

## Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board

### Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Monday January 8, 2018

In Attendance: Mr. Jim Bailey (for Chairman Snook), Delegate Wendell Beitzel, Bob Browning, Commissioner Paul Edwards, Susan Crawford (for Bob Hoffman), Robert Kelly, Steve Green (For Senator Edwards), Marta Schroyer, Larry Iden, DNR: Eric Null, Sgt. Mike Friend, Bruce Michael, Julie Bortz

#### Action Agenda

The meeting was called to order by acting Chairman Bailey at 6:00pm. Mr. Bailey asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting, Mr. Browning made the motion, the motion was second by Mr. Kelly, and all board members were in favor. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### Old Business

Mr. Bailey asked Mr. Null for a report on the Canada Goose Hunt. Mr. Null reported that he had the official report of the hunt from the Wildlife and Heritage Service. A total of 15 geese were harvested at Deep Creek Lake, Broadford Lake had five geese and several ducks harvested. All hunters reported having a great hunt and are eager to participate next year.

Mr. Bailey asked Mr. E. Null for the update on the Lake Management Budget. Mr. Null stated that there were no changes since the last meeting. He stated that Lake Management will be purchasing the water quality meters that the PRB approved and the Hydrilla contract should be posted for bid soon

Mr. Bailey asked Mr. E. Null for an update on wake boat complaints. Mr. Null reported that there were no new complaints or updates from DNR.

Mr. Bailey asked Mr. Bruce Michael for an update on the water quality monitoring program. Mr. Michael stated that this is an opportunity for him to brief everyone on the water quality monitoring program and answer any questions that the Board may have. Mr., Michael stated that he would focus on three areas, long-term monitoring, near shore monitoring, and the 2015-16 sediment and tributary study. He stated that the long-term monitoring program was for the mainstem of the lake, to characterize the deep-water lake conditions. This program has been in place since 2009. Mr. Michael explained that one of the parameters that are studied is Secchi Depth, which relates to water clarity in the mainstem sites. He stated that readings in the early part of the last two years were low due to turbidity influence caused by two extremely wet springs.

Mr. Michael stated that the near shore monitoring is the newest component to the program. This component focuses on the shallow water coves using continuous monitoring devices to record parameters that focus on the effects of primary production in the shallow water areas. He explained

that these continuous monitoring meters are placed in cove areas for two to three weeks, then downloaded and rotated to another cove. He also stated that DNR was looking for external funding to supplement the equipment needs for this program. He stated that with more equipment the complete monitoring of the shallow water areas could be done faster. He stated that the continuous monitors are not a new technology, that the Chesapeake Bay has been using them for years. Mr. Michael stated that there are two separate monitoring times for the near shore; spring and fall that assess storm water impacts and the summer boating season which assess boating/ turbidity impacts.

Mr. Michael also stated that the 2015-16 tributary and shoreline erosion and sediment study data is finished. He stated that RAS would like to continue this study, but external funding would have to be procured to allow the study to continue. He stated that the preliminary results indicated that Poland Run, Arrowhead and Hazlehurst had the highest sediment contributions. Poland Run may be an elevated reading due to large amounts of backflow from the lake. Mr. Michael stated that there is new information that can be used to determine more exact sediment loadings, since Lake Management has partnered with USGS to install two new stream gauges.

Mr. Michael discussed the SAV monitoring program. He stated that over time in the southern area of the lake there has been a decrease in SAV abundance. This decrease may be due to the Hydrilla treatment in this area. He stated that the Hydrilla Treatment strategy has been modified due to its success and that fewer impacts to the native SAV will be seen due to the decrease in treatment area. He stated that the SAV shoreline survey is the monitoring component responsible for the early detection of new Hydrilla beds, like the one found in Arrowhead Cove. This component will continue in 2018. He also stated that Arrowhead Cove will now be part of the regular treatment in 2018.

Mr. Michael elaborated on another invasive species, zebra mussels. He stated that Deep Creek Lake does not have zebra mussels but many areas around DCL have them. He stated that a zebra mussel monitoring program will be instated for DCL in 2018. He informed the board that the Aquatic Invasive Species education will continue in 2018 with the launch stewards and public outreach.

Ms. Crawford asked Mr. Michael if he was aware of the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Foundation, Mr. Michael stated that he was aware of the foundation. Ms. Higgins stated that the purchase of more water quality monitoring devices is an approved project for the watershed foundation to seek funding. Mr. Bailey asked what the life span of the monitors was; Mr. Michael stated it was about seven years. Mr. Bailey asked Mr. Null if the purchase of a meter could be part of the annual Lake Management Budget, Mr. Null stated that if Hydrilla costs remain stable Lake Management could purchase a meter every year. Mr. Green asked if continuous monitors could be real-time like the some of the Bay monitors. Mr. Michael stated that telemetry is expensive and requires a lot of maintenance, but it could be done if funding and man power were available. Mr. Kelly asked if there was any monitoring or invasive species control at the private marinas. Mr. Michael stated that there was not but that DNR would be reaching out to the marinas to try and establish some educational components at the marinas. Mr. Iden asked how does Brookfield monitor for zebra mussels? Mr. Michael stated that they deploy an artificial substrate that allows for mussel colonization. Mr. Browning asked what can be done if zebra mussels enter DCL? Mr. Michael stated that there is no treatment for them.

Mr. Bailey asked Commissioner Paul Edwards for an update from the county commissioners. Commissioner Edwards thanked the board for the two letters of support that they wrote for the county. Commissioner Edwards stated that they would be having a meeting with Secretary Belton to discuss the progress of the dredging and water ways application next week.

#### Public Comment

Mr. Richard Matlick stated that Mr. Michael answered all his questions.

Mr. Tim Klein asked for an update on the status of a map depicting the 200ft set back for wake surfing. Mr. Null stated that in the Buffer Strip Use permit packages for 2018 there is a link for an interactive map that Lake Management built showing the 200ft set back along with many other tools that the public can use. Mr. Klein stated that before any laws were made on wake boat operation he believes that owners and operators should address the board.

Ms. Karen Myers stated that she was looking into procuring a billboard in McHenry to use as a PR tool for boating operation and safety.

Mr. Iden asked for fisheries had any reports on the fish populations and if they would make a presentation for the next meeting. Mr. Null stated that he would ask Allan Klotz if he would present at the next meeting.

Mr. Bailey asked for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Browning made the motion, Mr. Kelly second. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Null