



More Than Enough

A recent public hearing about the future of the Chesapeake Bay requested data regarding phosphorus removal by watershed management groups to protect the quality of the Bay, saying:

For phosphorus, this leaves a 124,000 pounds per year gap in reaching the 40% nutrient reduction goal.

WID was the only Fairfax County agency which provided concrete information, as follows:

- Lake Barcroft spent **\$1,082,091** dredging sediment between 1985 and 1997.
- Lake Barcroft dredged **77,362** cubic yards of sediment between 1985 and 1997.
- Lake Barcroft removed **160,000** pounds of phosphorus between 1985 and 1997.

Whereas the Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District territory accounts for only

3.6% of the area of Fairfax County, WID's sediment dredging provided more than the total phosphorus reduction required by the entire County to achieve its 40% removal goal.

Furthermore, the entire cost of this dredging was paid by WID taxpayers with no help whatsoever from any federal, state or county government agency.

The five hour hearing called by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Department of Environmental Quality illustrated the contentious relationship between Chesapeake Bay agencies, EPA, Virginia State agencies and Fairfax County agencies. The confusion and misunderstanding between all of them is compounded by uncertain modeling processes and the unfortunate *unfunded mandates* being passed down from EPA to Virginia to Fairfax County.

Cooperation can perform the vital task of protecting the Chesapeake Bay.
