

**Minutes**  
**Educational Advisory Committee (EAC)**  
**17 December 2018 - 2:00 - 4:30 pm**

**In Attendance:**

**Sarah Duck**, Marketing  
**Ken Fisher**, Forestry  
**Willie Lantz**, Agriculture  
**Lauren McCann**, Business  
**Greg Rouse**, Recreation  
**Gary Shafer**, Property Owner  
**Bob Sutton**, Property Owner  
**Bruce Taliaferro**, Education  
**Gary Aronhalt**, Watershed Coordinator  
**Julie Bortz**, Administrative Council (Maryland Department of Natural Resources)  
**Debbie Carpenter**, Administrative Council (Garrett County)  
**Jeff White**, Administrative Council (Maryland Department of the Environment)  
**Melissa Nash**, Garrett County Project Forester, Maryland Forest Service

**Absent:**

**Richard Matlick**, Property Owner

**Welcome /Opening Remarks:**

**Gary Aronhalt** announced that **Richard Matlick** had reported that he would not be present for the meeting. **Gary** thanked the committee for donating their valuable time to participate as volunteers on the EAC.

**Introductions:**

The EAC volunteers, Administrative Council representatives, and the Watershed Coordinator introduced themselves. **Melissa Nash**, Garrett County Project Forester, introduced herself.

**Administrative Council Update**

**Julie Bortz** stated that DNR is focused on shallow water sampling locations but has maintained four legacy deep water sites. **Julie** also stated that DNR has been using continuous water quality meters since 2016. These meters collect data every fifteen minutes. **Julie** mentioned that there are three gage stations located at Cherry Creek, North Glade Run, and Arrowhead Run. **Julie** stated that Hydrilla was first discovered in Deep Creek Lake in 2013 and that no new hydrilla beds were found in Deep Creek Lake in 2018. In general, most hydrilla control/eradication efforts are estimated to last a minimum of 8 years from the initial finding of hydrilla. 2018 was

the 5th consecutive year of hydrilla treatment; meaning additional treatment and monitoring is expected to last a minimum of 3-4 additional years, should no new beds of hydrilla be found. **Julie** mentioned the difficulties in monitoring tributaries with wetlands at their confluence with Deep Creek Lake. **Julie** mentioned that the AIS trifold will be available soon. **Julie** mentioned the recent zebra mussel monitoring pilot project. **Julie** stated that it was a partnership between DNR, Brookfield Renewable, and the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation. The project ran from May through October. **Julie** mentioned that zebra mussel habitat was associated with freshwater, cool water, and calcium levels adequate for shell development. DNR will compare 2018 data with 2009 data previously collected by DNR. There will be a report available in the spring. **Julie** mentioned that SAV monitoring continues and DNR has noticed a statistically significant decline in SAV abundance and diversity at one of their long-term SAV monitoring locations (Deep Creek Cove in the southern end of the lake) and are trying to determine the cause of the decline. **Julie** reported that the goose hunt was held three days prior to Thanksgiving. Harvest numbers are not available yet. **Julie** mentioned that DNR had held open houses throughout the state to provide information and receive public feedback regarding the State Lakes Fund. This funding will be available in July. **Julie** encouraged attendees to provide feedback.

**Debbie Carpenter** announced that her department was working on two projects. The first project involves the update of Garrett County's Comprehensive Plan. **Debbie** described the plan as a twenty-year window envisioning Garrett County in twenty years. **Debbie** mentioned that four open houses were held during the update process for the plan. **Debbie** mentioned that the Planning Commission would hold a public hearing and the Garrett County Commissioners would also be required to hold a public hearing. **Debbie** stated that there would be a meeting (likely in March) to receive public comments. This meeting will likely be held at Garrett College. **Debbie** stated that the process was slightly behind schedule. The second project involves updating the sign chapter of the Zoning Ordinance. **Debbie** mentioned that a committee had been formed to provide feedback regarding the updates. **Debbie** reference a Supreme Court decision regarding regulating signs that would need to be considered during the revision of the sign chapter. **Debbie** stated that the regulation of sign violations was complaint driven.

**Jeff White** announced that Brookfield Renewable had submitted an application to renew the water appropriations permit for Deep Creek Lake. The current permit expires in April of 2019; however, it is typical that permits are administratively continued for up to a year after expiration. Permits cover a period of five years. MDE is preparing an information packet to submit to Brookfield Renewable. The packet has three components:

1. Brookfield will need to form a stakeholder group
2. A public Hearing will be required
3. Brookfield will need to apply for an increased discharge (increased MGD)

#### **Internal Review:**

**Gary Aronhalt** asked the volunteers if the current meeting schedule was agreeable. **Gary** presented the attendance records for the volunteers and stated that there was always greater than 50% attendance. **Ken Fisher** asked if the meetings could be held earlier at 1:30 PM. **Gary** asked if there were any objections. There were none. **Gary** stated that he would check with the

Garrett County Health Department regarding the availability of the proposed time slot. **Gary** stated that in the past speakers provided information to the EAC and future guest speakers would include people who could assist in conveying outreach and education messages. There were no objections to this approach.

