
Sachem's Head Homeowners' Association

P.O. Box 5628
Midlothian, VA 23112

August 20, 2020

Dear Member,

The Homeowner's Associations (HOA) that represent the communities surrounding Evergreen Lake have received several complaints regarding the condition of the lake. Three years ago, the HOA leadership met with Chesterfield County to discuss several issues with the lake including poor water quality, increased sediment, and shore erosion. It was decided that no improvements to the lake would occur until the Lucks Lane Widening Project had concluded. In a more recent meeting with County officials, however, the HOA leadership were informed that work on the lake would begin while the road project continues.

The County has agreed to dredge the shallow areas of the lake. The depth of the lake will be temporarily reduced by draining six (6) inches of water. Areas of the lake bottom that are then exposed will be dredged. The shore-based dredging operation will involve the use of long-reaching backhoes that will remove sediment. The spills from this operation will be transported and disposed of off-site. The County is not dredging the entirety of the lake; the dredging will target only those areas of the lake that are extremely shallow and that can be accessed by the shore-based equipment.

It is important to remember that Evergreen Lake is designated a Best Management Practices (BMP) facility under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (Act). The lake is part of a larger network of BMPs that collectively help to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads before the water reaches the Chesapeake Bay. Maintenance of a BMP facility requires the approval and involvement of the local government to ensure that the actions taken follow the Act.

The algae blooms that occur in Evergreen Lake may be treated with an approved hydrogen peroxide-based algaecide provided a permit is obtained from the County and the application is completed by a licensed pond management contractor. Herbicidal treatment of aquatic plants, including the invasive water primrose, is not permitted in a BMP facility. The County suggests pulling the water primrose from the banks of the lake and properly disposing of the plant material.

The County is in the process of collecting bids for the dredging project and work will commence once a contractor is chosen. Your HOA leadership will provide more details about the scope and schedule of the dredging operation as those become known.