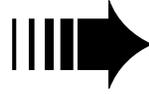




DEEP CREEK DISPATCH



Winter 2011

Newsletter of the
Property Owners' Association
of Deep Creek Lake, Incorporated

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: LOU BATTISTELLA

We still have plenty of winter left, but the intermittent days of warm weather certainly are appreciated.

The POA Board members have all met personally with the new Garrett County Commissioners. It is not often that you have all new faces in County Government, but our new commissioners are busy learning the “ropes” and getting settled into their new offices. All three commissioners have been very attentive and express genuine interest with our various issues. They are truly showing a desire in making sure the “Golden Egg” of the County—Deep Creek Lake, is taken care of for the benefit of everyone. By the way, it is no mistake that the new POA logo is in the shape of an egg!

The POA has been working with the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board, DNR, Lake Management and the Department of the Environment in obtaining higher lake levels in the latter part of summer. In July, I was appointed Chairman of the PRB Water Level Subcommittee along with several other PRB Board members, which included POA Board member Barry Weinberg. We met with the MDE both in person and via teleconference and just recently at their main office in Baltimore. This meeting was with other stakeholders who have shared interest in the waters of Deep Creek Lake. They include outfitters and tour operators of the whitewater community, those affiliated with the Trout Fishing Resources and Brookfield Power, the operator of the hydroelectric plant located on Deep Creek Lake.

Ideas have been shared and there is another scheduled meeting for March. It is hoped that at the April 25th Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board meeting there will be solutions to the lower late summer water level issue.

I have been in contact with Linda Lindsey, Director of the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). The communications with the Department have been very good. Ms. Lindsey has been extremely responsive and open with the POA. Our current concerns have been the odor problems, the lack of communications in the past regarding spills and equipment failures. Since our General Membership Meeting last August, the DPU has been diligently working to resolve these issues. The DPU has contracted with IN-PIPE TECHNOLOGIES (IPT) to provide services within the Deep Creek Lake Sanitary Sewer Collection and Treatment System. IPT services include the installation and monthly maintenance of 15 dosing stations within the sewer collection system. The main goal of the contract is to control unwanted odors existing throughout the sewer collection system with a secondary goal of improving the Deep Creek Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant operations by establishing a beneficial biofilm within the collection system. The dosing equipment at each location consists of a watertight G2 Panel with a battery

operated dose pump and a 1 liter bottle of IPT solution. This liter bottle of IPT solution lasts for a month and is routinely replenished as part of the contract.

IPT provides a proprietary mix of soil bacteria, in spore form, to be continually dosed into the sewer collection system. These bacteria have been selected by IPT because they will, when continually dosed out, compete with and replace the bacteria that naturally occur in the wastewater and in the biofilm layer within the collection system. When the IPT bacteria are introduced they will form a new biofilm layer on the inside of the pipes. This is important as the bacteria native to the wastewater and biofilm seek certain compounds in the wastewater as a food source. That process yields the majority of offensive odors experienced in sewer collection systems. The IPT bacteria seek different compounds in the wastewater for a food source, which do not produce offensive odors. The IPT bacteria are also adept at breaking down fats, oils and greases, which pose near constant problems in the pumping stations.

DPU and IPT installed dosing panels and began dosing the collection system on October 27, 2010. Since then, DPU and IPT have conducted two monthly “reloads” on November 27, 2010 and December 27, 2010. DPU and IPT are also investigating the option of a one-time dose of IPT bacteria in individual grinder pumps to promote as much biofilm conversion as possible.

IPT indicates a typical conversion period (from naturally occurring bacteria to IPT bacteria) of 60-90 days, at which time significant improvements should be realized. January 27, 2011 was 90 days of treatment and DPU maintenance has begun to document a decrease in fats, oils, grease and odor in the majority of the pump stations. DPU conducted a sampling event on January 24, 2011 aimed to qualify the presence of the IPT bacteria in several locations throughout the collection system and in the Deep Creek Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is the goal of the Department of Public Utilities and In-Pipe Technologies to realize zero odor complaints from the residents and visitors to the Deep Creek Lake area.

