



SML Sedimentation Task Force
Monday, February 24, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present:

Barb Ferrell	Chris Kebler
Randy Hodges	Chekka Lash
Neil Holthouser	Rick Lester
Dave Johnson	Rob Sanders

Members Absent:

David Byrd	Liz McKercher
Keri Green	Bob Pohlada
Tom Hardy	Jennifer Serafin
	Robert Weld

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage

Guests Present:

John Cooper
Gus Monroig
Joel Reger

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

Rick Lester made a motion to approve the minutes from January 27, 2025, Rob Sanders seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Key next steps are data & compilation, prioritization of areas, and identifying the funding (shareholders and stakeholders).

Refining the mapping layers was discussed. Neil Holthouser expressed interest in providing detail to points where data exists or areas of concern to identify the # of parcels affected as well as the number of property owners affected. Neil will work to identify APCO collected data to share with the task force, and he noted other areas of interest may arise as we evaluate available data. Neil also noted the need to graph the watershed flowing to locations of concern. By determining the number of parcels in a watershed we may be able to influence preventive measures taken by property owners in those watersheds. Moving forward we hope to have the capacity to export the data from the maps

into Excel spreadsheets. If possible, we will confer with Ed Brennan, APCO, to better understand the basis for sedimentation monitoring points, data collected, and modifications to the monitoring plan.

Dave Johnson provided some background regarding the sedimentation study in 1996 noting that no dredging was executed as a result of the study, however, watershed management was demonstrated and improved. Erosion and sediment control regulations were strengthened in Bedford and Franklin County. Also, a demonstration grant was secured and several farmers in critical areas joined the program to install fencing to keep cattle out of streams. Additionally, over a period of 2 years the program reduced phosphorus, nitrogen, and suspended solids by 50%. Dave stressed the importance of watershed management as a key component in sediment management.

Prioritization to be discussed as the next step. Neil noted that data should drive prioritization as well as subjective information. Subjective information can be gathered at any time. A subcommittee will pursue this information.

Reminder that we need to pursue funding sources such as the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation and the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. These potential sources were identified by the Virginia Tourism Corporation in response to Lorie Smith's request. A suggestion was made to find local matches from homeowners and HOA's.

Rick Lester discussed the importance of a grading scale of severity of impact, number of property owners within each of the severity categories, and fire boat access being limited by heavy sedimentation. This will be one of the criteria to utilize when prioritizing areas of the lake to review. (AEP managed boat ramps will not be included in review to prioritize.) Barb suggested access by water and by land is another facet of prioritization that should be included. Chris Kebler noted there must be discreet criteria in the prioritization process.

Discussion included determining the age of current bathymetry (2' contours) represented on the GIS maps. Kristina Sage will contact the Franklin County GIS department to clarify. Neil advised that "percent slope" values may be available and should be considered as criteria to prioritize areas most critically impacted by sedimentation. Kristina and Neil will also determine availability to incorporate sub-watershed layers. Dave Johnson advised that state GIS maps include this information.

To move forward in achieving the "key steps" which will determine where and how we address sedimentation issues at Smith Mountain Lake, a Prioritization subcommittee and a Watershed Management subcommittee were established. Rick Lester, Chris Kebler, Gus Monroig and Barb Ferrell volunteered to be members of the Prioritization subcommittee. Volunteers to serve on the Watershed Management subcommittee were Chekka Lash, Dave Johnson, and Randy Hodges.

Neil had suggested that 3 tributaries are the most significant contributors to sedimentation in SML: Lynville, Gills Creek and Blackwater. Per Dave Johnson as identified in past studies, headwaters of the Roanoke in Montgomery county is the largest contributor to sedimentation in SML. Watershed management is about prevention and sediment management is about the cure.

Dave Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Rick Lester. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35PM.