

**Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 11, 2024**

**Members Present:**

Lorie Smith, Chairman  
Darrell Dalton  
Robert Hiss  
Neil Holthouser  
Roy Kelley (remote)  
Tom Lawton

Frank Rogers  
Jeff Salmon  
Edgar Tuck  
John Vidovich  
David Wells (remote)  
Chris Whitlow

**Members Absent:**

Emily Ragsdale

**Staff Present:**

Kristina Sage

Christina Matrangola

**Guests Present:**

Joy Manning, Wake Education Task Force Secretary  
Liz Parcell, AEP  
David Agee, AEP  
Jason Dunovant, Reporter  
Waller Perrow, Buoy Applicant  
Kelley Drinkard, Resident  
Earl Walke, Resident  
Donna Walke, Resident  
Brian Miller, Resident  
Brenda Miller, Resident  
Steve Kremer, Resident  
Darran Cruzan, Resident  
Paulette Craig, Resident  
Rick Johnston, Resident  
Kathy Johnston, Resident

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Motion of Virtual Attendance**

Ms. Smith asked the Board members if there were any objections to Mr. David Wells and Mr. Roy Kelley attending the meeting virtually today. Mr. Wells is travelling between meetings and Mr. Kelley is out of the state. **Jeff Salmon made a motion to approve their virtual attendance for today's meeting, John Vidovich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Invocation**

Darrell Dalton gave the invocation.

To review a no wake zone request, complete due diligence including TLAC Navigation Committee deliberation and a public hearing to satisfy the regulation for citizen feedback on the application were required. Residents were given the opportunity to present to the Navigation Committee and Board, reasons why they were in favor or not in favor of the Mariners Landing request. After the Navigation Committee reviewed the application and public hearing comments, they concluded that the request does not meet the current TLAC criteria and recommended to the Board that the application be denied. Discussion ensued regarding future revision to the application criteria and the potential need to emphasize safety as a key mitigating criterium. Ms. Smith stated that the Navigation Committee is in the process of reviewing the regulatory marker application to revise criteria, as well as bring the application to date with current conditions on and uses of the lake. Discussion ensued making it clear that the issue is to uphold safety on Smith Mountain Lake and utilize the proper mechanisms to achieve that.

**Edgar Tuck made a motion to approve the application for no wake zone on Mitchell's Cove at Mariners Landing, Smith Mountain Lake. John Vidovich seconded the motion, with abstention from Frank Rogers and Tom Lawton.**

c. SMP Redline Review

Ms. Smith advised the Board that the SMP Redline Review had been sent out to all Board members a few weeks ago for review. June 10, 2024, was the deadline for TLAC's response and comments on the redline version of the SMP. After AEP receives responses from all stakeholders, they will perform further review and analysis of the SMP for changes and updates prior to the final version.

d. Sedimentation Task Force Update

Ms. Smith updated the Board on confirmations of interest in this task force. We have sent out invitations and received acceptances from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA), APCo, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District, Ferrum College Farm Bureau, Lake Expert Dr. Berg, Private Citizens Mr. Roger Fritz, and Ms. Barb Ferrell. A meeting will be scheduled for July.

Ms. Smith asked Mr. Holthouser to help Ms. Sage identify who will be representing AEP on this task force. Chairman Smith also asked for two Board members to step forward as volunteers on the sedimentation task force. Please contact Ms. Smith if interested in volunteering, it is very important to have Board representation at these meetings.

e. TLAC Counsel Contract – RFP Discussion

Ms. Smith explained the need to issue an RFP in light of TLAC Counsel Mr. Carl Boggess' upcoming formal retirement on June 30, 2024. Ms. Smith requested Board authorization for the Executive Committee to expedite the RFP for legal services.

**Jeff Salmon made a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to develop and expedite the RFP for legal services on behalf of the Board. John Vidovich seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.**

### 13. Other Matters

Chairman Smith contemplated the possibility of extending an invitation to the Navigation Committee to convene a joint meeting in August. This meeting would focus on reviewing and updating the criteria for the regulatory marker application process. Mr. Hiss suggested that a list of hot topics for

discussion be provided to the Board. Ms. Smith and Ms. Sage will prepare a packet for the Board to review to include the full application.

