



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

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Barb Ferrell	Chris Kebler
Keri Green	Chekka Lash
Randy Hodges	Rick Lester
Daphne Jamison	Rob Sanders
	Keith Wrenn

**Members Absent:**

David Byrd	Liz McKercher
Tom Hardy	Bob Pohlada
Neil Holthouser	Jennifer Serafin
Dave Johnson	Robert Weld

**Staff Present:**

Kristina Sage	Lorie Smith
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**Guests Present:**

John Cooper	Don Rinehart
Gus Monroig	Rick Siebert
Joel Reger	

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

Daphne Jamison made a motion to approve the minutes from February 24, 2025, Rob Sanders seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The Watershed and Priority Subcommittees reported their findings:

Daphne led off with the watershed discussion and advised of Virginia soils maps received from the Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District (SWDC) office. Though the maps are approximately 20 years old, the types of soils are unchanging, e.g. mountain versus river bottom soils. Chekka Lash noted that the types of soils are helpful to understand for future prevention of erosion. Randy Hodges noted that in the next meeting we should review and consider which areas are most prone to sedimentation in the prioritized areas of the Blackwater channel, Gills Creek and the upper Roanoke. He also noted that farmers tend to be appreciative

of “good” soils and maintaining the beneficial soils on a farmer’s property is a high priority. Daphne suggested we consider adding a criteria for soil type to the prioritization matrix.

Keri Green noted that the Princeton Hydro study of the Blackwater channel includes maps of sub-watersheds, land use and nutrient loads (sedimentation, phosphorous, nitrogen and e. coli).

Rick Lester noted that we would benefit from LiDAR maps that show elevations, especially if we had some from different years and can depict the changes in the depths of the lake over time.

RH noted we need to determine how to find hotspots and from there model ways to prevent them.

Keith Wrenn discussed potential use of drones to provide more current images of the lake, specifically the headwaters where sediment originates.

Keri Green and Kristina Sage will review the Princeton Hydro maps to identify those most applicable to identifying and prioritizing areas of interest.

The Priority Subcommittee report followed. Barb Ferrell noted that the Request for Information (RFI) submitted to Anchor QEA had not received a response from them yet. Chris Kebler noted the need to compare all sites and assign values to prioritize. Discussion turned to consideration that 10’ depth at normal pond should be minimum acceptable depth and less than 10’ depth be considered a parcel negatively impacted by sedimentation. That downstream measurement location in the upper Blackwater and Gills Creek tributaries would define where the priority team would begin counting parcels affected by sediment to provide a key prioritization datapoint.

Lorie Smith suggested the task force should develop a phased in approach for budgeting purposes-keeping in mind that the county allocations are calculated in relation to their percentage of shoreline.

While a Stakeholder subcommittee has not yet been formed, the task force briefly discussed that stakeholder groups will be identified based upon those adversely affected and potential grant monies to be leveraged will be researched and identified. AEP will be included as a stakeholder and potential source of funding.

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

Action Items:

1. Keri to share Princeton Hydro maps and data with the watershed team.
2. Kristina to coordinate with Keri to set up a meeting to review the Princeton Hydro data.
3. Watershed team to analyze the Princeton Hydro data and GIS maps to identify potential sediment hotspots.
4. Chris to continue refining the prioritization criteria spreadsheet based on team feedback.
5. Prioritization team to await response from Anchor QEA regarding their request for information.
6. Barb to follow up with Anchor QEA on the status of their request for information.
7. Randy to investigate historical data around bridge construction sites for potential sedimentation information.
8. Keri to look into the possibility of conducting suspended sediment analysis during high flow events.
9. Wake Education Task Force to consider updating wake maps to reflect changing lake conditions, particularly in the Gills Creek area.
10. TLAC to explore options for additional navigational markers or warnings in shallow areas, particularly in Gills Creek.