

THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

Contact Person: Monty Pagenhardt, County Administrator

Date: July 25, 2013

The State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) and the Board of Garrett County Commissioners (the “County”) share an interest in maintaining and improving Deep Creek Lake (the “Lake”) and its watershed for its natural resource and recreational values, as well as its importance to the economy of Garrett County and the State of Maryland. DNR and the County agree to jointly sponsor the development of a comprehensive watershed management plan.

DNR and the County agree that the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan (the “Plan”) is intended to cover the range of issues generally included in watershed management plans, including watershed characterization, analysis of existing water quality and other data, assessment of pollution sources, restoration opportunities and future condition, and coordination with watershed stakeholders on watershed plan development. The Plan should address the quality of Deep Creek Lake’s environment and its use for swimming, fishing, boating, scenic viewing and other recreational activities. The Plan should recommend and prioritize policy changes, restoration actions and education activities needed to achieve the most immediate and long term beneficial effects.

With funds not exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), a professional consultant experienced in meeting facilitation and watershed management planning will be hired to provide facilitation services for Steering Committee and public stakeholder meetings. DNR will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology of the University of Maryland to engage the consultant. The funds shall be provided by DNR and the County, with DNR assuming responsibility for sixty percent (60%) of the costs incurred and the County forty percent (40%) of those costs. The project timeframe will be from August 15, 2013 to October 31, 2014.

Preparation of the Plan will be guided by a Steering Committee composed of seven to nine people representing key stakeholder constituencies, including state and local government, agriculture, forestry, residents, business, recreation, and the power plant. DNR and the County will jointly endeavor to select the members of the Steering Committee no later than August 13, 2013. The Steering Committee will be supported by staff from Garrett County, DNR, and other appropriate State agencies. Interested persons should submit a letter of interest and resume to Monty Pagenhardt, County Administrator no later than August 2, 2013. After that date the Secretary of DNR, the Board of County Commissioners, and responsible staff will review these names and arrive a consensus for appointment. An announcement of official appointment will be made at the Board of County Commissioners Public Meeting on August 13, 2013.