

**Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission
Board Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2024**

Members Present:

Lorie Smith, Chairman
Darrell Dalton
Robert Hiss
Neil Holthouser
Tom Lawton
Frank Rogers

Jeff Salmon
Edgar Tuck
Stuart Turille
David Wells
Chris Whitlow

Members Absent:

Roy Kelley
Emily Ragsdale
John Vidovich

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage
Christina Matrangola

Guests Present:

Joy Manning, Wake Education Task Force Secretary
Troy Rech, Resident
Jason Dunovant, Reporter

1. Call to Order

Lorie Smith called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Invocation

Robert Hiss gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Jeff Salmon led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. 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 objections.

Frank Rogers made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Darrell Dalton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously as follows:

- a. Consideration of Appointment of New SML Navigation Committee Member
- b. Consideration of the Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan
- c. Approval of minutes: February 13, 2024

7. 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.
 - Joy stated that she received confirmation/approval to install a banner at the 122 Scruggs Road intersection from Memorial Day to Labor Day and is continuing to work on the approval for the Diamond Hill /122 Intersection. The task force would also like to post a banner at entrances of events that they do not plan to attend.
 - The coloring book art contest received several entries, and the task force will select the winners at their next meeting.
 - Completed events for 2024:
 - DWR Monthly Meeting (x2)
 - Newcomer's meeting
 - SML Lions Club
 - Proposed events for 2024:
 - A Day at the Lake – 6/8/24
 - Hands on training
 - Presentation to SMLA BOD – 4/16/24
 - Joy said that she will send out rental packets again in April/May to ensure the information is passed along to rental companies/realtors at potential high traffic time for rental reservations and confirmations.
 - Joy mentioned the task force discussed adding new short safety videos this year on the web site to include short “How To” videos by team members.
 - There is a Wake Education Task Force advertisement in the Laker map and in the Laker visitors guide, as well as a publication about the WET Force in the Bedford Community Connection.

8. Financial Report

- a. Financial Report through February

Chris Whitlow made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented, David Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried.

b. Consideration of Proposed FY24-25 Budget

Ms. Sage gave a brief overview of the draft budget for next fiscal year. Ms. Smith mentioned that the Board has time to look over the draft before the June board meeting at which the budget will be adopted. Please let Ms. Sage or Ms. Smith know if you see any amendments or changes necessary on any of the line items.

9. Action Items

a. **Approval of 2024 Vessel Pump Out Contract (Resolution 2024-001)**

Ms. Sage advised the Board that the Virginia Department of Health had submitted the contract for the 2024 Vessel Pump Out Program. She requested that the resolution be approved authorizing the TLAC Executive Director to oversee the program and process all contributions, expenditures, and grant reimbursement requests.

Jeff Salmon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-001 authorizing administration of the program and authorizing the TLAC Executive Director to process all contributions, expenditures, and grant reimbursement necessary for the 2024 Vessel Pump Out Program. Chris Whitlow seconded the motion. Motion carried, with abstention from Mr. Rogers.

b. **Consideration of Recommendation for Modification of Authorized Markers on Smith Mountain Lake – Gills Creek Marina & Lodge, Inc.**

A request for Modification of Authorized Markers on Smith Mountain Lake was submitted by Mr. Godsey, Manager of Gills Creek Marina, in Wirtz. After review of the request at their meeting on April 3, 2024, the TLAC Navigation Committee recommended that the application **not be approved**. This recommendation was based upon multiple factors:

- The current configuration of the no wake zone was found to be sufficient to ensure safety at the docks.
- Shoal marker, S052, is on the edge of the no wake zone at this location. If the no wake markers are relocated, leaving the shoal marker inside the proposed zone, the shoal marker could be confused with a no wake buoy until the boater is close enough to see the symbol on the buoy. This could cause confusion and could potentially cause groundings at this location.

Jeff Salmon made a motion, seconded by Robert Hiss, and abstention from Frank Rogers to provide the VDWR with a recommendation for disapproval of Gills Creek Marina's request for modification to existing authorized buoys.

c. Consideration of Campbell County Citizen-at-Large position on TLAC BOD

Mr. Rogers explained that the Campbell County Board of Supervisors has requested the TLAC Board of Directors to consider adding a Campbell County Citizen-at-Large to the TLAC Board. As stated in the TLAC Cooperative Agreement, "...because of its smaller area involvement and financial responsibility," the County proposes to retain a maximum of two (2) votes on the TLAC Board. The Citizen will only cast a vote in the absence of the Supervisor or Administrator of Campbell County at a board meeting and would otherwise serve in an advisory capacity.

TLAC's original Cooperative Agreement for all four (4) counties did not include this position in the composition of the TLAC BOD in recognition of Campbell County's smaller area

involvement and financial responsibility. Addition of this position will necessitate revision of the Cooperative Agreement and approval of all four (4) county Boards of Supervisors.

If approved by the TLAC Board, the individual will be appointed to serve a term of one calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31 by the Campbell County Board of Supervisors.

