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Board Matter

Joint with Chairman Mckay
Supervisor Lusk
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**Motion to Create a Task Force on the
Future of Lake Accotink**

Background:

Mr. Chairman, Lake Accotink Park is one of Fairfax County's most beloved resources. Its 476.2 acres of natural resources, trails, picnic areas, and waterfront activities draw hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. The 55-acre Lake Accotink, a manmade reservoir originally built by the U.S. Army, is a key feature of the park.

Because Lake Accotink is a manmade lake in the midst of a densely developed 30-square-mile watershed, it has required regular dredging in order to remove sediment and prevent it from returning to its natural state. The most recent dredge took place in 2008. Since 2014, Fairfax County has been exploring ways to address increased sedimentation and preserve Lake Accotink. In 2019, after an outpouring of community support for preserving the lake, Fairfax County developed a plan to dredge the lake at a cost of \$30.5 million. That plan also envisioned a permanent infrastructure to facilitate future maintenance dredging.

Unfortunately, additional analysis has determined that more sediment will need to be removed than previously estimated, the processing site originally envisioned is not suitable, and the costs to dispose of the processed sediment in a local quarry are significant. As a result, the initial base dredge is now projected to cost \$95 million and the total cost to dredge and maintain Lake Accotink over the next 25 years is \$395 million. Fairfax County staff have recommended that Lake Accotink not be dredged and, instead, recommend restarting the Park's Master Planning process with an emphasis on developing a sustainable vision for the lake and the park.

At the Board's Environmental Committee meeting held on April 25, I announced that I would ask the Board to establish a Task Force on the Future of Lake Accotink. The task force will be chaired by former Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, include former Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, and consist of representatives of the community, environmental and nonprofit organizations, and a representative of the Park

Authority. Task Force members should serve as liaisons to their representative communities and organizations by relaying information and soliciting feedback. County staff should serve in an advisory role.

The Task Force should meet regularly and:

- Conduct a review and develop findings on the previous studies performed by Arcadis and WSSI on the dredging plan to ensure that all possible options have been considered to preserve Lake Accotink in the most sustainable, equitable, and cost-effective manner possible.
- Identify relevant information needs and questions that should be addressed should the Board proceed with studying a managed wetland option and develop findings on the potential impacts of the managed wetland option.
- Identify relevant information needs and questions that should be addressed should the Board consider a hybrid option involving some area of open water along with a managed wetland and develop findings on the potential impacts of the hybrid option.
- Task Force findings shall consider the impacts to the environment, surrounding communities, recreational uses of the park, and financing including ongoing maintenance.

Motion:

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board of Supervisors authorize the creation of the Task Force on the Future of Lake Accotink and direct the County Executive to assign the necessary staff from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to provide support services to the Task Force. The Task Force on the Future of Lake Accotink should be convened this summer and work with staff to establish a timeline to complete its work and report back to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Chairman, I so move.