

DPWES Update on Lake Accotink

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As requested in the Preservation of Lake Accotink Joint Board Matter (Board Matter), presented and approved by the Board on January 23, 2024, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) Lake Accotink project team is moving forward with three concurrent efforts to support the Lake Accotink project. These include a sedimentation study, dam assessment (supported by DPWES), and feasibility study for a smaller lake option as identified in the taskforce's findings. Since the dam is owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), the assessment of the dam is being led by FCPA with support from DPWES. All efforts will be supported by a robust and inclusive outreach and engagement plan.

DPWES has leveraged an interdisciplinary team of county staff to initiate activities. To ensure these efforts are prioritized and move forward in a timely manner, DPWES has successfully repurposed and recruited a staff position that is dedicated to the daily coordination and management of these efforts. This work requires engineers, scientists, and other professionals with expertise in a variety of technical fields. The Accotink team has been meeting with several consultants, as well as support agencies like United States Geological Survey (USGS), to ensure that the appropriate professionals will be involved in implementing and supporting this significant work. Collaboration and discussions continue with the consultants so that both parties have a comprehensive understanding of the project requirements in order to develop a detailed scope and timeline for each effort.

The Accotink project team has been working diligently to define the work and outline an appropriate approach for this important next phase. Status of the concurrent efforts are summarized below:

Sedimentation Study

Status Update

The Accotink team is actively working on a suitable scope of work to refine our understanding of the material moving through and/or being captured by Lake Accotink. USGS and consultant support are being leveraged to establish an additional gage location(s), perform expanded physical survey, and complete additional analysis to refine our understanding of both the existing system and the proposed alternative lake configurations. The timeline will be developed/refined by USGS and consultants concurrently with the scope of work.

Next Steps

The Accotink team will bring the USGS and consultant teams together to perform final refinements of the scope and complete cost negotiations and contracting.

Lake Accotink Dam Assessment

Status Update

The Accotink team is actively working to develop a suitable scope of work to assess the condition and longevity of the Lake Accotink Dam. FCPA is working to identify adequate funding sources to support the effort. Additionally, through collaboration with DPWES, FCPA has identified and begun scope development with a dam safety consultant.

Next Steps

The Accotink team will continue additional scope and timeline development, which will be informed by the other Accotink project efforts led by DPWES, as well as continued studies being performed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

Feasibility Study

Status Update

The Accotink team is retaining previous consultant support for the feasibility study and contract updates are in process with the consultant. Sedimentation study and dam assessment scope and timeline will be incorporated into the feasibility study so that analysis and results are appropriately informed by the other efforts. The consultant is currently working on an outline scope and estimated timeline.

Next Steps

The Accotink team will refine the scope of work and timeline with the consultant and share for public input before finalizing contracting.

Outreach/Engagement

The Accotink team is committed to having a robust and inclusive outreach and engagement plan for the project, to include increased transparency during this project phase. The team is actively working to identify contracted support from a consultant who specializes in community engagement to serve as a neutral facilitator that informs methods, techniques, and strategies, while bolstering outreach and engagement for the concurrent efforts.

The Accotink project team appreciates the patience and understanding as we work through the necessary scope development and contracting efforts. Because of the interrelationships between these efforts and the complexity of both the technical and permitting analyses, the detailed timeline requested by the Board cannot be provided until the procurement for all consulting resources has been completed.

Questions? Contact Aaron George, the project coordinator and branch chief, Watershed Projects Implementation Central Branch, and Lake Accotink project manager, at aaron.george2@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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