

**Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission
Board Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2024, 3:00 p.m.**

Members Present:

Lorie Smith, Chairman
Darrell Dalton
Dick Grabowski
Robert Hiss
Neil Holthouser
Roy Kelley

Tom Lawton (remote)
Jeff Salmon
Vincent Shorter
Edgar Tuck
John Vidovich
Chris Whitlow

Members Absent:

Emily Ragsdale
Frank Rogers
David Wells

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage

Christina Matrangola

Guests Present:

Troy Rech, Wake Education Task Force
Jason Dunovant, Reporter
John Broughton, Franklin County Building Inspector
Bill Raney, Short-Term Rental Inspector
Eric Schmidt, GIS Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Lorie Smith called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Invocation

Edgar Tuck delivered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Darrell Dalton led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

John Vidovich made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Darrell Dalton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Ms. Smith inquired if there were any questions on the Consent Agenda or if any items needed discussion. The Board had no objections.

Edgar Tuck made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Chris Whitlow seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The items approved are as follows:

- a. Approval of minutes: June 11, 2024
- b. Appropriation of SMLA check for the 1st installment of 2024 VPOP Program – Resolution 2024-004
- c. Approval of Smith Mountain Lake FY24-25 Work Plan
- d. Approval of Leesville Lake FY24-25 Work Plan

7. Project Update

- a. Wake Education Update: Troy Rech of the Wake Education Task Force provided an overview of the task force's recent activities. The update included information on materials distribution and future plans. Banners have been delivered to Portside Grille and Drifters. The task force contributed wake education coloring books, floaties, and whistles to the Pirates' breakfast goodie bags. Mr. Rech mentioned that the task force was pleased with the WDBJ news clip that aired before the July 4th holiday. Development of educational curriculum is progressing in consultation with the Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy. Dates to present education sessions next spring will be determined at a meeting in January 2025. Ms. Smith expressed interest in attending the next Wake Education Task Force meeting.

8. Public Safety

- a. Bedford County Building Inspections:

John Broughton, Franklin County Building Inspector, shared the following details during his presentation.

- National Electrical Code (NEC) Article 555 with focus on the residential dock and electric shock drowning – Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) is the result of the passage of a typically low-level AC current through the body with sufficient force to cause skeletal muscular paralysis, rendering the victim unable to help himself/herself, while immersed in fresh water eventually resulting in drowning of the victim.
- Stray Voltage typically originates from electric utility lines, is typically defined as under 10 volts, and can be the result of corroded conductors (i.e., weathering, soil PH), compromised or no insulation (i.e., rocks, roots, excavations, older cable), faulty equipment/surges, or lightning.
- Faulty on-premises wiring and incorrect grounding.

A diagram of an intact electrical system was provided. Mr. Broughton stated that “Warning-Potential Shock Hazard – Electrical Currents May Be Present in the Water” permanent safety sign shall comply with 110.21 (B)(1) and be of sufficient durability to withstand the environment. These signs *shall* be installed and clearly visible from all approaches to give notice of electrical shock hazard risks to persons using or swimming near a docking facility, boatyard, or marina. Signage is being designed and produced in the coming months. A one-page flyer will be available to the community with details of how to obtain the signage.

Eric Schmidt, GIS Coordinator, Franklin County, expressed the importance of obtaining dock signage which displays a street address so that First Responders can better find the location of an emergency that may happen on the water or near a dock.

9. Financial Report

- a. Financial Report through June 2024

Chris Whitlow made a motion to approve the Financial Report through June 2024 as presented, Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- b. Update/Amendment of Leesville Lake FY24-25 Budget – Resolution 2024-005

Roy Kelley made a motion to approve the amended Leesville Lake FY24-25 budget. Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Work Plans

There was nothing further to discuss. This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

11. Action Items

- a. Approval of By-laws

Jeff Salmon made a motion to approve the By-laws as presented, Roy Kelley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Consideration of Recommendation for Removal of Restricted Area Buoys, Bedford Regional Water Authority, 1723 Falling Creek Road, Bedford County – Smith Mountain Lake at High Point Subdivision:

Jeff Salmon made a motion to approve the removal of seven (7) Restricted Area buoys at the High Point Subdivision, Bedford Regional Water Authority, water intake. Robert Hiss seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

- c. SMP Update

Mr. Holthouser, AEP, informed the Board that the SMP is currently awaiting review and comment period by the FERC.

