<p align="center">**Minutes**</p>

Educational Advisory Committee

<p align="center">**16 October 2017 - 9:30 - 11:30 am**</p>

In Attendance:

Ken Fisher, Forestry

Willie Lantz, Agriculture

Logan Marks, Recreation

Lauren McCann, Business

Gary Shafer, Property Owner

Bob Sutton, Property Owner

Gary Aronhalt, Watershed Coordinator

Debbie Carpenter, Director of Garrett County Department of Planning & Land Management

Absent:

Sarah Duck, Marketing

Welcome/ Opening Remarks:

Gary Aronhalt introduced himself and defined the roles of the Watershed Coordinator, The Administrative Council, and the Educational Advisory Committee (EAC). Gary serves as staff to the Administrative Council and is the liaison between the EAC and the Administrative Council. The role of the Educational Advisory Committee is to advise the Administrative Council regarding all educational and outreach needs of the stakeholders within the Deep Creek Watershed.

Gary covered general guidelines and expectations for EAC meetings. Gary explained that Goal #2, "Nurture an Informed and Engaged Citizenry Regarding the Deep Creek Watershed", was an important focus for the committee. He also noted that the committee would evaluate the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan and identify potential areas where the EAC could become involved.

Introductions:

The committee introduced themselves to each other with a brief description of their background and potential assets to the committee:

Logan Marks, representing **Recreation**, said that he grew up in the area and currently lives in the watershed and has been a long-time recreational user of the Lake. He explained that he has marketing experience and his previous work with Economic Development would be an asset to the committee. Logan also mentioned that he offers a different perspective as a younger homeowner and watershed stakeholder. Logan enjoys rediscovering the area with his wife.

Bob Sutton, representing **Property Owners**, stated that he is a long-time resident of the watershed and has been a lake user for many more years. His career in research and development was based in Pittsburgh, PA. He mentioned that he is currently a board member of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake and he has been the President of the Sky Valley Association, Inc. Board of Directors for many years.

Gary Shafer, representing **Property Owners**, mentioned that he is a long-time resident in the watershed and that he has owned businesses and practiced pharmacy in Oakland and currently owns two businesses in the watershed. He is an active board member of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake.

Lauren McCann, representing **Business Owners**, stated that she has been a long-time resident of the watershed and grew up on Deep Creek Lake. Lauren is a board member of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake. She owns and operates a marina on the Lake and is also an avid recreational user of the watershed.

Ken Fisher, representing **Forestry**, stated that he is from Vermont, but has been a long-time resident of Garrett County. He and his wife were attracted to the area by the downhill and cross country skiing opportunities in the area. He is a board member of the Garrett County Forestry Board and was active in the development of the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan.

Willie Lantz, representing **Agriculture,** stated that he grew up in nearby West Virginia and spent most of his time in Oakland, MD. He now lives within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, where his family operates a small farm. He currently works for the University of Maryland Extension (UME) in Garrett County and was active during the development of the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan.

Gary noted that there was still a vacancy for someone representing education and asked those present for suggestions for a volunteer to fill this role.

Meeting Scheduling:

It was decided that the committee would meet every third Monday of the month from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. In the event of a holiday, the committee will meet on the fourth Monday of the month at the same time. Gary will prepare an agenda prior to the meeting including the location of the meeting and the proposed tasks/ topics of discussion. Gary was also asked by the committee to prepare minutes for the committee to review after each meeting. Agendas and minutes will be posted on a section of the watershed website dedicated to the EAC.

Briefing from the Administrative Council:

Debbie Carpenter, Director of Garrett County Planning & Land Management, presented an overview of the Administrative Council and the outreach planning process. She also reviewed the history of watershed planning in the Deep Creek Watershed.

Debbie explained that the establishment of the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Garrett County in response to calls from the public for a plan that included a watershed approach and addressed their concerns. The MOU created and financed the creation of the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan (DCWMP), compiled by a Steering Committee with the help of four workgroups. Goal #1, of the plan, led to the signing of a second MOU (between Garrett County, DNR, and MDE), the formation of the Administrative Council, and the establishment of the Watershed Coordinator position within her department. The Council is informal and serves as a mechanism for coordination with one staff member from each agency assigned to coordinate with the other agencies. The agencies remain autonomous and the Council does not make decisions for any of the agencies.

Debbie also discussed gauging the effectiveness of communication. She stated that a watershed website has been established and that the Watershed Coordinator has been identified as the point of contact for Deep Creek Watershed concerns. However; she noted that it is unclear if this information has reached all stakeholders.

Debbie defined the process for outreach planning and noted that objectives should be broken down into manageable segments. She mentioned that effective communication is necessary and that communication must be 2-way between the agencies and stakeholders. She also mentioned the need to balance topics according to their importance and how actionable they are. Debbie presented a hypothetical topic (Stormwater Management Program) and described the process necessary to evaluate the objective. She stated that the committee would need to research the topic, develop a timeline, identify outcomes, identify responsibilities, and identify educational opportunities.

