

**Minutes**  
**Educational Advisory Committee (EAC)**  
**16 April 2018 - 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

**In Attendance:**

**Willie Lantz**, Agriculture  
**Lauren McCann**, Business  
**Bruce Taliaferro**, Education  
**Gary Shafer**, Property Owner  
**Bob Sutton**, Property Owner  
**Sarah Duck**, Marketing  
**Gary Aronhalt**, Watershed Coordinator  
**Debbie Carpenter**, Garrett County Planning & Land Management

**Absent:**

**Ken Fisher**, Forestry  
**Richard Matlick**, Property Owner

**Welcome /Opening Remarks:**

**Gary Aronhalt** announced that **Ken Fisher** and **Richard Matlick** had reported that they would not be present for the meeting. Gary also announced that **Logan Marks** had notified him that he would no longer be able to represent Recreation on the committee. He stated that he would put an announcement on the website and asked the committee volunteers to notify anyone interested in volunteering to contact him. He also mentioned that the Administrative Council was concerned that many EAC volunteers have very busy schedules and other obligations and suggested that the group think about how often that they meet. **Gary Aronhalt** suggested that the committee keep meeting monthly for the next few meetings and perhaps consider quarterly meetings for the future.

**Introductions:**

**Debbie Carpenter** is the Director of Garrett County's Department of Planning & Land Management.

**Presentations:**

**Debbie Carpenter** presented a history of the Comprehensive Plan for Garrett County. She stated that the document is non-regulatory and helps to provide information for the county ordinances. Planning is done on a 10-year cycle. She mentioned that the format is changing based on citizen feedback regarding ease of use and repetition, and that there will be a community visioning session held at Garrett College on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Gary Aronhalt** presented an overview of the watershed website. He demonstrated how to get to the site and explained the different sections contained within the website.

### **Outreach Planning**

**Gary Aronhalt** asked the committee members to identify stakeholders that were included in each area represented by the committee. He also asked about outreach mechanisms and potential resources for education and outreach. The group added the “Lakefront” and the “Deep Creek Times” to the list of potential mechanisms for outreach and education. The committee also identified several agencies and organizations as potential resources. **Gary** asked the committee volunteers for suggestions regarding prioritization methods. There were no suggestions. **Gary** stated that these items did not need to be finalized at the meeting, and that committee could think about contributing additional ideas at future meetings.

**Gary Aronhalt** distributed a draft version of potential watershed outreach materials. Several committee volunteers suggested that the material was too technical and would not be well-received by the public. **Gary Shafer** suggested that a text-only approach would not hold the reader’s attention. **Sarah Duck**, suggested that a marketing campaign with a consistent theme and short/simple messages would be a better approach.

**Debbie Carpenter** brought the committee up-to-date on a committee member’s concerns with the Administrative Council and the Educational Advisory Committee. Several other committee members stated their concerns and how they perceived the committee to be functioning. A lack of feedback from the Administrative Council and access to meeting materials were referenced as one concern. Overly technical presentations and a lack of clarity of the EAC’s function were identified as another concern. **Debbie** clarified that the Administrative Council does not make decisions but facilitates communication amongst agencies. The agency representatives (Ken, Julie, and Debbie) hold a monthly conference call that is not open to the public. She also mentioned that Administrative Council understands that the agencies are not communicating effectively with the public and want feedback from the EAC. She stated that EAC meetings should provide a balance between outreach planning and education. **Debbie** referenced some suggestions for outreach mechanisms including:

A monthly newsletter, radio program, DVD, State of the Lake Presentation, fair booth, etc. **Gary Shafer** and **Bob Sutton** suggested running announcements at the movie theatre. It was suggested that the Administrative Council start by informing the public that a watershed management plan exists for Deep Creek Lake. Several volunteers stated that use of the words “watershed” and/or “management plan” may be too technical and that the public needs to know what they can do to help. A campaign and use of billboards was also suggested.

### **Administrative Council Update**

**Gary Aronhalt** announced that there were no questions from the previous meeting for the Administrative Council. He announced that DNR expected the “Eyes on The Lake” website to go live by early summer. He stated that Kenneth Shanks is maintaining active communication with the MDE’s Water Appropriation staff and the Administrative Council regarding the upcoming water appropriation permit renewal for Deep Creek Lake. Gary also noted that no major activity was currently taking place. He also mentioned that the contractor hired for preparation of the

Garrett County Comprehensive Plan had interviewed the Administrative Council representatives for feedback.

**Questions for the Administrative Council:**

**Gary Aronhalt** stated that the next meeting would be at the Garrett County Health Department with representatives from the Garrett County Roads Department and the Maryland State Highway Administration presenting. He asked if there were any questions to be presented to the Administrative Council. There were no questions.

**\_\_END\_\_**