



Comments of the Friends of Accotink Creek

RE: February 10, 2022, Lake Accotink Dredge Project public meeting

To: Project Manager

Cc: Supervisors, Braddock District, Lee District, Mason District

Please circle your selection:

- A. Lake Accotink is a beloved aesthetic and recreational amenity for surrounding neighborhoods
- B. Lake Accotink is an invaluable sediment control resource.
- C. Lake Accotink replaces some of the wetlands we have lost so much of in other areas.
- D. Lake Accotink is an unwelcome barrier to the natural movement of aquatic wildlife.
- E. Lake Accotink is an unending, expensive, divisive, and insoluble maintenance headache.
- F. ALL OF THE ABOVE

The quest for solutions to the question of Lake Accotink must be truly maddening for those assigned this unenviable task.

“Dismal” is an apt word to describe the choice we face between two unfortunate dewatering site options. The late appearance of the Southern Drive option may be regarded as sent from Heaven to spare the woods of Wakefield Park or as sent from Hell to eternally torment the residents along Highland Drive. The public is eager for more palatable options. Have we looked at dredging solutions in other parts of the world that might be applicable?

Among options we have heard are:

- The Board of Supervisors’ property on Hechinger Drive, but
 - This is currently the VRE parking lot
 - Does not appear to offer enough flat ground
 - Is about 1/3 in a Resource Protection Area
 - Backlick Run actually flows across the northeast corner
- Monch Farm Park on Edsall Road, which might be near ideal, but
 - Directly adjoins the back yards or front yards of 20 houses and a day care center.
- The Washington Gas caverns area off Rolling Road, but
 - Working atop natural gas storage caverns -What could go wrong?

Let us offer a few equally challenging ideas:

- Use of [Hi-rail](#) trucks capable of rail and road travel to utilize rail for a short distance to highways.
- Revisit the island option
 - This would still require trucks through neighborhoods, but the traffic could go out Heming and Queensberry as well, lessening the burden on any one neighborhood.
- Send some of the truck traffic from Southern Drive through the park to Heming and Queensberry.
- Slower-paced annual dredge to reduce the number of trucks.

- The smaller lake option may yet prove to be attractive.
 - If the issues of loss of sediment capture capacity and the survival of the freshwater mussel population can be overcome.
- Do nothing
 - When the public meetings on the future of Lake Accotink began, we had only a few years to act before the lake became full. Now we seem to be nearly at that point anyway.
 - The issues of loss of sediment capture and mussel survival would also apply.

We may yet hope Heaven will provide other options.

Good luck!

Friends of Accotink Creek

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