The components of an outreach plan are:

1. Define goals, objectives, and strategies (The EAC will work with Gary to prioritize the goals, objectives, and strategies from the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan)
2. Identify who is responsible for executing each strategy.
3. Identify expected outcomes from each strategy.
4. Identify measures of success.
5. Develop a timeline.
6. Identify a process to track progress.

Debbie mentioned that many of the DCWMP goals involved outreach and education. She also stated that the committee's first task was to create a prioritized list of topics. She also provided a handout that will be used to create an outreach plan for the top priority.

Identification of Outreach Opportunities from the DCWMP:

Gary Aronhalt asked the committee to review the priorities identified by the Administrative Council and identify the specific goals, objectives, and strategies from the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan that were outreach and education related.

Short-term Goals:

1 – These goals and objectives were considered policy or legislative items, many of which were implemented to get us where we are now. For example, goal #1 established the framework for the Administrative Council and the addition of a Watershed Coordinator.

2 – Goal #2, in its entirety, was identified as an area where the EAC could provide input to the Administrative Council.

6 – (6:3-6)

8 – (8:1-5) (8:2-1)

9 – (9:1-1)

3 – (3:1-3) (3:2-3) (3:2-4)

Long-term Goals:

3 – (3:1-3) (3:2-3) (3:2-4)

5 – (5:2-1) (5:2-3)

4 – (4:1-2) (4:1-3) (4:1-6) (4:2-1) (4:2-2) (4:2-3) (4:2-4) (4:3-1) (4:3-2) (4:4-1) (4:4-2) (4:4-3) (4:4-5)

Questions for the Administrative Council:

Gary Aronhalt indicated that the last portion of each meeting would be reserved for the committee to present questions for the Administrative Council. Responses to the questions from each meeting will be presented at the following meeting. There were no questions presented at this meeting.

_ _**END**_ _

Administrative Council Priority Goals, from the DCWMP, Related to the Outreach and Education

The following pages contain the Short Term and Long Term Goals, Objectives, and Strategies from the DCWMP identified by the EAC as those having a common theme of focus on outreach and/or public education. This list is a reference for discussions of the EAC.

Short-term Goals

GOAL 2: Nurture an informed and engaged citizenry regarding the Deep Creek watershed.

> **OBJECTIVE 1:**
> Increase direct and indirect outreach to residents, businesses, and visitors regarding their responsibilities for maintaining and improving the quality of and impacts to the Deep Creek watershed.
>
> > **STRATEGY 1:**
> > Develop an outreach plan, including the identification of outreach tools and programs (such as a speakers' bureau, train-the-trainer program, etc.) that could increase outreach to citizens, businesses, and visitors. This could be coordinated with and/ or managed by local non-profits selected by the new coordinating organization. The development of the plan should be coordinated with the Deep Creek Lake State Park Discovery Center and include activities supported by the state park both at the Discovery Center and off-site. The plan should be related to topics in the watershed management plan, include an implementation schedule, and include strategies to:
> >
> > > a. Inform and educate the public regarding state ownership of the lake and the buffer and what that means to property owners and lake users.
> > > b. Develop a lawn care and buffer maintenance manual similar to the Critical Areas Buffer Manual to assist with understanding and implementation of appropriate planting and maintenance of the buffer and land adjacent to the buffer, including maintaining and re-planting trees.
> > > c. Inform and educate the public regarding the need and benefits of infiltrating stormwater to support higher water levels throughout the season.

GOAL 6: Prevent erosion and sedimentation to the greatest extent possible to protect water resources from increased sediment loading and associated water quality problems.

>**OBJECTIVE 3:**
>Revise, streamline, and incentivize lake shoreline protection measures and permitting.

>>**Strategy 6**
>>Promote the merits of shoreline stabilization and encourage homeowners through incentive programs, as they are developed, to install appropriate measures to prevent further shoreline erosion.

GOAL 8: Manage stormwater infrastructure to decrease pollution from both existing and proposed development to ensure healthy watershed conditions.

>**OBJECTIVE 1:**
>Develop an incremental plan to identify existing stormwater problems at a sub-watershed level and create an action plan for addressing issues and educating residents on best management practices.

>>**STRATEGY 5:**
>>Work with citizens in the sub-watershed to educate land owners on stormwater best management practices that can be established on their land. Promote a stormwater best management practice incentive program as per Goal 8, Objective 2.

>**OBJECTIVE 2:**
>Design and implement a stormwater best management practices incentive program.

>>**STRATEGY 1:**
>>Review the Bay-Wise Yardstick Program and propose a similar program to be used in the Deep Creek watershed. A list of possible incentives for participation will be included as well as an implementation schedule and approach. The University of Maryland Extension Service will serve as the support agency for the program

GOAL 9: Protect the watershed from the adverse effects of impaired septic systems and ensure adequate capacity and management of public sewerage systems.

    OBJECTIVE 1:
    Encourage the use of Best Available Technology (BAT) septic systems within Deep Creek watershed.

