

Minutes
Educational Advisory Committee (EAC)
28 January 2019 - 1:30 - 3:30 pm

In Attendance:

Sarah Duck, Marketing
Ken Fisher, Forestry
Willie Lantz, Agriculture
Lauren McCann, Business
Bob Sutton, Property Owner
Bruce Taliaferro, Education
Gary Aronhalt, Watershed Coordinator

Absent:

Richard Matlick, Property Owner
Greg Rouse, Recreation
Gary Shafer, Property Owner

Welcome /Opening Remarks:

Gary Aronhalt announced that **Greg Rouse** and **Gary Shafer** had reported that they would not be present for the meeting. **Bruce Taliaferro** discovered that the date on the agenda incorrectly stated February instead of January. **Gary Aronhalt** stated that he would make the correction.

Introductions:

Gary Aronhalt introduced **John Smith** and **Jason Zhao** who work under **John Grace** in MDE's Water Supply Program and stated that they would join the meeting remotely to answer questions from the previous meeting.

Administrative Council Update

Gary Aronhalt announced that **Jim George** would represent MDE on the Administrative Council and PRB. **Gary** stated that fees for shoreline projects are set by statute. The original fee in 2009 was \$1,500.00 for projects that had an MHT (Maryland Historical Trust) or DNR RTE (Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species) "hit" at screening time. The fee was reduced to \$750.00 a year or two after the fee bill went into effect to eliminate the additional \$750.00 for MHT or DNR "hits". **Gary** also stated that MDE staff would answer the following questions:

- Will the permit discuss the potential impacts of increasing the MGD for the water withdrawal?
- Will the same rule bands will be maintained?
- Will the water budget model be used in the permitting process?

Gary announced that he had presented an annual update to the Garrett County Commissioners on January 7th. He also stated that he had updated the watershed website's homepage and that the "Watershed Spotlight" was updated to highlight the Launch Stewards Program at Deep Creek Lake. **Gary** also stated that Garrett County was working to copyright the logo. **Gary** distributed copies of the Water Sports Safety brochure (a collaboration of the POA and DNR).

Gary Aronhalt announced that **Mark Belton** had resigned as Secretary for Maryland's Department of Natural Resources. He stated that DNR was working to fill the vacancy. **Julie Bortz** was present for the meeting and distributed an update from DNR. **Julie** stated that the zebra mussel report would be completed around March or April. She said that the preliminary numbers were low for calcium. **Julie** stated that the literature was variable regarding the minimum calcium levels suitable for zebra mussel survival.

MDE Call:

John Grace, Jason Zhao, and John Smith provided responses to the questions from the previous meeting.

Question #1: Will the permit discuss the potential impacts of increasing the MGD for the water withdrawal?

Response: The average discharge needs to be increased in response to more recent precipitation data. The annual average discharge over a sixty year period was 94 MGD. Years from 1994-Present received more precipitation than previous years with 1996 being the wettest year (128 MGD). MDE stated that it would never be desirable to have water leave the lake via the emergency spillway; therefore, an increased discharge was required to offset the increased inflow.

Question #2: Will the same rule bands will be maintained?

Response: MDE's position is that the current rule bands are functioning adequately. Stakeholders will be able to provide input as part of the permit renewal process. At the time of the meeting MDE had not been notified that Brookfield Renewable had sent out invitations to participate in the stakeholder meetings. MDE anticipated the first meeting would occur on February 28th. MDE stated that the upper rule band was modified in 2011 to benefit lake users. The lake level was allowed to stay higher for an additional month at the end of the summer season.

Question #3: Will the water budget model be used in the permitting process?

Response: MDE will require Brookfield Renewable to report on the water budget model developed by Century Engineering. MDE will provide instructions for completing the permit in the permit package to Brookfield.

Stakeholder Survey:

The committee discussed the draft stakeholder survey. The committee suggested the following changes:

1. Add Route 42 to question #2.
2. Change Deep Creek Lake to Garrett County in question #4.
3. Add Deep Creek Times to question #1.
4. Change checkboxes to ranking in question #1.
5. Add question regarding the age range of stakeholders.
6. Combine Parks and Forests in question #4.
7. Add a question about activities such as Camping, Boating, Biking, and Hiking.
8. Add the weather to question #4.
9. Remove “Residents” from question #4.
10. Change checkboxes to ranking in question #4.
11. Separate email signup from responses.

Gary and **Julie** agreed to prepare a revised survey before the next EAC meeting.

Local Media Options:

Gary Aronhalt stated that he had received a suggestion to prepare an outreach advertisement regarding the logo and stating “What does this mean to you?” The committee thought this would be confusing and did not wish to recommend this to the Administrative Council. **Gary** asked the committee to review the cost estimates for local advertising and identify the best options for outreach. The committee suggested recommending that the Administrative Council pursue all of the options. **Gary** asked the committee for their priorities for outreach. The committee suggested that the cinema advertisement would be the first priority followed by a 3”x4” column in the Republican followed by a ¼ page advertisement in the Lake Front. The committee suggested that the Administrative Council reach out to the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation to solicit funding for the priority outreach items.

December Meeting Review:

Gary Aronhalt asked the committee to reflect on the December meeting. The committee felt that the meeting was productive and stated that it would be beneficial for the Administrative Council to attend EAC meetings quarterly or every six months.

Meeting Conclusion:

Gary Aronhalt asked if there were any questions for the Administrative Council. There were none.

The meeting was adjourned.

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