



SML Sedimentation Task Force
Monday, November 25, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present:

Barb Ferrell	Daphne Jamison
Keri Green	Rick Lester
Randy Hodges	Rob Sanders
Neil Holthouser	

Members Absent:

David Byrd	Liz McKercher
Tom Hardy	Bob Pohlاد
Dave Johnson	Jennifer Serafin
Chekka Lash	Robert Weld

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage

Guests Present:

Rudy Milisits	Joel Reger
Sue Milisits	Don Shearer

The meeting was adjourned by Barb Ferrell at 3:00PM beginning with all members and guests introducing themselves.

October meeting minutes were discussed and approved without change.

Neil Holthouser and Rob Sanders updated the group on the future presentation and guidance intended to familiarize the group with the 5-year APCO Sediment Monitoring report so that the information can be utilized for the task force mission. Since the October meeting Rob Sanders spoke with Ed Brennan, APCO, who advised the data behind the graphs is not public information, as APCO uses a private firm to do the analysis and report. Neil and Rob agreed to meet prior to the January 27th meeting to review the sedimentation monitoring report and provide an overview at the meeting. They will assist the group to interpret the data from the monitoring report. Diagrams in the report depict the baseline from 2005, as well as changes at 5-year intervals through 2021. Rob Sanders noted the sites in the report do not

include all sites where sedimentation is an issue. One example was heavy sedimentation at Back Creek where it enters Roanoke River.

Barb Ferrell reminded the group that Anchor QEA included development of a data inventory in the “Key Next Steps” they provided, and the mapping accomplished by Franklin County is one key component. Next will be to identify parameters to consider for site prioritization and 3rd will be to identify stake holders.

Kristina Sage worked through the layers on the map that was developed by Franklin County GIS, (which was received the morning of the meeting) for the group’s consideration. Being the most familiar landscape to meeting attendees, Gills Creek was focused upon in the demonstration. Together the group explored the many layers of the map to determine how this new tool would be most helpful and how to improve its usefulness to the mission. Some of the layers available for viewing were:

- 795’ contour – full pond
- 800’ contour SMP jurisdiction
- Shoreline classification as of 2014
- 2023 aerial views
- County boundaries and parcels
- USGS mapping base (Keri Green noted we need to confirm with Franklin County GIS when last USGS mapping was completed to understand the year of the basis of APCo maps.)
- Infrared imagery of the landscape

Kristina Sage will work with Franklin County GIS to request modifications of the map draft to include:

- Overlaying the APCO monitoring report maps on the lake map (Neil was confident that Franklin County GIS can raster the survey and lay it on the map at those exact points to the exact scale.)
- Adding the shape files from the APCO surveys if available
- Adding the lateral marks

In response to Barb Ferrell’s request for any additional mapping information, Daphne Jamison noted that the Rocky Mount Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation (BRSWC) office has access to GIS to identify parcels of farmland. Currently, they are beginning work at SML for an urban program with the SMLA buffer landscaping committee. The most recent project is at Mariner’s Landing. The BRSWC educates farmers about sedimentation and water quality impacts of agriculture and works collaboratively to minimize those impacts. The group offers cost share money to build wells and fence pastures to assist in keeping livestock out of streams.

Rob Sanders suggested it will be helpful to see how APCO is determining the bathymetric data. Keri Green noted that an important first step will be to understand the natural rate of sedimentation and then compare the rates of sedimentation at SML sites. Keri has a 1975 study conducted by the State Water Control Board, DEQ, from SMLA archives in which the rate of sedimentation at the Halesford Bridge was just under 1" per month. Need to understand sedimentation rate in context of individual locations. Need to understand the rate prior to determining where to focus (Prioritization Next Step).

Daphne Jamison offered to ask her staff to provide any data regarding soil mapping in the watershed including the different compositions of soil and the sedimentation rates in different areas. She will also request her staff to use an example area to determine sedimentation rates. Daphne noted that it's been established that the upper reaches of Gills Creek have highly erodible soil, and the land is tilled close to the shoreline thus contributing to sedimentation. According to Keri Green, some work was completed by Princeton Hydro by sub-watershed in their recent watershed study. She will check if the Gills Creek area was included.

Discussion proceeded to how we will determine which areas of the lake should be reviewed for prioritization. Neil Holthouser confirmed there are 12K unique parcels of land on the shoreline of SML. Rob suggested in addition to those parcels, the group include parcels with community lake access. Neil mentioned that it'd be great to use GIS to put a point on a monitored area and specify the land upstream that points to the downstream point and the number of parcels within the "cone" of the sub-watershed.

Barb Ferrell stated that moving forward a key step will be to conduct a workshop for the prioritization of areas of concern. Included in our identified Criteria should be Indicators such as where sedimentation is critically affecting people's lives, recreation, property values decline, and county tax revenues. Where to place material once removed will be another next step. Though it is far in the future, it may determine the viability of selecting specific areas for sediment removal. Neil Holthouser suggested, Microsoft Lists may be a great tool to conduct data prioritization when evaluating potential sites to address.

Though boat launches may be excluded as they are the responsibility of APCO to keep public access to the lake, the APCO monitoring report will provide useful for comparative data from those sites.

The next meeting is January 27th, 2025, at 3PM.

Rick Lester made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rob Sanders seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40PM.