

For this submission, the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake (POA) is considered the lead organization but it has no control over any other organizations mentioned. The other organizations that are at times part of the partnership are The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation (DCWF), Brookfield Renewable Power, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and Garrett County Government.

In the 2012-2014 timeframe, a group of State, County, and Local individuals were brought together to create a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for the Deep Creek Watershed. The watershed is 41,000 acres; the lake is 3,900 acres. Deep Creek Lake (DCL) is manmade and the largest lake in the State. It has evolved as a major tourist destination and is the economic engine for Garrett County.

The WMP is composed of 13 goals with many objectives and strategies leading to accomplishment of the goal. The implementation of the WMP has begun but will take years to address all that needs to be done.

In an effort to attract private donations and create private-public partnerships focused on further implementation of the WMP, the DCWF was created and already has supported the WMP in several ways through independent and partnering opportunities.

Following are some of the partnership activities benefiting the watershed:

1. The POA donated \$10,000 to assist DNR in hydrilla treatment when located in DCL. (WMP Goal 5)
2. The POA coordinated with DNR and the State Highway Authority then paid for/installed signage on the main routes into the watershed to urge boat owners to clean their vessels prior to launching. (WMP Goal 5)
3. The POA purchased materials for DNR to construct disposal boxes that are located at State and Private boat launch facilities for materials removed from vessels to prevent introduction into the lake. (WMP Goal 5)
4. The DCWF is soliciting donations to enable the purchase of additional Water Quality Monitors for DNR. (WMP Goals 3&6)
5. The DCWF is organizing an effort with the County to educate local residents on ways to manage storm water. (WMP Goal 8)
6. The DCWF is partnering with Brookfield Renewable and DNR to execute a Zebra Mussel Detection Project. DNR is managing the overall project,

Brookfield is paying the costs of labor (\$18K), and the DCWF is paying for the PVC “plates” for Zebra Mussel colonizing as well as the laboratory analysis of water samples (\$2K). (WMP Goal 3)

7. The DCWF is partnering with MDE to support the effort to neutralize acid mine drainage into Cherry Creek which then enters DCL. The DCWF supports this effort by donating \$10,000 per year for the purchase of Calcium Carbonate and other materials needed. (WMP Goal 7)
8. The DCWF, using a qualified engineering firm, constructed a Water Budget Model and, in collaboration with MDE and Brookfield, is fine tuning the model for use in the management of water levels for all users of DCL. (WMP Goal 12)
9. The DCWF with its contractor and data supplied by DNR developed a Bathymetric Map which clearly shows the impact on individual dock owners at low water levels. (WMP Goals 12 & 13)
10. Through its quarterly newsletter and emails for more time sensitive information, the POA continually educates its membership and other County and State Government representatives through “complimentary” copies on the issues impacting DCL and the Watershed. (WMP Goal 2)