

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### County Holds Meeting on Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan Sediment Mitigation Summary

December 10, 2018 – Oakland, MD - On Friday, December 7, 2018, Garrett County officials met with representatives from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Deep Creek Lake Policy Review Board, the Deep Creek Lake Property Owners Association, the Friends of Deep Creek Lake and the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation at the Garrett County Offices in Oakland, MD to discuss developing the scope of work for a Deep Creek Lake Sedimentation Plan. The group came to consensus that the new plan will build on “Goal 6: Prevent erosion and sedimentation to the greatest extent possible to protect water resources from increased sediment loading and associated water quality problems” in the existing Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan, October 1, 2014, adopted with Amendments March 7, 2016; pp 22-24  
<https://www.garrettcounty.org/resources/planning-land-development/pdf/Adopted%20DC%20Watershed%20Mgt%20Plan.pdf> .

The Watershed Management Plan, agreed upon by Garrett County, and the Departments of Natural Resources and the Environment, is the foundation for providing the direction for protecting, enhancing, and restoring the resources of the Deep Creek Watershed. The new sediment mitigation scope of work will help identify the causes and mechanisms of sediment erosion and sources of sediment impacting the lake. Funding for the new plan has been identified. The plan will be developed in 2019.

For specific questions about the Deep Creek Lake Sediment Mitigation Plan or the process, please contact Kevin Null, Garrett County Administrator at [knull@garrettcounty.org](mailto:knull@garrettcounty.org), or Bruce Michael, Director, Resource Assessment Service at [bruce.michael@maryland.gov](mailto:bruce.michael@maryland.gov).

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**About the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan:** Deep Creek Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Maryland, is a primary recreational destination and economic engine for the county. In 2000, the state of Maryland purchased the lake and its buffer through legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was assigned the responsibility for managing the lake and the buffer zone. The new law included stewardship requirements and authorizations, but it did not address the potential impacts from the watershed to water quality in the lake. Over the years, many concerns extend beyond the authority of the state-owned property.

Consequently, MD DNR and the Garrett County Commissioners agreed to work together on a watershed management plan and signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU outlined the process for creating the plan and established a steering committee composed of volunteers who represent the various interest groups and residents in the watershed. The committee agreed on the following 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.”