Following the sewerage spills associated with the Deep Creek Lake Sewer system during the summer of 2010, the DPU began searching for a viable, independent back-up to the main pump stations on the system. This was done in order to maintain flow if an electrical outage or malfunction of the electrical components or emergency generator occurred. **Godwin Dri-Prime Critically Silenced Diesel Pumps** were selected and purchased. The Department of Public Utilities took delivery of three pumps in August. The pumps were installed at the three largest pump stations on the system, including the one at Rt 219 and Lake Shore Drive and the one on Lake Shore Drive.

Following installation and connection of the pumps, the DPU began experiencing operational issues with the units. The Department contacted the Godwin representatives and reviewed the issues being experienced with their engineering division. Alterations to

the suction piping were recommended and implemented which yielded moderate improvements. One pump also experienced a loss of fuel prime and freezing of sewerage in the volute bowl also occurred. Therefore, DPU concluded that the Godwin pumps could not perform as expected and specified. The pumps were returned to Godwin for a full refund.

DPU has investigated alternative pump manufacturers and has met with another company in order to secure replacement units. New pumps will be secured on a rental basis in order to verify that they meet the system requirements and perform as expected prior to purchase. DPU is also evaluating the possibility of installing overflow tanks at the pump stations in order to provide additional storage during emergency situations.

The Department is also pursuing upgrading the existing pump station control panels with new advanced control units. One of DPU's electricians recently attended a training seminar sponsored by an F.E. Myers representative (manufacturer of the current pumps and control panels) that presented state-of-the-art methods for increasing pump station efficiency and advanced technology in emergency notification systems. A company representative was scheduled to be on-site on January 25th in order to evaluate the present system and provide a recommendation for upgrading to new technology including pre-engineered customizable control panels, ultrasonic level sensors and an ACADA alarm system. The Department will be requesting a pilot test of the proposed control system in order to determine efficiency and reliability.

On another note, the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board saw some member changes made last month. Governor O'Malley replaced Steve Green, Barry Weinberg and former Chairman John Forman. The PRB is now made up of the following individuals: David Myerberg, Chairman; Senator George Edwards; Legislative Delegate Wendell Beitzel; Lake Manager Carolyn Mathews; John Stakem; Sue Fowler; Barbara Beeler; County Commissioner Bob Gatto; Bob Browning (Chamber of Commerce Representative); and Lou Battistella (POA Representative). Both Steve Green and Barry Weinberg were assigned temporarily to remain part of the PRB Water Level Sub-Committee for as long as deemed necessary. The Policy and Review Board is charged with advising the Department of Natural Resources on matters relating to lake fees, budget and management. To find out more on the Deep Creek Lake Natural Resources Management Area, visit www.dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/western/deepcreeknrma.asp.

A REMINDER:

If you own lakefront property, you need to be involved with good stewardship practices regarding your individual waterfronts. Please avail yourself to the information that is available on the Lake Management's website and, if necessary, take time to visit the Lake Management Office in person if you have any questions regarding best practices in responsible stewardship. The Deep Creek Lake Property Owners' Association recognizes the importance of good stewardship to protect one's property and the Lake so Deep Creek may be enjoyed for generations to come.

WORKSHOP: "THE LONG TERM WELL BEING OF DEEP CREEK LAKE."

The Property Owners Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc. (POA) was founded in order "to enable owners at Deep Creek

Lake to promote and protect the quality of life environment, recreational opportunities, historic sites and historic area in, on and around Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County, Maryland."

In recent months and over the years many things have happened to Deep Creek Lake that have the potential to negatively impact the economic well-being of the region. Residential expansion in the last decade has been enormous and, as a result, increasing numbers of people have sought out the Deep Creek Lake area for their vacations. This has resulted in an increased use of the lake for recreational purposes. As recently as this past summer, the weather and the aging infrastructure have had an adverse impact on the lake environment, albeit temporarily. This has focused attention on the issue of the long-term viability of the lake. As a result, various groups and organizations have begun to address lake-related issues. But these efforts have been undertaken independently and not as a large coordinated group effort.

The POA sees the need to assemble all of the groups and organizations for the development of an overall plan. The POA initiated a workshop to create the building blocks necessary to bring these independent organizations together into one coordinated group effort. This workshop was held on December 3, 2010, as the first step to assembling these stakeholders. The goal was to devise means or processes to assure that Deep Creek Lake continues to stimulate the well being of the area by solving issues raised by the use of the Lake in a socially responsible way.

