

**Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission
Board Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024**

Members Present:

Lorie Smith, Chairman
Darrell Dalton
Robert Hiss
Neil Holthouser
Tow Lawton

Jeff Salmon
Edgar Tuck
John Vidovich
David Wells
Chris Whitlow

Members Absent:

Roy Kelley
Emily Ragsdale

Frank Rogers
Stuart Turille

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage

Christina Matrangola

Guests Present:

David Arnold, Assistant County Administrator, Pittsylvania County
Chip Zimmerman, Leesville Lake Association Representative
Joy Manning, Wake Education Task Force Secretary
John Cooper, Resident
Gus Monroig, Resident
Jason Dunovant, Reporter

1. Call to Order

Lorie Smith called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Invocation

Chris Whitlow gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Lorie Smith led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Election of Officers

a. Chairperson

Ms. Smith opened the floor for nominations for a TLAC Board Chairperson.

David Wells made a motion to nominate Lorie Smith as Chairman. Chris Whitlow seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed, and motion carried by acclamation to elect Lorie Smith as Chairman.

b. Vice Chairperson

Ms. Smith opened the floor for nominations for a TLAC Board Vice Chairman.

Chris Whitlow made a motion to nominate Darrell Dalton as Vice Chairman. Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed, and motion carried by acclamation to elect Darrell Dalton as Vice Chairman.

5. Introduction of New Board members for 2024

Ms. Smith introduced Chip Zimmerman who was in attendance on behalf of Roy Kelley, Leesville Lake Association Representative. Additionally, Ms. Smith introduced two new Board members, Tom Lawton, and Jeff Salmon. Mr. Lawton is the Altavista District Supervisor and will represent Campbell County and Mr. Salmon will represent Franklin County as the Citizen-At-Large.

Ms. Smith entertained a motion to approve the appointments of two new Board members, Tom Lawton, and Jeff Salmon to the TLAC Board of Directors. **John Vidovich made a motion to approve the new appointments to the Board as presented. Darrell Dalton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

6. Approval of Agenda

Chris Whitlow made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. David Wells seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

8. Approval of Consent Agenda

Ms. Smith asked the Board members if there were any questions on any of the items on the Consent Agenda, or if they wished to pull any of the items for discussion. The Board did not have any questions or need to pull items for discussion.

Chris Whitlow made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously as follows:

- a. Request for Appointment of Environmental Committee Members and Chairman - SML
Members: Joanne Hought, Bob Camicia, Jim Colby, Jim Harvey, Scott Bull, Ron Dorman, Keri Green, and Raymond Lekich were reappointed to the committee. Joanne Hought was appointed as Chairman. Appointments will be for a one-year term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025.
- b. Request for Appointment of Environmental Committee Members and Chairman – LVL
Members: Charlie Hamilton and David Waterman were reappointed to the committee.

Charlie Hamilton was appointed to the committee as Chairman. Appointments will be for a one-year term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025.

- c. Request for Appointment of Navigation Committee Members and Chairman - SML
Members: Eric Cheney, Robert (Gene) McGuire, Randy Stow, Chris Baker, and Raymond Lekich were reappointed to the committee and Randy Stow was reappointed as Chairman. Appointments will be for a one-year term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025.
- d. Request for Appointment of Navigation Committee Members and Chairman – LVL Members:
Glenn Coleman, Joe Humphrey, Larry Mitchell, and Dick Grabowski were reappointed to the committee and Glenn Coleman was appointed as Chairman. Appointments will be for a one-year term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025.
- e. Request for Appointment of Vessel Pump Out Committee Members and Chairman: Pete Heyroth, John Vidovich, Jeanne Harvey, and Kristina Sage were reappointed to the committee. Pete Heyroth was reappointed to the committee as Chairman. Appointments will be for a one-year term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025.
- f. Request for Appointment of Smith Mountain Lake Association Representative: John Vidovich was reappointed to the Board. Appointments will be for a one-year term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025.
- g. Request for Appointment of Leesville Lake Association Representative: Roy Kelley was appointed to the Board. Appointments will be for a one-year term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025.

9. Approval of Minutes

- a. December 12, 2023
- b. December 28, 2023

Chris Whitlow made a motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2023, and December 28, 2023, as submitted. David Wells seconded the motion. The motion carried, with Jeff Salmon and Tom Lawton abstaining.

