



**SML Sedimentation Task Force  
Wednesday, September 23, 2024, 3:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Barb Ferrell	Bob Pohlad
Roger Fritz	Jennifer Serafin (remote)
Randy Hodges	Robert Weld (remote)
Daphne Jamison	

**Members Absent:**

David Byrd	Dave Johnson
Keri Green	Chekka Lash
Tom Hardy	Liz McKercher
Neil Holthouser	Rob Sanders

**Staff Present:**

Kristina Sage	Lorie Smith
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**Guests Present:**

Mark Reemts, Anchor QEA	Mindy Strevig, Anchor QEA
Kirk Chen	Joel Reeger
Rick Lester	Will Snipes (remote)
Gus Monroig	Ron Steinmitz
Laurie Monroig	

The meeting was called to order by Barb Ferrell, Co-Chair, at 3:01PM.

Barb Ferrell opened the meeting with self-introductions of all participants.

Bob Pohlad moved to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2024 meeting. Roger Fritz seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Barb Ferrell provided a brief overview of the history of the task force. Randy Hodges then mentioned the priority to have everyone educated and with the same foundation to move forward and to keep the momentum the group has achieved.

Barb Ferrell provided the analogy, after touring the Orville and Wilbur Wright museum during her recent vacation, that there were 3 primary components necessary for the Wright brothers to "invent" motorized flight in December 1903:

1. Thrust
2. Lift
3. Control

Ms. Ferrell continued explaining that, in contrast to the Wright Bros task, the Sedimentation Task Force does not need to invent solutions to the problems of sediment. The task is to explore the options available and apply them to SML sedimentation issue for potential solutions to preserve the legacy of SML for generations to come.

Barb then turned the meeting over to Anchor QEA, Mindy Strevig.

Ms. Strevig expressed Anchor QEA's intent to educate the task force regarding dredging options. She further noted that Walt Dinicola, with whom Barb Ferrell originally engaged at Anchor QEA, was not able to attend but has been very involved in the development of the materials for the meeting.

The presentation was delivered by both Mindy Strevig and Mark Reemts and is attached to these minutes.

Noted items to consider include:

- The power company (AEP) has adequate storage
- Sediment is coming from upstream
- Sediment management is a separate project from watershed management
- Watershed management is critical

A question arose whether it would be possible to have AEP lower the lake to facilitate dredging the shallower areas of the lake. This will be asked of Neil Holthouser at a future meeting.

There was discussion of testing sediment for contaminants, such as phosphates, prior to disturbance and removal. Anchor QEA, Mar Reemts, confirmed that this would be monitored throughout removal and post removal by testing the water. He added that controls are built into projects when conducted by Anchor QEA.

Daphne Jamison offered that some of the maps at the Agricultural Office in Rocky Mount may be useful to the Task Force in the future. Bob Pohlad mentioned that we should pursue acquiring maps of the original lakebed to understand the amount of sediment deposited over time. Randy Hodges added that such maps will enable projections of future concerns. Daphne noted that Robert Held, DEQ should also have many different maps because they were part of a process digitizing older maps and have conducted stream stabilization projects.

Mindy and Mark offered to send a "next steps" document to assist the Task Force with planning.

Discussion of potential stakeholders and funding potential included ideas such as the Water Quality Alliance, realtors and retail businesses in addition to property owners.

Mr. Kirk Chen advised that material from previous dredging of the Gills Creek inlet was utilized by Venning builders in the leveling of land for the development on Gills Creek.

Barb Ferrell noted that Gills Creek residents appear to have the most keen interest in sediment mitigation. Mindy noted that it is often best to interview or survey shoreline property owners to understand areas of greatest interest.

The challenge of impacts to neighborhood during a sediment removal project were discussed.

With the expression of great appreciation to Anchor QEA, Bar Ferrell adjourned the meeting at 5:00PM.