Participation in the workshop was by invitation only. Organizations and individuals who have a stake in the well-being of Deep Creek Lake and who can represent the broad issues that affects its well-being were invited. In attendance were representatives from Garrett County Government, Maryland House of Delegates, Maryland State Senate, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Environment, Garrett College, Friends of Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, Youghiogheny Watershed Association, US Geological Survey, Appalachian Laboratory, various business owners and developers and the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake.

The workshop, which was held at Will O' the Wisp, was organized into two parts. During the morning, participants were asked to present a summary of their association and interests with Deep Creek Lake, including, but not limited to, their specific responsibilities, proposed and upcoming work, plans, procedures, management practices and economic interests. The afternoon session was set aside for "brainstorming." The participants were broken into groups and given a set of questions that they were asked to debate and answer. The discussion questions were:

1. What do you think are the four biggest problems the lake faces?
2. How should those problems be addressed?
3. What kind of programs should be instituted?
4. How do we obtain the needed funds for these programs?
5. How can the science be best coordinated?
6. How can we best coordinate the dissemination of information to the stakeholders and the general public?
7. How should we address issues raised by the taxpayer?

Following the first hour, the group leaders were asked to summarize their group's findings and present them to all of the afternoon participants. After the presentation of summaries, a brief discussion ensued about how to move forward.

The initial result of the workshop was that there needed to be a conference open to the public. The overall consensus was that be-

fore proceeding directly to the conference, there needed to be another workshop. The participants agreed that they were inundated with information and that the questions raised provoked a lot of discussion. There was inadequate time to discuss these questions to everyone's satisfaction. The date of the next workshop has not been set but is projected to be in the spring of 2011, with the public conference following in the fall of 2011.

PERMIT PLATES TO AID IN 9-1-1 RESPONSE

The DNR expects to provide new buffer strip use permit numbers for dock identification this year in an effort to facilitate the dispatch of emergency response personnel to locations on Deep Creek Lake. In a joint effort between Garrett County's Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management, Planning and Land Development, and the Lake Management office of the DNR, the new permit numbers have been entered into the county's 9-1-1 system. This will aid the dispatchers in pin pointing the exact location of the incident based on a report of the number displayed on the dock.

For locals and visitors alike who may encounter an incident on the water but may not know how to get there by road, this program is expected to provide dispatchers with a valuable tool for locating incidents and coordinating appropriate response. This improved response will only be gained by properly displaying and maintaining the identification plates that will be provided by the Lake Management. It is important that buffer strip use permit holders take the responsibility to be sure the plates, which are just like vehicle license plates, are firmly affixed to the land and water side of the docks.

Further guidance from the Lake Management office on the specifics of the new dock numbering system is expected this spring with the issuance of the plates. Kudos to Chris Nicols, POA Board Member; Brad Frantz, Director of Garrett County's Public Safety and Emergency Management Department; Deborah Carpenter, GIS Specialist with the Planning and Land Development and Ranger Connie Skipper, Maryland Park Service for their roles in getting this important system in place.

PLANNING COMMISSION PROPOSING CHANGES TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Garrett County Planning Commission voted unanimously to reinstate four paragraphs regarding mountain ridgelines in the county's Comprehensive Plan. These paragraphs were in the original plan, drafted in 2008, but were deleted by the previous county commissioners before they finally approved the Plan in October of that year. The Comprehensive Plan was a four-year effort involving the Planning Commission, county officials, and members of the general public. It serves as the policy guide for future growth in the county. County Commissioner Gregan Crawford said that the omission ran contrary to the mission statements of the Heritage Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. It was also noted that a third wind power facility is planned for Four-Mile Ridge. Without changes to the Comprehensive Plan and associated ordinances, the county would have to allow the project to proceed.

The previously deleted paragraphs would have been in the "Sensitive Areas" section of the plan under "Ridgelines," "Broad Impacts of Development," and "Policies and Actions." In addition to

reinstating the four paragraphs, the Commission voted to delete the following sentence that had been added by the former commissioners that reads, "The county further acknowledges property rights of the owners of land that is suitable for wind power facilities to use their property for the purpose." John Nelson, Garrett County Department of Planning and Land Development, noted that if the line were to be left in the Plan, it would be inconsistent with the four proposed reinstated paragraphs.

