



SML Sedimentation Task Force
Monday, January 27, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

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

Staff Present:

Lorie Smith	Kristina Sage
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Guests Present:

Joel Reger	Chris Kebler
Don Shearer	

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

Barb Ferrell began by noting we have the SML Sedimentation Management report from Anchor QEA, September 2024 and per the recommendations the task force needs to determine next steps. The task force is currently addressing Step 1, mapping.

In the November task force meeting, Lorie Smith offered to request assistance from the Franklin County GIS department. Eric Schmidt, GIS Coordinator, worked with Neil Holthouser and Kristina Sage to add layers to existing lake maps to provide more detailed views that will assist in our assessment of the lake to determine areas most critically affected by sedimentation.

Kristina and Neil presented the newest additions to the earlier layers and explained Eric's ability to go further into each monitoring site contained in the AEP monitoring plan, and the methods we could use to better interpret all the data to help with prioritization (Step 2).

Neil Holthouser noted that by displaying the parcel layer it should be possible to count the parcels on the shoreline and outward of shoreline. The number of parcels adjoining areas of heavy sedimentation will likely be a key indicator in the prioritization process. Additionally, people/parcels downstream of increasing sedimentation should be taken into consideration.

The outlying parcels will be key to understanding contributors to sedimentation that are in the watershed but not adjoining the shoreline. Daphne Jamison noted that the Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District offers subsidies for mitigation and those subsidies are scaled to the size of the project. Randy Hodges noted that one of the mitigation techniques is the planting of cover crops.

The AEP Sediment Monitoring Report team, comprised of Rob Sanders and Neil Holthouser, presented a well-researched document explaining the content of the 5-year reports. Key information included:

- the addition of 3 sites in 2010 at the direction of FERC
- the method of obtaining measurements
- concerns about verbiage describing the results of measurements being qualitative rather than quantitative
- difficulty in seeing the comparisons and tables (unclear depiction)
- an issue with the Lynville Creek location reported at a water level several feet below the level measured for that day at the dam
- missing data without explanation
- delayed reporting from 2021 (published in late 2023)

The group decided upon several actions to further evaluate for locations currently monitored, and expressed concerns about the ability to obtain the raw data collected by AEP's contractor. This information is key to make informed decisions regarding the amount and rate of sedimentation in specific areas. These measurements may also factor into a composite score to determine prioritization of sites.

Neil and Kristina agreed that it will be beneficial for the GIS Mapping team to meet again to further enhance the map to evaluate the monitoring sites. One enhancement requested is to add an "impact zone" evaluation for upstream and downstream parcels (homeowner and lots) along with other layers that can be easily compared from site to site. There is concern that there may be additional locations, currently not monitored, that are experiencing sedimentation and should be evaluated by the task force. Additionally, some of the currently monitored sites may no longer be priority sites.

One tool discussed to enable prioritization of sites will be measurement quantification using a spreadsheet for each location. Using standard key indicators, the task force will prioritize sites based on parameters in Step 2. To better understand what data may already be available, Neil will invite Ed Brennan, APCO to attend a Task Force meeting. The intent is to discuss the

Sedimentation Monitoring report findings and/or allow the task force access to measurements used to develop the Sediment Monitoring report.

The meeting concluded with a consensus on the importance of collaborating and gathering into a template all meaningful data to effectively evaluate each of the monitored sites.

The November meeting minutes were discussed. Rob Sanders moved to accept the minutes as drafted. Lorie Smith seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:01PM.