

Minutes
Educational Advisory Committee (EAC)
27 January 2020 - 1:30 - 3:30 pm

In Attendance:

Willie Lantz, Agriculture
Bruce Taliaferro, Education
Ken Fisher, Forestry
Richard Matlick, Property Owner
Gary Shafer, Property Owner
Bob Sutton, Property Owner
Gary Aronhalt, Watershed Coordinator
Julie Bortz, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Absent:

Sarah Duck, Marketing
Lauren McCann, Business
Greg Rouse, Recreation

Welcome /Opening Remarks:

Gary Aronhalt announced that Lauren McCann and Greg Rouse were not able to make the meeting and thanked Julie Bortz for attending. **Gary** stated that Greg Rouse would not be able to continue serving on the committee.

Administrative Council Update

Gary Aronhalt stated that Chad Fike was now the acting Director for the Garrett County Departments of Planning & Land Management and Permits & Inspections. **Gary** also stated that he had provided an update, on behalf of the Administrative Council, to the Board of Garrett County Commissioners on January 6th. **Julie Bortz** stated that zebra mussel monitoring sampling results suggest that calcium levels are still low in Deep Creek Lake.

Support for AIS:

Julie Bortz stated that House Bill 560 applied to public launch areas but did not apply to private marinas. **Julie** stated that the AIS educational efforts would benefit from being a state-wide effort. **Gary Shafer** asked if the Garrett County Commissioners should be involved. **Julie** stated that a letter or email from the EAC would be helpful. **Julie** explained that existing marinas have the ability for boat cleaning/decontamination, and at least one marina committed to a 24 hour turn around in decontaminating a boat, but there

is a cost to the consumer for this service. The committee had some discussion regarding the proportion of boats that were being inspected. **Bob Sutton** suggested that fishing boats had the highest likelihood of launching outside of the inspection timeframe. The committee suggested a sign stating that it is illegal to launch contaminated boats could be helpful. They also suggested that the signs could also be placed at private marinas. **Julie** stated that she would research the potential for adding a sign stating that it is illegal to launch a contaminated boat. She also mentioned that she and Gary had discussed the potential for radio broadcasts. **Ken Fisher** asked if it were possible to add the launch hour to the self-certification form; **Julie Bortz** said that was a good suggestion and see if she could incorporate that into the boater log (which is voluntary to fill out). **Willie Lantz** asked how many public launch points were available at Deep Creek Lake. **Gary Aronhalt** asked if it were possible to add information to the park pass and/or golden age pass. The question was also raised as to whether anyone was checking the private marinas. **Julie** stated that there were 8 marinas with at least 2 that she knows about that the public can use to launch boats. **Julie** mentioned that EDNA studies could prove helpful in the fight against AIS and possibly having representatives from the clean marinas program provide a seminar might help garner more support from the marinas. **Willie Lantz** asked if Julie had resources available for statewide efforts. **Julie** replied that she could pull something together for the next meeting. **Gary Shafer** asked if an address was collected when boats are inspected. **Julie** stated that just the zip code was collected. **Bob Sutton** suggested that it might be possible to add the “it is the law” statement to the AIS signs in Garrett County and asked if it were possible to install a camera at the launch. **Julie** said that she would look into it and check with Maryland Park Service related to their policy on these types of cameras. **Bob** stated that the POA may support the signage.

Guest Speakers:

Gary Aronhalt asked about potential guest speakers. The committee suggested Mike Friend (NRP), Will Williams (DNR), Rebecca Kenyon-Sisler (Camp Hickory), Kevin Null (Garrett County), and MDE TMDL staff

Outreach Plan:

The outreach plan was tabled until the next meeting.

Questions for the Administrative Council:

Gary Aronhalt asked there were any questions for the Administrative Council. The committee asked if the dam at Deep Creek was the only dam with a Dissolved Oxygen requirement in Maryland.

Meeting Conclusion:

The meeting was adjourned.

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