

## Meeting Minutes

### Task Force on the Future of Lake Accotink

#### Subcommittee on Options to Consider Other than Traditional Full Dredging

Monday, August 21st, 2023

7:00 pm

Government Center, Conference Room 2

Members Present: John Cook, Chair (Individual), Evelyn Spain (Planning Commission), Mary Cortina (Planning Commission), Martin Shepherd (Ravensworth Farm Civic Association), David Kepley (Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions), Diane Hoffman (Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee), Matt Bright (Earth Sangha), Michael DeLoose (West Springfield Civic Association), Cathy Field (North Springfield Civic Association), Ernest Rodriguez (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE)), Charlotte Hannagan (Kings Park Civic Association)

Members Absent: Cathy Field (North Springfield Civic Association)

The subcommittee meeting was called to order at 7:10pm. Attendance was taken.

Chair Cook discussed the overall task of the subcommittee, how he envisions the group to function, and a timeline, including the general agenda for the 3 subcommittee task force meetings. The members of the subcommittee will report back to the subcommittee as a whole at the next meeting on September 25th.

Chair Cook asked for the contact information spreadsheet to be distributed to all members of the task force. *Action completed on 8/21 by Charlotte.*

The subcommittee discussed possible options for the future of Lake Accotink, including:

- Managed wetland
- Smaller lake
- Keeping dredge spoils onsite
- Savannah
- Kayak stream
- Upstream sedimentation ponds and maintenance
- Stream restoration project - *while not in the scope of the project, the task force felt it negligent not to mention that stream restoration projects will have significant impacts on sediment to Lake Accotink*
- Do nothing
- 3 Lake option with 3 dams in a row
- Water amenity with or without recreation

Things to consider:

- The kind of dam needed to accommodate the new lake solution(s)
  - Do we need to remove flashboards?
- TMDL implications
  - Consider the amount of sediment needing to be dumped
  - Consider the credits from stream restoration

- Consider sediment implications if lake becomes a wetland and sediment goes downstream
- Water quality
  - Freshwater mussels are present because sediment is being caught
- Changing topography which may lead to flooding
  - Need to slow the velocity of water during storm
  - Canopy and vegetation upstream can help
  - Wetlands capture a lot of water
  - Stream restorations are great, but often cut down trees
  - Managed wetlands also means managing invasive species and debris
- Dredging
  - Mechanical vs. hydraulic
  - Use of the proposed dredging pipeline
  - Depth of dredge
  - Dredge spoils:
    - Spread on Wakefield Park easement
    - Spread thin to allow seeds to germinate (use like a fertilizer)
- Review the 2016-2019 report for other ideas for the future of the lake
- Review the Lake Accotink master plan

Objectives and Criteria to consider with any options; considerations for any solutions:

- Sustainability
- Environmental protection
- Aesthetic value
- Carbon impact
- Implementation and maintenance cost
- Recreational value
- Water quality
- Climate change implications

The subcommittee agreed to break out in groups of two to review options and report back to the subcommittee at the next meeting. The **Subcommittee Assignments** are:

Criteria Definition and Weighing: Diane and Charlotte

Small Lake Option: John and Mike

Wetlands Option: David and Matt

Savannah Option: Evelyn and Shep

Kayak Stream Option: Mary and Ernest

Dredge Spoils Storage: Mary and Ernest

Dredge Spoils Usage: Matt and Diane

The subcommittee will next meet at the government center on September 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.