

Deep Creek Watershed Sign Committee Meeting January 9, 2019
Summary of discussion with Linda Puffenbarger by JPK

1. What are the SHA sign regulations and can we get copies of the regulations.
 - a. Response was.... that she told us the go to contact is Steve Thomas in Baltimore SHA, she gave us website info www.roads.maryland.gov/pages/faqs.aspx?CatId=0&QId=26 and said she would get us a copy of sign regulations
2. Does SHA ever cooperate with zoning departments to achieve mutual goals?
 - a. Response was ...Yes in some circumstances.
3. Does SHA ever permit “onsite” signs within wide R/W’s?
 - a. Response was ...Yes in some circumstances. The discussion then lead to more discussion about trees and “daylighting a sign” in the SHA R/W and she referred us to Becky Wilson with DNR. **Puffenbarger edit: Applies to municipalities for gateway/entrance to town signs.**
 - b. Linda also said SHA does disburse unused R/W “public lands” from time to time and we discussed the process to achieve this option.
 - c. Subsequent to the meeting Morgan France in an email communication with Kessler and Carpenter suggested we get electronic copies of R/W plats for state highways within the watershed and in particular for 219 from the bridge north to Rt42.
4. Does SHA invite local “county” authorities to help regulate un-permitted signs in R/W’s?

Response was ...Yes in some circumstances. **Puffenbarger edit: As long as “invite” in this case refers to the “cooperate with zoning departments to achieve mutual goals” as outlined in Item 2, I’m ok with this statement. If the intent is more along the lines of inviting locals to remove signs in SHA r/w on a day-to-day basis, then I would have to disagree and say that no, SHA does not invite this help.**
5. Does SHA ever permit preemptive off site signage (small Interstate way point signs) within State R/Ws?
 - a. Response was ...Yes with some programs and in combination with federal limitations and guidelines. Linda let us know that Maryland Highway revenue from United States occurs at lower rates if federal standards are not with the Lady Bird Johnson billboard standard. That is how WV and SC have more signage along highways (they get less money).
6. What enforcement authority does SHA implement within state rights of ways? And are all areas and roadways equally regulated and enforced?

Response was.... From time to time SHA staff collects R/W signs when manpower allows for it. They do not issue fines for a sign within R/W’s but may eventually write a letter to the offenders. **Puffenbarger edit: As mentioned in the other comments, after notification is made to a sign owner, fines may be assessed if the sign is not taken down.**

 - a. Enforcement varies by the district and manpower.

7. Can you review the current SHA tourism sign program?
 - a. After discussion about the program rolling out now she said she would get us more information.

8. Would SHA welcome a joint SHA/County sign application process?
 - a. Perhaps. Further discussion would be required.