



**SML Sedimentation Task Force
Wednesday, July 24, 2024, 10:30 a.m.**

Minutes

Members Present:

Barb Ferrell	Neil Holthouser
Roger Fritz	Daphne Jamison
Keri Green	Chekka Lash
Randy Hodges	Rob Sanders

Members Absent:

David Byrd	Dave Johnson
Tom Hardy	Liz McKercher
Dana Heston	Bob Pohlada

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage	Lorie Smith
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Guests Present:

Joel Reger

The inaugural Sedimentation Task Force meeting was called to order by Lorie Smith, Chair, TLAC at 10:30AM.

The meeting commenced with self-introductions by all who attended. Lorie Smith proceeded to set the stage to establish the Task Force by reviewing the charge set by the Tri-County Lakes Administrative Board of Directors as follows:

To research, study, and develop sedimentation mitigation and preventive strategies through a collaborative approach with stakeholders to promote access, safety and protection of Smith Mountain Lake waterways and shoreline. This initiative is required to promote the short and long-term viability and sustainability of SML for residents, businesses, and communities at-large.

Ms. Smith noted that as activity on the lake has grown exponentially since it was built in 1966, sedimentation issues have become severe at several lake-front properties impairing access.

The intent of the inaugural meeting was:

- to seat all members of the Task Force
- to appoint a chairperson

- to establish a meeting schedule

Lorie Smith emphasized the role of the Task Force to work autonomously with an appointed chair and the qualified members assembled by the TLAC Board. The Board seated the Task Force in April 2024 to be collaborative and to achieve goals in an integrated manner whether the goals be mitigating or problem solving. Other experts may be brought to the table as becomes necessary throughout assessment of the problem and potential measures for mitigation. Ms. Smith advised that at the next meeting the Task Force should begin to establish a work plan with benchmark strategies.

Lorie Smith suggested that components in the development of the work plan may include

- a. Defining Sedimentation & Mapping
- b. Strategies/Objectives
- c. Projected/Desired Outcomes
- d. Deliverables

The Task Force may consider developing mapping, identifying causations, developing recommendations and proposing mitigations to keep sedimentation managed. The issue should be examined thoroughly engaging the group in discussion, gaining buy-in, and determining needs.

The Task Force is empowered to perform data gathering, set the work plan, and conduct necessary research at any level. Throughout the process they shall recognize that the issue touches all who are on the lake and live in the county. It is critical to recognize economic aspects of the impacts.

Keri Green suggested the Planning District Commissions (PDCs) that include the watersheds be Task Force members. There are 2 PDCs in Franklin County. The Roanoke Alleghany regional commission includes Franklin County. Lorie Smith agreed the Task Force will invite the PDCs when appropriate.

Daphne Jamison advised the Task Force that the Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District (BRSWCD) gets approximately \$1M+ annual funding from the federal government, and that about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the funding serves Franklin County to protect the watersheds. This funding continues to increase over the years. The BRSWCD will be able to provide useful information.

Keri Green noted education is an important component for the Task Force and the community. The Task Force needs to understand all requirements that impact potential contributors to sedimentation, and it needs knowledge of existing bodies of work including DEQ sedimentation studies and TMDLs in the upper Roanoke.

Lorie Smith will pursue having the Franklin County GIS department develop a base mapping of contours which will enable an understanding of what is silted in already.

Daphne Jamison noted that the sedimentation project conducted about 25 years ago included mapping that may be beneficial as comparison for the Task Force. Kristina Sage will check for those maps.

If consultation with experts or other needs arise that require funding, Lorie Smith will take the needs to the TLAC BOD to identify the funds to accomplish goals. Lorie Smith, TLAC Chair, will serve as the advocate and interface between the Task Force and the TLAC BOD. Lorie Smith advised that if funding is needed for resources to accomplish goals, she will approach the four (4) county administrators.

Upon request of a volunteer to chair the committee, Barb Ferrell offered to co-chair. No other member offered to co-chair. LS and KS will work with Barb. Looking for a full complement with DEQ and ACOE at the next meeting. If someone has interest in co-chair, he or she should contact LS prior to the next meeting.

The Task Force agreed to conduct future meetings once a month on the Monday of the last full week of a month at 3PM. The next meeting will be Monday, August 26th, 3PM.

Kristina Sage and Lorie Smith will work with Barb Ferrell during the initial steps to launch the Task Force. Members are welcome to call Lorie Smith with any concerns prior to next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36AM.