

Deep Creek Lake

Watershed Management Plan

Water Quality Subcommittee – Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 4/17/2014
Time: 9:00 – 11:30 PM
Location: University of Maryland Extension Service Office
1916 Maryland Highway, Suite A
Mountain Lake Park, MD 21550

Members in Attendance:

Willie Lantz
John Forman
Steve Green
Chuck Hoffeditz
Pete Versteegen
Christine Conn
Bruce Michael
Erin McLaughlin
Alison Armocida

Agenda Items

Bruce Michael reported that the Hydrilla Management Strategy has been posted on the Deep Creek Lake NRMA website with a link to a more detailed management plan. The link has been sent to the PRB, Property Owners Association and Garrett County Commissioners.

Minutes from 3/20 were approved

Question and Answer session with Alison Armocida on Stream Corridor Assessments

Q: What additional data does the stream corridor assessment provide beyond the MBSS? Many streams are not mapped. How is this handled?

A: MBSS is a health snapshot, but doesn't tell you what is wrong. DNR uses the State Highway Administration stream data, and if any additional streams are found, they will also be walked.

Q: What is the process for landowner contact?

A: First letters are sent which yields about a 50 % acceptance rate. Then staff may approach the landowner personally to give them more information. The team usually assesses about 3 miles a day.

Q: Many livestock agricultural owners may not want stream assessments because of potential for livestock in the stream and the fact that these practices have been dictated by Chesapeake Bay restoration goals.

A: For those landowners that say no, those stream reaches are not assessed.

Members advised that landowner contact may be more successful if DNR builds strong partnerships with landowners. Need to emphasize that this is not a bay issue, but is an issue of keeping DCL healthy and that DNR will help landowners access funding.

MDA has funding for certain practices, such as manure management, stream fencing, etc. The limiting factor may be technical assistance. This would be for agricultural practices and maybe for forestry. Lakeshore erosion problems would need to be tied to agricultural practices in order to be eligible for MDA funding.

A: There are also state and federal funds and technical assistance groups to help landowners apply for funds.

The Cove Run project, which is a stream restoration project on a farm, could be highlighted as a successful partnership. This could be a model for other projects.

Q: Are illegal activities reported to MDE?

A: The crew is not looking for illegal issues and do not report illegal activity to MDE. State lands are also assessed.

Q: What is the process for fixing the issues?

A: First prioritize, then conduct outreach and identify funding. It is important to identify the appropriate funding source to address the particular issue.

The WQ workgroup could possibly help with developing funding strategies.

Members advised there is a need to develop a partnership process for conducting outreach to landowners, both for granting permission for assessment, and then for identifying restoration priorities and implementation. This needs to be a water quality strategy. Local partners need to be pulled in to assist with education and outreach.

Discussion of remaining elements of Water Quality Goal

Members agreed that a progress goal should be quantified, such as doing one project or two a year.

Forestry objective: Chuck has identified additional property owners within the 5-10 acre that are eligible for plans, but not eligible for DNR forestry assistance. This is a list of 116 people

Agriculture objective: Done

Septics retrofits are only done if problems reported. Don't have any data on whether this is a problem. Erin talked to health department. Most often the high bacterial levels are associated with geese. Septics will be addressed by Growth subcommittee.

Added in a lawn fertilizer objective: Lawn care companies have to follow certain application procedures to minimize runoff and test soils first. Homeowner application is the issue. Need to understand the degree of fertilizer and pesticide use applied by the homeowners. Suggest conducting a survey that could possibly be funded by Willie's office.

Other point and nonpoint sources were discussed. Roadside ditches contribute erosion and the Growth subcommittee has been discussing this. The Roads department was called in but they don't own the right of way so they have a difficult time trying to figure out how to deal with these issues, particularly if landowners don't want to work with them.

Geese management: Eric Null has done some surveys. Paul Pedditto has a plan developed for geese control. The recommendations in the plan will be incorporated into the strategies.

Follow-up Actions

Christine will make the final revisions on the water quality goal based on today's conversation. Pete will circulate a revised draft of the Erosion and Sedimentation goal via e-mail. The group will provide comments by 4/25/14 on the entire set of goals, objectives and strategies so that Christine can finalize and send to the steering committee as the Water Quality subcommittee's final report. This is the last meeting of the Water Quality subcommittee. Great job, everyone!