10. Citizen Presentation

- a. Sedimentation: Mr. John Cooper and Mr. Gus Monroig, homeowners near B-49, Smith Mountain Lake, provided a PowerPoint presentation explaining the problems with sedimentation above channel marker B-49. This presentation provided information on the present problems arising from the fill-in and suggested resolutions, such as reserving future funds within the budgets, requests for grants, or even a soil barrier. In February 2017 Mr. Cooper presented to the Board explaining the possible contributing factors causing the fill-in, referenced various sections of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), the responses from AEP with regard to this issue, the presenters' rationale as to why they feel this is an issue that should

be addressed by AEP through the SMP, and a request for assistance in addressing this issue. Mr. Cooper explained that we must do something because if we do nothing, this will continue, and he respectfully asked for the Boards assistance in acting on this ongoing problem.

11. Project Update

- a. Wake Education Update: Joy Manning, Wake Education Task Force Secretary presented the status of the task force membership, material development, distribution, and planned distribution.
 - There is a coloring book art contest which started on 2/1/24 and ends on 4/1/24. The notification/flyer that was produced will direct interested contestants to the WET Force site through the TLAC website, to get more information, for their submissions and to see if they are a winner. The task force sent the flyer to local churches, schools/art teachers, YMCA, after school daycare programs and posted at local merchants. The winners will be selected for a coloring book that will be distributed with other WET Force information at events. Additional suggestions were made that we could potentially print place mats with some of the winning artwork that can be used at local restaurants for coloring.
 - Upcoming and proposed events for 2024
 - A Day at the Lake
 - Newcomers Meeting
 - DWR Monthly Meeting
 - Hands on training
 - Presentation to SMLA BOD
 - Joy stated that she sent the rental packet emails out in Mid-January and will again in April/May to ensure the information is passed along to the rental companies/realtors at potential high traffic time for rental reservations and confirmations.
 - There is discussion of media presence and Randy Stow has done some work on this. Ultimately getting on the radio and TV should wait until the summer boating season but both TV/News and Radio are options.

12. Financial Report

Ms. Sage mentioned the server upgrade that was recently installed at the TLAC office, as well as navigation aid supplies, buoys, cable assemblies, and anchors that were purchased to ensure adequate inventory.

Darrell Dalton made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented, Robert Hiss seconded the motion. Motion carried.

13. Action Items

- a. Sedimentation – General Discussion

Chairman Smith asked for Board members feedback and discussion in regard to assembling a task force where the main focus would be sedimentation. Perhaps representatives from regulatory

agencies, citizens, business representatives, etc. can begin by defining what is sedimentation, where does it originate, how does it evolve, and then move forward, to include review of the sedimentation presentations and identify funding sources. The goal is to have scientific evaluations completed for the entire lake as a whole, reflecting locations of concern and location percentages and expecting an outcome of mitigation. Ms. Smith stated that this topic will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting and for everyone to bring suggestions to the table.

14. Executive Director Updates:

- a. Smith Mountain Lake - Ms. Sage reported an update to the Board on the following:
 - To date, this year staff has forwarded 6 debris reports and 1 navigation aid report to AEP on behalf of residents.
 - Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2024, as well as the Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Mangos, all Board members are welcome to attend.
 - The Navigation Committee will be reviewing the No Wake Buoy Application and No Wake Surfing Zone Applications for updates, and we encourage any suggestions from the Board. Ms. Sage will send out an email with each application for the Boards review, please submit your thoughts and suggestions prior to the April Board meeting.
- b. Leesville Lake: Ms. Sage reported an update to the Board on the following:
 - To date, this year staff has forwarded 32 debris reports to AEP on behalf of residents.
 - Note: A DEQ Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) meeting is scheduled for February 29, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at the Rocky Mount Library. Which will discuss chemicals and debris coming into the lake, i.e., Pigg River and Beaverdam Creek. Ms. Sage and Ms. Houpt, SMLA, will be attending.
- c. SMP Report: No update reported at this time.

