

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, dated this ____ day of _____, 2013, by and between the MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, a principal department of the State of Maryland (“DNR”), and the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND, a body politic and corporate a political subdivision of the State of Maryland (the “County”).

WHEREAS, DNR and 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;

WHEREAS, DNR and the County believe that the development of a watershed management plan is appropriate to guide the State and the County in their efforts to maintain and enhance the natural resource, recreational, and economic values of the Lake; and

WHEREAS, DNR and the County desire to jointly sponsor the development of a comprehensive approach to the development of a management plan for the Lake.

NOW, THEREFORE, DNR and the County hereby agree as follows:

1. The recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated as a substantive provision of this Memorandum of Understanding.

2. DNR and the County agree to jointly sponsor the development of a comprehensive watershed management plan in accordance with the following concepts:

A. DNR and the County agree that the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan (the “Plan”) is intended to cover the range of issues normally 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.

B. 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.

C. 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, not exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), 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.

D. With the assistance of the consultant, the Steering Committee shall conduct at least two meetings to receive comments from the general public, one at the beginning of the process to seek input on the preparation of the Plan, and one near the end of the process to review the draft recommendations.

E. DNR and the County will continue to locate, assemble, analyze, and share data that may be useful in preparation of the Plan.

F. The project timeframe will be from July 15, 2013 to October 31, 2014 with an anticipated schedule for preparation of the Plan of:

- Early September 2013 – first meeting of the Steering Committee.
- September 2013 – initial meeting to receive input from the general public on the goals and preparation of the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan.
- September 2013 through August 2014 – Steering Committee meets approximately every two months to review and guide process.
- June 2014 – draft Plan recommendations released for public review.
- July 2014 – meeting to receive comments and suggestions from the general public on the draft recommendations.
- Fall 2014 – final approval of the Plan by the Steering Committee.