Nelson said that the proposed changes would give the commissioners the authority to amend the Sensitive Areas Ordinance, which would then provide a foundation for regulations. The Planning Commission could then establish those regulations. He added that he would notify the state and local jurisdictions, as required by law, about the proposed changes. The state has 60 days to review and comment on them. The County Commissioners and the Planning Commission have scheduled a joint public hearing for Tuesday, March 8, at 11 a.m. in the Commissioners' public meeting room in the courthouse.

Also, the Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing for Senator George Edwards' SB 252 on Tuesday, February 15, at 1 p.m. in Annapolis. The proposed legislation would give the Garrett County Commissioners the authority to enact ordinances regarding setbacks and the decommissioning of commercial wind turbines. Delegate Wendell Beitzel has introduced a similar bill in the House of Delegates. A hearing for this bill has not yet been scheduled.

2011 BOATING TIPS

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources gives boaters the following tips for the 2011 boating season. Boaters born on or after July 1, 1972 must carry a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approved certificate of boating safety education when operating a boat in Maryland waters. Contact any of the following for information about boating-safety courses:

1. DNR by visiting www.dnr.maryland.gov/boating or calling 410-643-8502 x 2211
2. U.S. Power Squadron by visiting www.usps.org or calling 1-888-367-8777
3. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary by visiting <http://www.cgaux.org>

For a listing of boating-safety course locations, especially at Garrett College, click on www.dnr.maryland.gov/boating and go to the link Boating Safety Course and click on the link Boating Safety Class Listing. The listing of classes at Garrett is also included in your Buffer Strip Use Permit you recently received.

A boat operator whose blood or breath analysis shows an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or greater is considered to be under the influence of alcohol and subject to criminal prosecution.

Children under the age of 13 must WEAR a United States Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Device (life jacket – Type I, II, III or V) while underway on a recreational vessel under 21 feet in length on Maryland waters. Always check online at www.dnr.maryland.gov for current laws and regulations.

The 2011 Maryland State Park Passport can be purchased by Maryland residents for \$75.00 and by non-residents for \$100.00. The pass offers: unlimited day use entry for everyone in the vehicle (up to 10 people) to Maryland's state parks and Cedarville State Park; unlimited boat launching at all Maryland state park facilities; and a 10% discount on state-operated concessions and boat rentals. The passes are valid from the date of purchase

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through December 31, 2011. Questions for Maryland Park Service-call 1-800-830-3974.

For information on how to prevent Zebra Mussels from coming to Deep Creek Lake, visit <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/irc/zebra> and click on the link Help stop Zebra Mussels from coming to Maryland.

2011 DUES STATEMENT: IF YOU RECEIVE THE DISPATCH IN PAPER FORM:

Included in this issue is your 2011 Dues Statement. Please look to the right of your name and address on the envelope to see the date to which you are paid. If it says 2010 you owe the 2011 dues. If it says 2011 or later your dues are current. Please fill in the information and return the form with your payment in the envelope provided. The Board of Directors welcomes any comments you may have.

2011 GARRETT COUNTY UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

The local United Way Campaign is underway and the contribution materials and information are enclosed with this newsletter. The POA Board of Directors has endorsed this charity and encourages POA members to contribute. To obtain United Way funds, an agency must provide data showing specific benefit to Garrett County Residents. The supported agencies and their program de-

scriptions are listed in the enclosed information. Please fill out the enclosed form and send it and your contribution in the envelope provided.

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION 2011 MEETING DATES

BOARD MEETINGS: 8:30 A.M. Uno's

Saturday, April 9, 2011 (Meeting at 7:30 a.m.)

Saturday, June 11, 2011

Saturday, August 6, 2011

Saturday, November 5, 2011

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: GARRETT CINEMAS COFFEE SOCIAL: 8:00 A.M.

MEETING: 8:30 A.M.

Saturday, June 25, 2011

Saturday, August 20, 2011

COMMUNITY NOTEBOARD

A complete listing of the Summer 2011 Cultural Events in Garrett county will appear in Spring 2011 issue of the Dispatch. Before that issue comes out, the Garrett Lakes Arts Festival (GLAF) will be presenting **IONA** on Friday, April 8, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Garrett College in McHenry, MD. This program features premier traditional Pan-Celtic music and dance. On Saturday, May 21, 2011, GLAF will present **CHARLOTTE BLAKE ALSTON**, a storyteller, narrator, instrumentalist and singer in the auditorium at Garrett College. Call 301-387-3082 or go to www.artsandentertainment.org for tickets and information.