15. Reports from the Board and Committees:

- Leesville Lake Association Report: Chip Zimmerman on behalf of Roy Kelley stated that there is nothing to report at this time.
- Smith Mountain Lake Association Report: John Vidovich presented the following:
 - Elections were held in December for the 2024 SMLA Board of Directors and Officers.
 - Our Government Relations team continued its work on a budget amendment in the General Assembly for \$150,000 (over two years) to study conditions responsible for creating Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) at Smith Mountain Lake. Chief Patrons are Delegate Bulova and Senator Peake. Senators Mulchi and Stanley are Co-Patrons. Thank you to the TLAC Board of Directors for its Resolution supporting the budget amendment.

- SMLA launched a Dock Watch program to monitor HAB activity at dock locations around Smith Mountain Lake. Over 40 residents have volunteered to support the program, 20 sites have been selected, our Lake Quality Council has begun setting up a lab in the SMLA office, and a training session with the Phytoplankton Monitoring Network is scheduled.
 - A contract was signed with Princeton Hydro, an environmental engineering consulting firm, to conduct watershed nutrient and hydrologic budget related services on the Blackwater River. Focus of the engagement includes:
 - Historical Data Review
 - Hydrologic and Pollutant Loading Analysis
 - Analysis of the Pollutant Removal Achievable Through the Implementation of Specific Watershed Based Management Techniques
 - Overwintering Phytoplankton Assessment
 - The HAB Working Group drafted a **Be HAB Aware** communication outreach program that will be shared with all lake community stakeholders later this month.
 - SMLA is developing a Speaker Series program designed to offer lake community clubs and organizations with presentations about Lake Quality and Water Safety topics and initiatives.
 - \$10,000 has been raised from the **Make a SPLASH** fundraising campaign. SMLA is also participating in SML Gives 2024.
 - A Day At The Lake is scheduled for June 8, 2024, at Goodhue Boat Company, Blackwater (aka Crazy Horse Marina).
- APCo Report: Neil Holthouser reported the following:

Aids to Navigation

- On January 30, 2024, Appalachian met with its Aids to Navigation Technical Review Committee regarding the removal, relocation, and addition of new lateral marks on Smith Mountain Lake and a potential site visit on Leesville Lake. An additional draft of the changes is forthcoming.

Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan

- The annual aquatic vegetation survey was conducted. A conference call was held with the Aquatic Vegetation Management Technical Review Committee (TRC) to discuss the results; there was consensus to postpone the 5-Year Survey. An extension of time to conduct the 5-Year Survey until such time the TRC determines it necessary was filed with the FERC. Report regarding survey results forthcoming.

Debris Management Plan

- A copy of the January/February Debris Report is attached.
- As of January 31, 2024, 145 tons have been removed from Leesville Lake.
- Lake crews continue to remove debris from Leesville Lake, shred and haul debris stored at Leesville Dam.
- Pigg River Debris Diversion Device: Appalachian continues with its exploration and evaluation of the device's environmental and engineering considerations. In accordance with the Debris Management Plan, "The evaluation of the sites including

the potential for providing debris diversion and collection devices will include an engineering and cost-benefit analysis, along with considerations for effects on surrounding property owners, navigation, safety concerns, permitting implications, environmental impacts, and access. **Should it appear feasible to consider the installation of a debris diversion and collection device at a dedicated debris offload/disposal site after review of the above described environmental and engineering considerations, a joint pilot project supported by Appalachian, TLAC, LLA, and other stakeholders will be considered.** Appalachian will report on the evaluation of any sites for possible debris diversion and collection devices in its annual report as detailed in Section 5.0.”

Recreation Management Plan

- Appalachian met with the Recreation Technical Review Committee on January 17, 2024. Scruggs steps installed. Dam Island ripped. Angler Use Survey Reporting pending.

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP):

- After consultation with required stakeholders on a plan and schedule for the SMP 10-Year Review on December 8, 2023, Appalachian filed the plan and schedule with FERC on January 29, 2024.
- Press release issued regarding upcoming dredging ban (Feb. 15 and June 15).

Water Management Plan (2/13/14)

- As of 0500 hours this morning Tuesday, February 13, 2023, inflow to the Smith Mountain Project was 5040 cfs and the discharge from Leesville 4280 cfs. The adjusted reservoir elevation was 794.8.

16. Calendar and Reminders for the Board:

Chairman Smith reminded the Board that the next Board Meeting is April 9, 2024. She also stated that all members should contact the TLAC office as soon as possible if they realize they are not able to attend a meeting.

17. Adjournment:

John Vidovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Wells seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Matrangola