**To: PRB Board members**

**From: Barbara Beelar, Friends of Deep Creek Lake**

**RE: The Lake Budget agenda item. Background materials and recommendations.**

**Date: 10/26/13**

**Attached is a spreadsheet providing overview of revenues of the DNR Special Fund for DCL Management and Protection as well as the legal charges to the PRB on budgetary review.**

**Friends of Deep Creek Lake proposes the PRB adopt the following recommendations:**

* **Immediate creation/ re-activation of a working group on lake management finances.**
* **Bring in a local CPA to assist this working group.**

**Revenue.** Attached is data we have compiled from State documents for the Special Fund for DCL Management and Protection. Garrett County receives 25% as PILOT. We have subtracted this payment to provide net figures for revenue on the 3 years covered. This is an estimate.

Two questions:

* 2014 Allowance. What is the basis for this reduction? It may be the decision by DNR to separate out the State Park unit from lake management. If this is the case, it follows that the Fund has been paying for the State Park/Discovery Center for some period of time. IF this is the case, it has been happening without PRB knowledge and therefore the PRB has been remiss in not fulfilling its legal responsibility for “review and advise” over the State Park unit.
* Boat launching fees at the State Park ramp. Have these fees been going into the Fund? In the law, fees for boat launching are to go into the Fund. Clarification on this matter is of urgency since a major component of an invasive species program-- prevention of importation of such species into the lake—needs to be in place early 2014 and funds will be needed for this implementation.

**Expenditure side.** This data is not available from the State data base; it must be generated at the local level.

**PRB budgetary responsibility.**

Attached is the FoDCL summary of key points of Maryland Law governing the PRB. (5-216 and 5-215)

The PRB “**may review and make recommendations to the Secretary on budgetary matters that concern the management and maintenance of the lake and buffer area**.”

It is hard to envision the PRB fulfilling its required tasks to “**review and advise the Secretary on matters that related to the PCL Recreation Maintenance and Management Fund and the DCL management program**” without reviewing the budget available and consideration of funds needed.

**Questions which need to be answered now:**

* Why do we have only one full-time staff person in the Lake Management Office? Effective “in-lake” management is necessary to meet COMAR premises and principles as well as to ensure the future sustainability of the lake. One person cannot do this nor should he have to carry this burden. Effective “in-lake” management is necessary to meet COMAR premises and principles as well as to ensure the future sustainability of the lake. One person cannot do this nor should he have to carry this burden.
* What components of DNR operations being paid for out of what revenues streams? We assume the bulk of the revenues are coming from buffer strip permit fees which lake property owners assume are going to support Lake Management Office.
* What are the lake management needs for the 2014 season? These include: a comprehensive program to address invasive species covering prevention of importation of additional non-native species through a “clean boat” program; chemical application to control invasives and broad based community and lake user education program