Chris Whitlow made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-002 authorizing approval of the amendment to the Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission Cooperative Agreement. Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Sedimentation – General Discussion

Chairman Smith presented a Smith Mountain Lake Sedimentation Task Force overview to board members, explaining the charge, acknowledging impairment of portions of the lake due to sedimentation, and discussing the proposed stakeholders to form a collaborative group. Stakeholders will be invited during appropriate phases of the process to include: TLAC, APCO, Army Corp of Engineers, Department of Wildlife Resources, permitting agencies, County Planning staff, Smith Mountain Lake Association, Ferrum College, Agriculture representation, DEQ, Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District, private citizens, etc.

Ms. Smith asked for feedback, comments, questions, or concerns from the Board. Mr. Wells mentioned that Virginia Tech should be involved with this task force. Mr. Tuck added Peaks of Otter Soil & Water Conservation District and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. Mr. Turille mentioned that referencing the sedimentation model efforts of the Chesapeake Bay Program with their tremendous oyster harvest in recent years may be beneficial, as well as Board consideration to involve Leesville Lake as a stakeholder. Ms. Smith states that these are all wonderful offerings to this new task force. We will be working to form this stakeholder's group and an update will be provided at the June Board meeting.

A summary of the task force goals includes:

- a. Develop an evaluative scientific approach to understand causation, potential mitigation strategies and long-term strategic planning.
- b. Consideration of contractual consultative services with scope to be determined by the stakeholder group.
- c. Assign a group to identify potential funding sources for remediation and mitigation purposes.
- d. Develop a timeline, scope, and deliverables.

e. Retirement of Carl Boggess, TLAC Counsel

Ms. Smith informed the Board that TLAC Counsel, Mr. Carl Boggess, is formally retiring as of June 30, 2024, after 44 years of service. He has left some resources to Ms. Smith for future counsel. Ms. Smith will call on the Executive Committee to meet and discuss filling this vacancy within the month to insure TLAC has adequate legal coverage during this transition.

10. Executive Director Updates:

- Smith Mountain Lake - Ms. Sage reported an update to the Board on the following:

- To date, this year staff has forwarded 20 debris reports and 3 navigation aid reports 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 holding a public hearing on April 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. for Mariners Landing at Mitchell's Cove, all Board members are welcome to attend. A copy of the application will be forthcoming.
- Channel marker B-2 is leaning/damaged, AEP has been notified.
- TLAC is currently looking for a volunteer to maintain the No Wake Buoys at Halesford Boat Ramp. The current Responsible Party has moved away. Ms. Smith has requested that Ms. Sage contact Ryan Brown of DWR regarding this matter.
- Leesville Lake: Ms. Sage reported an update to the Board on the following:
- To date, this year staff has forwarded 115 debris reports to AEP on behalf of residents.
- AEP Annual Debris Report: Ms. Sage has submitted TLAC's response to AEP's Annual Debris Report mentioning the debris concern at the Pigg River as well as providing dedicated offload sites for debris on Leesville Lake.

11. Reports from the Board and Committees:

- Leesville Lake Association Report: Mr. Kelley was absent today. There is no report at this time.
- Smith Mountain Lake Association Report: Mr. Vidovich was absent today. There is no report at this time.
- APCo Report: Neil Holthouser reported the following:

Aids to Navigation

- Aids to Navigation Technical Review Committee held 1/30/24 regarding changes to lateral marks on Smith Mountain Lake and a potential site visit on Leesville Lake. An additional draft of the changes and the meeting notes were distributed on 4/5/24.

Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan

- The annual aquatic vegetation survey was conducted in 2023. Report regarding survey results is forthcoming.

Debris Management Plan

- 2023 Annual Debris Report filed with FERC on 4/1/24.
- A copy of the February/March Debris Report is available.
- As of March 31, 2024, 1,540 tons have been removed from Leesville Lake, 120 tons have been removed from Smith Mountain Lake for a total of 1,660 tons removed from the Project in calendar year 2024.
- Debris assessments conducted the week of April 1 will be utilized to prepare the 2024 Overall Plan.
- The annual Debris Technical Review Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 22, 2024. Agenda items include Overall Plan for 2024, status of new equipment, Myers Creek, Pigg

River Debris Diversion Plan, etc.

- 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 (emphasis added), "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

- Angler Use Survey Report filed with FERC 4/1/24.

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)

- On 2/26/24, FERC approved Appalachian's plan and schedule to review the Shoreline Management Plan filed on January 29, 2023. Per the schedule, Appalachian will provide a redlined document to stakeholders by April 26, 2024. Stakeholders will have 45 days to review and comment on the proposed changes.
- Dredging ban (Feb. 15 and June 15) remains in effect.

Water Management Plan

- As of 05:00 hours this morning Tuesday, April 9, 2024, inflow to the Smith Mountain Project was 1,278 cfs and the discharge from Leesville 1,262 cfs. The adjusted reservoir elevation was 795.3 ft.
- Increased flows for striper spawning began 3/2/24.

Water Quality Plan

- The 2023 Annual Report was distributed for review and comment on 2/25/24. Filing deadline is 5/15/24. Scheduling of the annual Water Quality Technical Review Committee meeting is underway.

12. Calendar and Reminders for the Board:

Chairman Smith reminded the Board that the next Board Meeting is June 11, 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.

13. Adjournment:

David Wells made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Darrell Dalton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Matrangola