#### **14. Executive Director Updates:**

- Smith Mountain Lake - Ms. Sage reported an update to the Board on the following:
- To date, this year staff has forwarded 31 debris reports and 6 navigation aid reports to AEP on behalf of residents.
- The Navigation Committee will be holding a public hearing on July 11, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. for Bedford Regional Water Authority's application to request removal of restricted area buoys at High Point Subdivision.
- Channel Marker R-14 was knocked down and replaced in no time at all. AEP responded quickly; we thank you.
- Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake on May 4th was a huge success this year, with the rainy weather not affecting the event very much.
- TLAC has received some phone calls regarding the new buoy placement at Merriman Run, 6 residents have questioned the placement and approval process, as well as request copies of the DWR approval letter.
- Leesville Lake - Ms. Sage reported to date, this year staff has forwarded 159 debris reports to AEP on behalf of residents.

#### **15. Reports from the Board and Committees:**

- Leesville Lake Association Report: Mr. Kelley was attending virtually today. There is no report at this time.
- Smith Mountain Lake Association Report: Mr. Vidovich reported the following:
  - The Virginia budget that was finalized last month includes \$150,000 for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, in collaboration with Virginia Tech and SMLA, to conduct a study of the harmful algal blooms (HABs) occurring at SML. The research will include an evaluation of conditions that led to the appearance of HABs and a recommendation for prevention of further occurrences. SMLA thanks the TLAC Board for its support of the Budget amendment.
  - SMLA's website was updated with *Be HAB Aware* content to help educate the lake community with information and resources about HABs and how they are affecting SML.
  - The SMLA Dock Watch Program is in its 7<sup>th</sup> week of water sampling and testing at 20 dock locations around SML. Over 40 volunteers are participating as citizen scientists in this program with NOAA's Phytoplankton Monitoring Network.
  - The annual water quality monitoring program with Ferrum College is in its 38<sup>th</sup> year of sampling and testing SML for water clarity, chlorophyll-A, and phosphorus.
  - **A Day at the Lake** was held on June 8<sup>th</sup> at Goodhue Boat Company, Blackwater. The event provided the community with an opportunity to learn how they can help keep SML clean and safe. Thank you to the TLAC staff and Wake Education Task Force who volunteered for the event.

- The *Make a SPLASH* fundraising campaign has raised over \$14,000 to help fund the programs that keep SML clean and safe.
- APCo Report: Neil Holthouser reported the following:
  - **Misc**
    - Staff participated in the SMLA's A Day at the Lake on 6/8/24.
  - **Aids to Navigation (ATN)**
    - Following 1/30/24 ATN meeting, Appalachian forwarded copies of its understanding of Technical Review Committee consensus and questions re VDWR recommendations. No responses received. Appalachian will proceed with official consultation.
  - **Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan**
    - The annual aquatic vegetation survey was conducted in 2023 and the results presented to the TRC on 11/8/2023. Draft 2023 SAV report to be distributed to TRC for review and comment.
  - **Debris Management Plan**
    - Participated in Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake – 5/4/24
    - Participated in Leesville Lake Beautification Day – 6/8/24
    - A copy of the May/June Debris Report is attached.
    - As of May 31, 2024, 1,905 tons have been removed from Leesville Lake, 780 tons have been removed from Smith Mountain Lake for a total of 2,685 tons removed from the Project.
    - 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."
      - Appalachian distributed copies of the proposed Pigg River Debris Diversion Device on 5/9/24.
      - Comments/letters of support due by 6/15/24.
  - **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.
    - On 4/26/24, Appalachian provided a red-lined document to stakeholders who had 45 days to review and comment on the proposed changes.
    - Comments due by 6/10/24
    - Dredging ban to be lifted 6/16/24

- **Water Management Plan**

- As of 0500 hours this morning Tuesday, June 11, 2024, inflow to the Smith Mountain Project was 589 cfs and the discharge from Leesville 664 cfs. The adjusted reservoir elevation was 795.1.

- **Water Quality Monitoring Plan**

- The annual Water Quality Technical Review Committee meeting was held on 5/13/24.

- The 2023 Annual Report was filed on 5/14/24.

**16. Calendar and Reminders for the Board:**

Chairman Smith reminded the Board that the next Board Meeting is August 13, 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:**

**Chris Whitlow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Matrangola