



## Memo

### Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Public Meeting, September 19, 2019

#### Notable Attendees:

- Supervisor Cook, Braddock District
- Supervisor McKay, Lee District (and candidate for Chairman of Board of Supervisors)
- Supervisor Herrity, Springfield District
- James Walkinshaw, candidate for Braddock District supervisor
- Jason Remer, candidate for Braddock District supervisor

Park Authority staff provided a presentation on the current plan for the future of Lake Accotink. Some highlights:

- The option for the full lake has been selected.
- There will be no forebay, as it would be ineffective in this situation.
- Sediment will be pumped via a permanent pipeline to a dewatering site in Wakefield Park.
- Annual or biannual maintenance dredging is anticipated.
- Interest rates from the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Fund may be as low as 1%.
- 10/29/2019 – The funding strategy will go before the Board of Supervisors.
- 01/2020 – The design contract will be awarded.
- 01/2021 – The dredging contract will be awarded.
- 03/2025 – Completion of dredging is anticipated.
- Public meetings on the remainder of the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan will resume shortly, with completion of the master plan expected by the end of June 2020.

#### [Meeting Presentation Slideshow](#)

Supervisor Cook and Supervisor McKay spoke with appreciation of the impressive community response to the issue. They also praised county staff for developing innovative financial options that will substantially reduce costs. Both supervisors spoke in the most positive terms about preserving Lake Accotink “forever”.

#### Highlights of public comments and questions:

- Friends of Accotink Creek (Philip) – Pointed out no one who advocated to keep the full lake was asking for a pipeline in the park. The hideous eyesore of a permanent, above-ground 18 – 24” pipeline to Wakefield Park, with the loss of trees, carbon sequestration, and habitat involved, is too high a price. We should either put up with trucks in our neighborhoods or reconsider the smaller lake, which would provide most of the benefit sought in a full lake.
- Save Lake Accotink (Allan Robertson) - Shared concerns about the pipeline and maintaining the esthetic value of the entire park. Urged that any consequences of the project be mitigated.
- Friends of Accotink Creek (Kris) – Remarked that Lake Accotink was the kind of “good hostage” that gets public attention, but the health of the hostage is still threatened by many factors. Therefore, the work continues and we must all get involved and stay involved. Accotink Creek has its TMDL, but we also need MCEL, Minimum Community Engagement Load. We are all stronger together. Kris’ selfie with the crowd behind drew applause.
- Cardinal Forest HOA – Expressed continued support for the full lake.
- Individual – Urged access for persons with disabilities, including asphalt in place of gravel.
- Individual – Expressed concern for the effects on Wakefield Park, including truck traffic.

- Individual – Asked about the effect of the project on wildlife, with no staff member offering a response.
- Individual – Urged preservation of the lake’s mudflats for their foraging value to many waterfowl species. Pointed to the artificial islands installed in Lake Royal as only attractive to geese.
- Trails for Youth – Asked for improved pedestrian access from the east side along the main access road.
- Individual – Can’t the pipeline go underground? Park staff indicated maybe, as there is no detailed design yet. [This is contrary to our understanding of the pipeline needing to be aboveground for frequent maintenance due to abrasion by sediment.]
- Individual – How noisy will the pipeline and pumps be? Answered by another individual who indicated his house is closest to the park and the pipeline will be quieter than lawn mowers and leaf blowers.

Two small notes of disappointment on the handling of the meeting itself:

- No displays of the current plan for the lake
- No microphone for persons asking questions until an audience member prompted the hosts