

**Minutes**  
**Educational Advisory Committee (EAC)**  
**18 August 2019 - 1:30 - 3:30 pm**

**In Attendance:**

**Ken Fisher**, Forestry  
**Bob Sutton**, Property Owner  
**Gary Shafer**, Property Owner  
**Bruce Taliaferro**, Education  
**Gary Aronhalt**, Watershed Coordinator

**Absent:**

**Sarah Duck**, Marketing  
**Willie Lantz**, Agriculture  
**Richard Matlick**, Property Owner  
**Lauren McCann**, Business  
**Greg Rouse**, Recreation

**Welcome /Opening Remarks:**

**Gary Aronhalt** announced that **Lauren McCann**, and **Greg Rouse** had reported that they would not be present for the meeting.

**Administrative Council Update**

**Gary Aronhalt** announced that hydrilla treatments were complete pending no further detections. **Gary** stated that the Water-Wise training was held on August 13-15<sup>th</sup>.

**Advertising Water-Wise:**

**Gary Aronhalt** asked the committee for suggestions for advertising Water-Wise. **Gary** mentioned that Ashley Bodkins had not received any feedback from the theater advertisements. The committee suggested sending the information to HOA groups. The committee suggested placing paper pamphlets at the Chamber of Commerce, restaurants, theater, and Uno's. **Bruce Taliaferro** suggested that brochure holders were available on Amazon at a low cost. **Gary Shafer** suggested that areas such as the lawn at Dutch's Restaurant have high visibility and would be good properties to certify Water-Wise. **Bruce Taliaferro** asked if the local landscapers were at the Water-Wise training. **Gary Aronhalt** commented that the training was only attended by Master Gardeners. **Ken Fisher** suggested the Visitor's Center and other County buildings. It was also suggested to communicate with schools (science teachers) and Camp Hickory. **Bob Sutton** suggested that the dock permits go out in February and that the committee could stuff envelopes

### **Citizen Science:**

**Gary Aronhalt** stated that he had a discussion with Debbie Carpenter regarding increasing website traffic. The concept of adding water temperature to the website was considered as an option to attract visitors. Several committee members stated that they look up the lake temperature on the Deep Creek Times. **Gary Aronhalt** asked the committee for other suggestions to increase website traffic. **Ken Fisher** asked for the current number of website visitors. **Gary Aronhalt** stated that he would provide a report on recent website traffic via email prior to the next EAC meeting.

**Gary Aronhalt** presented the idea of water quality kits that could be borrowed while visiting Deep Creek Lake. The committee suggested that the rental agencies may be interested in participating/ sponsoring the water quality kits for kids.

The committee suggested a photo-of-the-day concept to attract visitors. **Ken Fisher** suggested having viewers identify the location where photographs were taken. **Gary Shafer** suggested that sunsets/ sunrises, fish catches, and wildlife would be good subject matter.

**Bob Sutton** and **Bruce Taliaferro** suggested Geocaching as an option to promote environmental stewardship. **Gary Shafer** stated that geocaching was a good idea, but was unsure about the connection to the EAC. The committee then discussed potential coordination of water quality and geocaching. The committee asked Gary Aronhalt to communicate with Julie Bortz regarding the potential. Calcium, pH turbidity, temperature, and phosphorus were suggested as parameters.

### **Meeting Conclusion:**

**Gary Aronhalt** asked the committee for any questions. **Ken Fisher** asked about the progress of the survey. **Gary Aronhalt** stated that the survey was live and the County was preparing a press release to advertise the survey.

The meeting was adjourned.

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