

DNR state of the lake presentation on research findings morphed into a heated exchange giving the Secretary an earful. We was blindsided by the absence of effective, open communications between lake stakeholders and DNR administrators.

At meeting start, the audience was informed Secretary Griffin had just 2 hours. Various research reports failed to address stakeholders' concerns about changes in the lake, reduction of recreational enjoyment and urgent need for programs, restoration and funding. Research reports on sediment accumulation, submerged aquatic vegetation, Eurasian Watermilfoil were not coupled with urgently needed implementation programs and funding ignored community concerns.

In 2001 Maryland bought the lake and undertook responsibility for lake management and financing. Nevertheless, Secretary Griffin repeated there are no funds for DCL. The question about what happened to the \$13 million from the State sale of the buy-down property was not answered. Those funds should have gone to the Lake Fund, not lost in the state General Fund.

Many who spoke talked of long-term family connections to the lake, decades of enjoyment and location for family gatherings and memories. These families want the lake to survive, to be a place for future generations but their observations create serious concern about the future.

Brian Greenberg urged Griffin to create communications channel between lake stakeholders and the State. Clearly high level DNR staff need to engage in more open, transparent stakeholder meetings and willingness to take tours of the lake, as did the Republican Newspaper Editor. If DNR is not going to take the leave, maybe others could. The Policy and Review Board, tasked in 2001 to be the “ears” as well as oversight of programs and financing for the Secretary, The County could adopt a 2004 proposal to form a Lake Committee, similar to the Marcellus Shale committee. Leadership is needed to convene all those involved in on-going exploration of the future of the lake, how can work together and, most difficult, how to secure restoration funds.

If high level DNR administrators are “too busy” and if the State has no funds, DNR should turn over management to a watershed management district.

The EPA forced Maryland and other states to adopt effective watershed restoration efforts to Save the Bay. Lake stakeholders will not expect an outside agency to step in and make Maryland do the right things for our lake. Saving the Lake is up to us.

Barbara Beelar, Friends of Deep Creek Lake