#### **Presentation of Marketing Recommendations:**

**Gary Aronhalt** presented the logo proposed by the EAC. The Administrative Council received the logo favorably and agreed to use the logo on coordinated outreach and education efforts. **Gary Shafer** suggested looking into the copyright process for the logo.

**Gary Aronhalt** presented the EAC's priorities to the Administrative Council. The committee and Administrative Council discussed each goal individually.

#### **Goal 2:**

**Gary** stated that the EAC had unanimously identified Goal 2: Objective 1 - Strategy 1 as a priority. Several committee members referenced the list of outreach mechanisms identified in the Overarching Marketing Plan. **Sarah Duck** suggested utilizing multiple platforms for outreach and to focus on free options in the beginning. **Gary Shafer** referenced Stakeholder apathy as a hurdle to overcome.

#### **Goal 3:**

**Gary Aronhalt** stated that the committee had suggested removing Goal 3: Objective 1 - Strategy 1 from their list of education and outreach strategies, but had not made a final decision. The Committee decided to remove Goal 3: Objective 1 - Strategy 1. **Julie Bortz** discussed water quality monitoring with the EAC. **Julie** referenced the "Eyes on the Lake" website which contains data from 2009 to the present. **Julie** asked if State of the Lake meetings similar to those in the past would be beneficial. **Willie Lantz** suggested that perhaps every ten years would be more appropriate. **Julie** stated the need to reformat reports to make them more digestible. **Ken Fisher** stated that it should be up to the reader to decide if they want to digest technical reports.

#### **Goal 4:**

**Ken Fisher** and **Melissa Nash** described past efforts of the Garrett County Forestry Board and current efforts of the Nature Conservancy to promote forest stewardship within the County. **Debbie Carpenter** stated that actions can be broken down to Education, Projects and Incentives. **Debbie** stated that policy changes are often required to incentivize. **Debbie** also stated complications associated with private land ownership and access.

#### **Goal 6:**

**Julie Bortz** mentioned an Earth Day type fair. **Bruce Taliaferro** suggested that participation in the Garrett County Fair would reach a wide audience.

**Goal 8:**

**Gary Aronhalt** mentioned that Richard Matlick had presented to the EAC on a watershed program in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. **Ken Fisher** noted that budget available in Anne Arundel County was likely greater than the budget available locally.

**Goal 9:**

**Gary Aronhalt** stated that the distribution of BAT educational/ outreach materials would involve the Garrett County Health Department. **Debbie Carpenter** noted that the Health Department was willing to work with the Administrative Council to provide BAT outreach/ education.

**Gary Aronhalt** then presented the Overarching Marketing Plan and three Action Plans developed by the EAC. The first Action Plan, “Establish a sense of ownership in the health and wellbeing of the watershed”, was well received. **Gary Aronhalt** stated that a common theme in the Action Plans included monthly updates at the EAC meetings. **Ken Fisher** emphasize the importance of measuring success. The second Action Plan, “Establish a uniform public message”, was presented. **Debbie Carpenter** asked if the EAC was aware of the County’s effort to work with Frostburg State University to enlist the assistance a marketing intern. **Gary Aronhalt** stated that the EAC was aware of the effort. The third Action Plan, “Establish a funding source for education and outreach in the watershed”, was presented. **Debbie Carpenter** stated that she was working on a financing plan for 2020. **Debbie** stated that the Administrative Council did not make decisions, but was established to enhance coordination amongst agencies. **Debbie** emphasized that the funding strategy needed to be sustainable. **Debbie** stated that the Administrative Council had contacted Joanne Throwe, whom has experience in financing strategies. Joanne advised the Administrative Council that the Deep Creek Watershed Plan was too broad and the agencies were not currently ready to develop a financing plan. **Debbie** mentioned that her department had funding set aside for funding projects and emergencies. Several committee members stated the need to initiate the effort sooner and offered suggestions for funding sources for small projects. **Debbie** noted Sarah Duck’s suggestion to utilize multiple platforms and focus on low-cost or free options for outreach and education. **Debbie** suggested that the EAC choose their priority projects and develop a cost analysis for each to present to the Administrative Council.

The meeting was adjourned.

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