

Minutes
Educational Advisory Committee (EAC)
18 December 2017 - 2:00 - 4:00 pm

In Attendance:

Willie Lantz, Agriculture
Lauren McCann, Business
Bruce Taliaferro, Education
Sarah Duck, Marketing
Richard Matlick, Property Owner
Gary Shafer, Property Owner
Bob Sutton, Property Owner
Gary Aronhalt, Watershed Coordinator
Barbara Beelar, Alternate for Richard Matlick

Absent:

Ken Fisher, Forestry
Logan Marks, Recreation

Welcome /Opening Remarks:

Gary Aronhalt announced that **Logan Marks** and **Ken Fisher** both reported that they would not be present for the meeting.

Gary Aronhalt asked the committee for comments on the minutes. There were no comments.

Gary Aronhalt asked the committee if the following procedure (for minutes) was acceptable:

- One week to prepare and distribute the minutes to the committee
- One week for the committee to comment and suggest revisions to the minutes
- One week for the committee to approve the minutes (no comment = approval)

The committee approved of the procedure for minutes.

Lauren McCann asked about the procedure for inclement weather. **Gary Aronhalt** asked the committee if it was okay to postpone the meeting until the following week if the County Government was closed. The committee agreed and **Gary Shafer** asked Gary Aronhalt to notify everyone when the County was closed on regularly scheduled meeting dates.

Gary Aronhalt stated that he had discussed (with DNR) meeting at the Discovery Center. He said that because the meetings occur during business hours that the meeting room would open to park visitors and that the committee may impact the visitors' use of the facility. It was suggested that Gary contact the Health Department to inquire about the use of the Health Department's meeting room. Gary agreed to contact the Health Department.

Introductions:

Bruce Taliaferro, representing **Education**, said that he was a retired educator in Garrett County with 40 years of experience. He currently lives in McHenry and he enjoys fishing and kayaking.

Richard Matlick, representing **Property Owners**, stated that he is an executive board member of Friends of Deep Creek Lake. He was involved in the development of the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan (DCWMP) and also participated in the Special Committee for Sediment Review.

Sarah Duck, representing **Marketing**, is the Director of Tourism and Marketing for the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce.

Briefing from the Administrative Council:

Gary Aronhalt announced that MDE will likely contact Brookfield Renewable to begin the process for permit renewal in 2018. He distributed the Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Spring 2017 Update concerning Deep Creek Lake. Gary explained that a Fall Update was nearly finalized, and he would distribute it to the committee as soon as he receives it. Gary also stated that Garrett County had applied for 100% state funding for the Arrowhead Cove Project.

Communication:

Gary Aronhalt took photographs of each committee member present for inclusion on the Educational Advisory Committee portion of the Watershed website. Gary said that he would use the biographies recorded in the minutes of the previous meeting on the website. He asked the committee to review their information and forward any additions or corrections. Gary mentioned that he would include contact information for committee members, meeting dates, agendas, and minutes on the website. He asked if anyone had additional suggestions. It was suggested to include handouts, like the DNR Spring Update, on the website.

Gary Aronhalt asked the committee what topics from the DCWMP needed further explanation.

Richard Matlick asked if there were stormwater regulations in Garrett County. **Gary Aronhalt** referenced the Garrett County Stormwater Ordinance and mentioned that the County handles permitting in the Permits and Inspections Office and that MDE was the enforcement agency for stormwater violations. **Willie Lantz** said that Reggie Breeding provided an excellent presentation to the Steering Committee and he felt that the EAC would also find value in a similar presentation. **Bob Sutton** suggested inviting someone from the Extension Office to attend as well. **Barbara Beelar** referenced the MDE listing of Cherry Creek for high water temperatures in 2014. She also referenced 2016 listings for urban runoff and salt application. **Gary Aronhalt** said that he would invite stormwater professionals to present at a meeting and offer a Q&A session.

Barbara Beelar said that she was unable to locate the minutes and other materials from the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan development process. Gary Aronhalt said that the information was still online the last time he checked. Gary said he would double-check and send the link to the committee.

Willie Lantz asked about the Garrett County Comprehensive Plan and the committee's relationship to the comprehensive planning process. He asked if it would be possible to have Debbie Carpenter attend a meeting to provide an overview of comprehensive plan.

Richard Matlick referenced the Baywise Yardstick and Anne Arundel County's school outreach field days. He said that he would compile information to present at the next meeting. Barbara Beelar said that the Back Bay Conservancy could share additional information. She mentioned Living Shorelines was a quality program but was limited to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Willie Lantz suggested that the committee would benefit from learning more about septic systems (including BAT systems). He suggested inviting Steve Sherrard to a future meeting. **Barbara Beelar** mentioned that the BAT systems do not function without electricity and referenced a tax bill in the state of Maine. There was also discussion regarding reminding septic owners that they should voluntarily pump septic systems every three years. **Gary Aronhalt** asked if the group also wanted someone from public utilities to discuss the Deep Creek sewerage system. The committee decided that both would be beneficial.

Gary Aronhalt said that he had invited Julie Bortz to attend the next meeting to discuss invasive species and water quality. The committee agreed that a presentation from Julie would be beneficial, but that the stormwater, Comprehensive Plan, and Wastewater guests should be invited first. **Lauren McCann** suggested that Julie should present before summer.

