

Lake Accotink Dredge Public Meeting (online) December 10, 2020

There were 82 total participants, perhaps a dozen were various staff: Public Works, Park Authority, Arcadis, WSSI (contractors). The Annandale Blog was represented.



Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw also attended. He made initial remarks indicating he would work to minimize impacts and disruptions, but there would be impacts and disruptions. Supervisor Walkinshaw indicated he would be “concerned” about a permanent pipeline.

The staff presentations and discussion made no indication of a location of potential dewatering sites other than “north of Braddock Road”. Size of a dewatering area was not addressed.

Charles Smith, Stormwater Planning –

Estimated dredging cost is now \$30.5 million.

Sediment is accumulating in the lake at 20,000 tons per year.

Dredging should begin by early 2023 and be completed by late 2025.

Amanda Kohler, Arcadis environmental engineer –

The area needed for dewatering depends on a number of factors, including the nature of the sediment.

Mechanical dewatering requires “a little leas” space than passive dewatering.

Mike Wooden, Arcadis –

A permanent pipeline would likely be buried.

Following staff presentations, public questions were taken via Zoom chat only. Questions tended to be regarding details. There was little indication of a challenge to the pipeline or dewatering area.

A couple of selected questions:

Friends of Accotink Creek –

“The dewatering site will very likely come at the expense of clearing 5 acres of woods in Wakefield Park, given the impracticality of other nearby sites. This was not part of the bargain when citizens advocated for saving the full lake. How can we come together to avoid this environmental sacrifice? Tolerate trucks in neighborhoods - alternate sites/methods - reconsider the smaller lake - others?”

- Response from Charles Smith – Wait for the analysis to be complete.

Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley -

“Natural resources will be impacted as result of the project. There’s been an argument made tonight supporting that the temporary impact will yield a greater long-term gain for the lake and the community as a whole. However, it’s very common that these projects are planned and permitted with the minimum mitigation required for the impact of regulated resources to those resources. Can the project consider or is the project considering mitigation for unregulated resources (loss of trees & disturbance to naturalized areas) as part of the project scope where practical? Examples (use of native seed mix for stabilization of disturbed areas, reforestation, invasive plant species removal, stormwater facility retrofits, etc..)?”

- Response from Charles Smith – Yes to all.