

# **Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan Public Meeting October 5, 2013**

## **Group 4**

Led by Bob Hoffman aided by Debbie Carpenter

### **LIST OF ISSUES**

The list of issues that the group mentioned are as follows:

- Stormwater Runoff from county & state roads (mentioned twice)
- Water Quality (mentioned 4 times)
- Shoreline Erosion (mentioned twice)
- Prevent negative financial impact on homeowners (mentioned twice)
- Public access to information about the watershed and lake (mentioned 4 times)
- Usability of the lake – prevention of the reduction of usable space on the lake
- Carrying capacity
- Invasive SAV (mentioned twice)
- Resident Geese (mentioned twice)
- Lake level effect on resource
- Forestry management / gypsy moth control
- Simplified process and reduction of cost of permitting process
- Fractured management of the lake by multiple agencies

To break these issues into the top three, the group initially chose

- #1 Water Quality
- #2 Foreign Influences negative impact on the watershed
- #3 Lack of Public Access to Information

During the deeper dive it was decided that the sources of poor water quality are the items covered in #2.

### **Deeper Dive** –

#### **Water Quality and Foreign Influences negative impact on the watershed (Issues # 1 & #2)**

Water quality can be defined in two ways – quality of the resource and quality of recreation. The group agreed that the sources of the quality of the resource are the items listed as the sources identified as the foreign influences that are negatively impacting the lake. The quality of the recreation was touched on but not in depth. Mentioned as components of recreational quality were usability issues that are

influenced by lake levels, a healthy fishing habitat and native plant species. It's not just a matter of quality but also quantity for good recreational use of the lake.

Diving into the quality of the resource, the sources of poor water quality were listed as

- Invasive SAV often introduced to the lake when a boat is launched
- Resident Geese
- Culvert issues and runoff
- Salt and chemicals used for road treatment which then run into the lake
- Shoreline erosion as a factor in sedimentation
- Boat activity/wave action as it affects shoreline erosion
- Unmanaged shoreline (ie. Trees and bushes)
- Wastewater spills

Potential solutions:

- Mandatory boat washing prior to launching
- "Lack of action is not a solution"
- Institute a Waterfowl Management Program
- Retrofitting state and county stormwater control systems and updating policies with regard to salt/chemicals

Barriers:

- Resources
- Who is Responsible?
- Action items/Recommendations suggested in the plan should be assigned to agencies

### **Lack of Public Access to Information**

Sources of the problem:

- Citizenry needs access to studies/data, current and historical
- Need a "one stop shop" of a searchable database
- Limit it to relevant information

Potential Solutions:

- Post it on a website

Barriers:

- Resources
- Who is responsible?
- Non-transparency

As a side note the group requested the steering committee make all their information/notices/agendas available at the Visitors Center. They also requested that an email be sent that makes the public aware of upcoming meetings, the agendas associated with the meetings and the background information that will be provided to the steering committee.