        STRATEGY 1:
        Devise and/or compile educational materials for distribution to homeowners regarding the benefits of BAT systems.

GOAL 3:
Collect the information needed to make informed management decisions that achieve the desired condition of the Deep Creek Lake and watershed.

    OBJECTIVE 1:
    Improve our understanding of the sources of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment inputs to Deep Creek Lake and the streams that feed it, in order to prioritize places where conservation, restoration, and management will be most effective.

        STRATEGY 3:
        Work with stakeholders, landowners, and partners to identify and implement watershed restoration projects.

    OBJECTIVE 2:
    Continue regular monitoring of the Deep Creek watershed (lake and stream water quality) to inform decisions and management actions on lake and watershed conservation and restoration.

        STRATEGY 3:
        Convene yearly water quality monitoring meetings to discuss results, progress, and integration of multiple monitoring programs.

        STRATEGY 4:
        Prepare publicly available annual reports on Deep Creek watershed water quality results, implementation actions, and management recommendations.

Long-term Goals

GOAL 3:
Collect the information needed to make informed management decisions that achieve the desired condition of the Deep Creek Lake and watershed.

> **OBJECTIVE 1:**
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> > **STRATEGY 3:**
> > Work with stakeholders, landowners, and partners to identify and implement watershed restoration projects.
>
> **OBJECTIVE 2:**
> Continue regular monitoring of the Deep Creek watershed (lake and stream water quality) to inform decisions and management actions on lake and watershed conservation and restoration.
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> > **STRATEGY 3:**
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> >
> > **STRATEGY 4:**
> > Prepare publicly available annual reports on Deep Creek watershed water quality results, implementation actions, and management recommendations.

GOAL 5: Manage SAV in Deep Creek Lake to maintain and improve the ecological stability of the lake, while working with waterfront landowners to minimize the interference of SAV with recreational uses of the lake around docks.

> **OBJECTIVE 2:**
> Manage SAV communities around the docks and navigational channels to minimize interference with recreational uses such as boating and swimming.
>
> > **STRATEGY 1:**
> > Identify areas where SAV is considered to be a public use concern through a user-based evaluation, such as participatory GIS recreational use workshop or other venue.
> >
> > **STRATEGY 3:**
> > Develop an educational program to provide all lake users with appropriate management options to support and maintain native SAV communities and healthy fish populations.

GOAL 4: Manage existing land uses to achieve the desired condition of the Deep Creek Lake and watershed.

> **OBJECTIVE 1:**
> Maximize the water quality, air quality, habitat and economic services provided by forests through conservation, restoration and management efforts.
>
> > **STRATEGY 2:**
> > Encourage the retention of forests by engaging landowners in forest stewardship management plans through the Garrett County Forestry Board.
> >
> > **STRATEGY 3:**
> > Identify landowner incentive programs, conduct outreach and education, and enforce and implement buffer management to increase tree canopy, promote lakeshore and stream buffer restoration, and discourage mowing grass in the buffer.
> >
> > **STRATEGY 6:**
> > Develop a strategy, including cost-share programs, to aggressively treat hemlocks being attacked by the wooly adelgid, especially on private lands.
>
> **OBJECTIVE 2:**
> Maintain agriculture land use within the watershed and ensure that best practices are deployed to minimize, mitigate, and reduce the impacts of nutrient and sediment inputs to the lake.
>
> > **STRATEGY 1:**
> > Educate and encourage landowners to keep land in agriculture through state and county conservation and agricultural land retention programs.
> >
> > **STRATEGY 2:**
> > Identify and prioritize opportunities to implement best management practices, such as cover crops, stream protection, stream buffers, wetland restoration, etc.
> >
> > **STRATEGY 3:**
> > Encourage compliance with nutrient management, and target outreach and monitoring efforts to maximize compliance.
> >
> > **STRATEGY 4:**
> > Promote farm and forest sustainability through alternative income sources that maintain the rural character of the watershed and through the use of locally produced farm and forest products.

OBJECTIVE 3:
Minimize fertilizers and pesticide inputs to the lake and its streams from lawn care practices.

STRATEGY 1:
Conduct a survey of residential lawn owners and lawn care companies to determine the degree of homeowner and commercial fertilizer application practices.

STRATEGY 2:
Educate lawn owners about lawn care practices that reduce fertilizer inputs, including soil testing before application and information on the state fertilizer laws.

OBJECTIVE 4:
Manage additional nonpoint and point sources of pollution to Deep Creek Lake and its streams, including those associated with geese populations.

STRATEGY 1:
Educate landowners on habitat modification practices and permits for nest production control for the reduction of geese populations.

STRATEGY 2:
Discourage feeding of geese on public and private lake shoreline property.

STRATEGY 3:
Encourage goose hunting where and when permitted and safe, and encourage agricultural land owners to allow hunting on their lands.

STRATEGY 5:
Encourage marina operators to participate in the Clean Marina Program.