

Deep Creek Watershed Plan



David Myerberg

Chair

Deep Creek
Watershed Plan
Steering Committee

Why a Watershed Plan?

- 2001 – Recreation and Land Use Plan
 - DNR manages the lake and PRB reviewed the policies of the lake
- 2012 - Analysis by Friends of Deep Creek scoring the success of the Plan
 - Looked at seven areas from the plan;
 - Little progress on any of these;
 - Why?
 - Many of the goals depended upon people and agencies that were outside the influence of the DNR and PRB;
 - County not a coordinated part of the efforts;

Who Developed this Plan?

- Foresight of the Signers of the MOU
 - John Griffin, Joe Gill, Bob Gatto, Gregan Crawford and Jim Raley
- Appointed Members of the Steering Committee (8) and Sub-committees (10)
 - All volunteers
- Staffing from the County, Maryland DNR, and University of MD
 - Debbie Carpenter, Catherine Shanks, Christine Conn, and Mike Bilek;
- State and County Experts (25)

How was the Plan Developed?

- Meetings – All Open to the Public (9-13 to 9-14)
 - Public Meetings (Determine Problems before, Comment on the Plan after);
 - Steering Committee (11 meetings);
 - Subcommittees (numerous meetings);
- Education (every meeting plus homework);
- Goals, Objectives and Strategies;
- Debates (including an 11 hour retreat over 2 days in May);
- Drafting the Plan.

Vision Statement

Through partnerships with private land owners and government agencies, the Deep Creek Watershed will improve its environmental stability and economic viability, while retaining its rural landscapes and natural beauty, so that, for generations to come, local citizens and visitors have a special place to live, work and play.

The Plan

- Section A
 - Four Parts
 - Improved Accountability and Coordination;
 - Water Quality;
 - Growth in the Watershed;
 - Lake Levels.
- Section B - background
- Section C - the documentation

Accountability and Coordination

- Foster cooperation between agencies that impact the environmental conditions of the watershed;
- Executive Director and Staff;
“The Executive Director will awaken every morning thinking about the condition of the watershed dashboard, and that will determine their work goals.”
- Funding;
- Support from DNR and the County;
- State, county and local citizen’s committees to bring the Plan to fruition.

Addressing Water Quality in the Watershed

- All water in the watershed can affect the lake;
- Monitor stream and lake water quality to keep the lake mesotrophic;
- Maximize the beneficial effects of forest preservation and management;
- Maintain best practices for agricultural land;
- Minimize fertilizers and pesticides that get into the lake;
- Manage point source and non-point source pollution;
- Manage SAV's (around docks and invasives);
- Manage and prevent erosion and sedimentation.

Addressing Impacts of Growth in the Watershed

- “Ensure that growth is managed in order to strike a balance between development and environmental health.”
- Strengthen the current site design and architectural review standards applied to commercial development;
- Promote new and retain viable waterfront businesses;
- Manage storm water infrastructure;
- Protect the watershed from leaking sewers and septic tanks;
- Preserve and enhance the quality of recreational opportunities while ensuring those opportunities are in harmony with environmental stewardship.

Addressing Lower Lake Levels

- The current State appropriation permit for water releases is designed to balance the needs of multiple users.
- The Plan proposes analysis of an alternative approach:
 - Independent study to evaluate releases based on a water budget;
 - Refinement to the Temperature Enhancement Protocol;
 - Independently funded (need donations)
 - Engineering firm selected by mutual agreement (local funders, MDE, DNR, and County)

Addressing Lower Lake Levels

- Strategies for shallow coves
 - Evaluate regulations for options to extend docks;
 - Provide more information at time of property sale;
 - Consider dredging (if, where and how).

Partnership, Scientific, Dynamic, and Long term

- This is the beginning of a **new partnership and process** to systematically assess and address issues.
- The process and partnership **will need to be adaptive** as we learn more about the lake and watershed.
- Actions will be **based on science** and assessments using scientific methods.
- The **Plan lays out the next steps** and processes for the partnership and the goals.
- It is **not a static document or process** and will be updated as we learn more about the watershed and the lake.

Completion of the Plan

- Those of us who have undertaken the task set out by the signers of the MOU believe that the Watershed Management Plan can make a substantial difference for Deep Creek Lake and the County over the coming years.
- Tomorrow morning, the Plan will be released for public comment for the next 30 days.
- On August 9, 2014, we have a Public Meeting planned at WISP and will take comments through August 23rd.
- On September 8, we will have the final meeting of the Steering Committee to address the comments of the public and finalize the plan.

What you can do

- Download the Plan:
www.dnr.state.md.us/deepcreekwatershedplan/
- Submit Comments in writing:
 - Email to deepcreekwatershedplan.dnr@maryland.gov
 - In writing at the public meeting
 - Mail to: Deborah Carpenter, Assistant Director
Department of Community Planning &
Development
Office of Planning & Land Management
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Oakland MD 21550