Meeting to finalize discussions regarding regulatory changes.