

April 18, 2013
To: ADEQ Watershed Committee
From: Don Day
Legislative Chairman
Madison County Farm Bureau
Subject: Changes to Regulation 2

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We are particularly concerned with the site specific standard calling for a secchi disk to be visible to a depth of 1.1 meter, near the mouth of the War Eagle Creek and just above the Beaver Water District intake.

I have participated in Beaver Water District's annual secchi readings that take place in many locations during the summer, and consider the exercise helpful, although rather subjective. The disk is difficult to see on cloudy days, and two observers will usually have different opinions, so the record ends up an agreed on average. In addition, I have observed that the turbidity caused by rain storm caused natural bank erosion varies considerably, and of course, is another factor to consider when making a transparency evaluation. Having lived both on Beaver Lake and in the War Eagle Watershed for the last 21 years, participated in taking secchi readings, and having canoed the War Eagle several times, I personally feel that it is way too soon to have such an absolute standard incorporated as a regulation. Our Farm Bureau feels that a standard like this will lead to land use controls in the form of more regulations like the ones expressed in the opinions you have been gathering such as "make the land owner pay for stream bank protection, keep livestock out of streams, etc."

A University of Arkansas graduate student recently completed a Thesis that shows the water quality of Beaver Lake has been steadily improving since 1987.

Keep up with the secchi readings throughout Beaver Lake, and then, if even necessary, look at rational solutions, This arbitrary standard proposed should not be adopted.

*Submitted at
4-18-13 Reg 2
hearing at
Fayetteville
- Wcs*