

Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan Lake Levels Subcommittee member presentation

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Two amendments to COMAR could help alleviate low water issues in shallow coves.

1) Amend COMAR; to allow docks in shallow water to push out into deeper water as long as it does not impede navigation.

2) Addition to COMAR; Mandate that a new, updated DNR eligibility report be obtained by buyers of DCL property with boat slip privileges prior to closing on the property sale, preferably well before closing. The report must be signed and submitted to DNR for record keeping.

I made two assumptions which may not be agreeable to shallow cove dwellers; that the minimum depth for the end of a slip should be two feet deep and that the lake elevation of 2457' on October 1st is a good planning target for my COMAR amendment 1). The illustration of green glade shows that if the 100 feet from the water line was the law instead of 100 feet from the 2462' contour line we could provide the option to a large proportion of dock owners to push out to an acceptable depth at the lake elevation of 2457'. This is only a suggestion, depending on the aesthetics of having longer docks pushed out further; even better depths can be achieved. As far as shallow narrow coves go like North West Pawn Run, the One third across the cove rule could take precedence over the 100 feet from 2462' and help a few boat slips obtain deeper water legally. In my opinion safe navigation could be obtained with the docks pushed out passed the one-third point in this instance.

The POA's online mapping tool uses a Satellite photograph of DCL as its base that was taken on October 9th 2011. This handy tool has Bathymetric contour line overlay and a measuring tool that I verified to be accurate and useful. The lake was at the relatively high water level of 2458.7' on this date. The photograph reveals that approximately two thirds of the docks are removed from the entire lake and the ones remaining were almost completely vacant of boats. Furthermore, I estimate that hundreds of the remaining docks appear to be pushed out beyond the legal barrier of 100' from the 2462' contour line, some pushed out further than one third of the way across narrow coves. A COMAR amendment would help people stay legal. Traditionally people start pulling boats and docks out of the lake around Labor Day, In view of the lake being mostly vacant of boats on October 9th 2011, I question why lake leadership wants higher water levels for the Autumn Glory Festival, which was 3 days after this mapping tool photo was taken.

In reference to my Addition to COMAR idea 2); DCL Property ownership turnover is substantial, and continual, producing a new populace naïve to lake level fluctuations, SAV and sediment issues. It would be better if all potential property buyers had full disclosure of these conditions prior to the sale. Considering the many recent, and expensive technical reports we now have, I submit that we could help alleviate property owner surprise and dissatisfaction, if property sales include a full and highly descriptive COMAR mandate that a new, updated DNR eligibility report be obtained by buyers of DCL property with boat slip privileges prior to closing on the property sale, preferably well before closing. Since property ownership turnover is so great it would take only a decade or so to educate the populace of fluctuating lake water levels, sediment and SAV issues at their water front.