- d. Sedimentation Task Force Update

Ms. Smith announced that the first Sedimentation Task Force meeting will take place later this month. She will lead the Task Force, alongside co-chairs Barbara Ferrell and Randy Hodges. If there is a need for consulting experts or other requirements or resources that involve funding, Ms. Smith will present this information to the Board to allocate the necessary funds to achieve the goals. The upcoming meeting of the Sedimentation Task Force is scheduled for Monday, August 26th, at 3:00 p.m.

12. Executive Director Updates:

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

- To date, this year staff has forwarded 39 debris reports and 14 navigation aid reports to AEP on behalf of residents.
- TLAC investigated concerns on Facebook that the no wake buoys around Gills Creek Marina have been moved further away from the shoreline and into the channel. Ms. Sage confirmed with DWR that no changes to the buoy positions were approved and DWR will investigate.
- There have been a few channel marker lights needing repair, we have reported them to AEP.
- Abandoned and Derelict Vessels will be on the radar.

Leesville Lake - Ms. Sage reported that there have been very few reports from Leesville Lake recently.

- To date, this year staff has forwarded 193 debris reports with 20 reports total in July to AEP on behalf of residents.

13. Reports from the Board and Committees:

Leesville Lake Association Report: Mr. Kelley emphasized the Leesville Lake Association's (LLA) enthusiasm for the Pigg River debris diversion device and expects the project to move forward swiftly. He requested that Mr. Holthouser keep them promptly informed of any permit approvals. The Leesville Lake Beautification Day was highly successful. Mr. Kelley expressed gratitude to everyone for their unwavering support in this event. A substantial fifty-five (55) tons of debris has been successfully removed from Leesville Lake. The APCO skimmer has been delivered, and training is currently underway for APCO staff. LLA is eagerly anticipating the commencement of that system.

Smith Mountain Lake Association Report: Mr. Vidovich reported the following:

- In response to the \$150,000 budget amendment from the Virginia legislature, SMLA has collaborated with DEQ and Virginia Tech to develop a proposal to analyze the cause of HABs at Smith Mountain Lake. DEQ would like to be under contract by September 1st.
- The Smith Mountain Lake Water Quality Alliance is moving forward with a project intended to have the Ferrum College Water Quality Program approved and certified by the Virginia Department of Health to conduct annual cyanotoxin testing for Smith Mountain Lake. Funding to launch the project, including equipment, supplies, and Ferrum's work, is expected to be funded by all SML stakeholders.
- The Smith Mountain Lake water quality monitoring program has concluded for the 2024 season. A full report is expected in September/October. Due to the lack of rain this summer, test results the past several weeks have been favorable.
- The SMLA Annual Meeting is September 27th at Trinity Ecumenical Church. Princeton Hydro management is the guest speaker and will provide insight from its work at SML.
- The SMLA Volunteer Appreciation Event is October 18th at the SML Water Treatment Facility.

APCo Report: Neil Holthouser reported the following:

- Excited to announce the skimmer has been delivered to Leesville Lake.

- As of July 1, 2024, AEP has completed an early retirement incentive program whereby Elizabeth Parcell, who has been AEP's Licensing and Compliance Officer, has formally retired after a 20+ year career with the company.

14. Calendar and Reminders for the Board:

Chairman Smith reminded the Board that the next Board Meeting is October 8, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. 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.

15. Adjournment:

Chris Whitlow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Matrangola