Gary Aronhalt said he would try to schedule the appropriate people to attend the next few meetings. It was agreed upon that the order of preference would be Stormwater, Water Quality, Septic and Sewer, and the Comprehensive Plan.

Gary Aronhalt asked the committee to discuss how people are currently getting information about the watershed. The committee identified the following:

- The Republican Newspaper
- Property Owners Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.
- Friends of Deep Creek Lake Facebook page
- Deep Creek Times
- Garrett County Government Facebook page
- Cumberland Times News

Gary Shafer asked about the Dashboard and suggested that EAC offer input on what to include.

Bob Sutton suggested advertising. **Sarah Duck** suggested press releases were very effective for the Chamber of Commerce and mentioned Little Mountain Productions as a possibility for information distribution. **Willie Lantz** mentioned the My Garrett Program through the Health Department and the quarterly Extension newsletter.

Gary Aronhalt asked if stakeholders were receiving information passively or if they were actively seeking out information about the watershed. **Bob Sutton** stated that people were apathetic toward watershed issues. **Richard Matlick** suggested that people are used to being told what to do in other geographical areas and that they might be agreeable to local initiatives if they were more informed. **Barbara Beelar** stated that people seek out information for the topics that they are directly interested or involved in.

Richard Matlick asked Gary Aronhalt if the County had a budget for implementing the DCWMP. Gary replied that the County did not have a line item for the Watershed Management Plan. He stated that the department he is under (Planning & Land Management) had a budget for the department and that MDE and DNR also had operating budgets and that he was unsure if the state agencies had specific line items for the watershed. **Bob Sutton** suggested that there are grants available that could be utilized to finance some of the goals. **Barbara Beelar** suggested that Brookfield Renewable might be willing to offer some assistance. She referenced a signage project. **Bob Sutton** suggested looking into MCE for printing. He stated the boating regulations were printed by MCE at a reasonable price. **Lauren McCann** stated that local businesses could provide access to information and that this approach has been effective in the past. **Gary Shafer** offered several suggestions for businesses that could be approached. **Sarah Duck** said she would look into providing information through the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce.

Goal Prioritization Exercise:

Gary Aronhalt displayed a poster with each of the educational and communication strategies identified by the EAC from the sub-set of priority goals identified by the Administrative Council. He then distributed three paper clips (one green, one yellow, and one red) to each committee member present and asked everyone to place the green paper clip on the strategy that was most important to their stakeholder group, the yellow paper clip on the second most important strategy, and the red paper clip on the third most important strategy.

After everyone had placed their paper clips, **Gary Aronhalt** assigned a value of 3 for each green clip, 2 for each yellow clip, and 1 for each red clip. The committee made observations regarding the outcome. The committee commented on the variation in their selections. Twelve of the 21 strategies had paper clips attached. Goal 3: Objective 1 - Strategy 3 had the highest accumulated value (10), Goal 6: Objective 3 - Strategy 6 had the second highest value (7), and Goal 2: Objective 1 - Strategy 1 received the third highest value (5).

Bob Sutton suggested that Goal 3: Objective 1 - Strategy 3 may not be considered educational. **Gary Aronhalt** asked the committee if they wanted to consider eliminating this strategy from the list. **Willie Lantz** responded that the strategy alone may not seem to have an educational component but might be considered educational in context with Goal 3 as a whole. The committee agreed to postpone further discussion and revisit the topic at another meeting.

Meeting Conclusion

Gary Aronhalt stated that all agenda items were addressed with the exception of questions for the Administrative Council and reminded everyone of their individual action items for the next meeting and asked everyone to review the DCWMP for additional outreach and education opportunities not identified as priorities by the Administrative Council.

Lauren McCann stated that Gary Aronhalt had presented an overview of the watershed website at a POA general membership meeting and suggested that it would be valuable for Gary to offer the same presentation to the committee at a future meeting. **Gary Aronhalt** agreed to repeat the presentation for the committee at an upcoming meeting.

Questions for the Administrative Council:

Gary Aronhalt asked if there were any questions to be presented to the Administrative Council. Barbara Beelar and Richard Matlick presented one question each.

Barbara Beelar: Did the Administrative Council consider the timeline identified in the DCWMP when prioritizing Goals?

Richard Matlick: How does the Watershed Management Plan address sediment and remediation?

__END__

**Administrative Council Priority Goals, from the DCWMP, Related to the Outreach and Education
(Outcome of EAC Prioritization Exercise, 18 December 2017)**

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:

5

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

7

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:

4

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:

2

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:

10

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:  **4**

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

STRATEGY 4:  **3**

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:

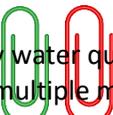
Improve our understanding of the sources of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment inputs to Deep Creek Lake and the streams that feed it, in order to prioritize places where conservation, restoration, and management will be most effective.

STRATEGY 3:  **10**

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:  **4**

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

STRATEGY 4:  **3**

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:

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:

1

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:

1

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

STRATEGY 5:

1

Encourage marina operators to participate in the Clean Marina Program.