



Update (8/26/09): Lake Elkhorn Dredging Project

On Tuesday, August 25, 2009, at the invitation of the Owen Brown Village Board, the Open Space Management (“OSM”) Division attended a Q&A session regarding the status of the Lake Elkhorn Dredging project. The OSM team provided an overview of the dredging project and, the current status of the procurement for the construction services for the dredging and projected schedule. The procurement status of the dredging project is:

A Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for Lake Elkhorn Dredging, RFP # 050709DK was released on May 19, 2009. Proposals were due on June 30, 2009. CA staff reviewed the responsive proposals only to determine that all proposals received exceed the budget and/or did not meet the requirements of the RFP. By letter dated July 15, 2009, all proposers were notified that the proposals were rejected with CA’s intent of re-issuing the RFP.

Along with the Engineer-of-Record, CA staff examined the project and determined a number of minor offerings that could produce different approaches to the lake dredging and possibly lower costs. In the re-issued RFP, CA will reduce the quantity of sediment scheduled to be removed from the problematic and difficult to access forebay. The two “spits” of land that have naturally developed and fostered the growth of small caliper trees will remain. Because of the location and configuration of the “spits”, the change in material quantity in no way reduces the effectiveness of the forebay. The option to use the paved hiker/biker path that runs along the southern shore of the lake will be given for the proposers to consider in moving material from the forebay. This may alleviate the access constraints posed by the location of the forebay. If this option is incorporated by a proposer’s dredging plan and accepted by CA, it may result in periodic hiker/biker trail closure during the dredging effort. The option for mechanical dredging will also be offered in the re-issuance of the RFP and a lakeside area north of the staging area will be opened for consideration to move mechanically dredged material out of the lake. Use of this lakeside area will require the closure of the grassy area located adjacent to the scheduled staging area and existing parking . Both the use of the hiker / biker path and the lakeside staging, if accepted by CA, may require a modification of the Howard County Grading Permit.

CA Staff believes that these changes, while minor, may produce viable proposals that will enable the project to be accomplished in its entirety, within the approved budget and meet the community expectations.

CA re-issued the RFP for dredging services and received four proposals. As of this date, the proposals are undergoing evaluation. CA is hopeful that an award will be made quickly and that work on the dredging of Lake Elkhorn can start by the end of September.