

**Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission
Board Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**

Members Present:

Bill Butterfield
Darrell Dalton
Robert Hiss
Tom Lawton
Jeff Salmon

Vincent Shorter
Lorie Smith
Edgar Tuck
David Wells

Members Absent:

Dick Grabowski
Emily Ragsdale

Frank Rogers
Chris Whitlow

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage

Christina Matrangola

Guests Present:

Jason Dunovant, Reporter
Randy Hodges, Sedimentation Task Force
Charlie Hamilton, Leesville Lake Association
Brannon Littleton, AEP
Brian Ellinwood, AEP

1. Call to Order

Darrell Dalton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Invocation

Robert Hiss delivered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

David Wells led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Lorie Smith requested an amendment to the agenda to move 11A up, as she needed to leave early for a county meeting. Item 11A consists of Consideration of TLAC contribution to Smith Mountain Lake Association/Ferrum College Pilot Cyanobacteria Enumeration and Toxicity Analysis Program – Resolution 2025-003. **Jeff Salmon made a motion to approve the amended agenda, and Edgar Tuck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, approving the agenda, as amended.**

11. Action Item 11A:

- a. Consideration of TLAC contribution to Smith Mountain Lake Association/Ferrum College Pilot Cyanobacteria Enumeration and Toxicity Analysis Program – Resolution 2025-003 (A-10):**

Jeff Salmon made a motion to approve – Resolution 2025-003, Robert Hiss seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Election of Officers:

a. Election of 2025 Chair:

Lorie Smith made a motion to nominate Edgar Tuck as Chairman. David Wells seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed, and motion carried by acclamation to elect Edgar Tuck as Chairman.

b. Election of 2025 Vice-Chair:

Lorie Smith made a motion to nominate Darrell Dalton as Vice Chairman. Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed, and motion carried by acclamation to elect Darrell Dalton as Vice Chairman.

7. Chairman's Remarks/Other Business

Mr. Tuck stated that if there are items that you feel should be on the agenda, please contact him ahead of time to allow ample time to address the item and add them to the agenda, as necessary. He also announced that there is a Leesville Lake Association meeting this weekend at the Altavista Train Station.

8. Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Tuck inquired if there were any questions on the Consent Agenda or if any items needed discussion. The Board had no questions.

Jeff Salmon made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Darrell Dalton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The items approved are as follows:

- a. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2024 (A-1)
- b. Request for Appointment of Environmental Committee Members and Chairman-SML Members (A-2)
- c. Request for Appointment of Environmental Committee Members and Chairman-LVL Members (A-3)
- d. Request for Appointment of Navigation Committee Members and Chairman-SML Members (A-4)
- e. Request for Appointment of Navigation Committee Members and Chairman-LVL Members (A-5)
- f. Request for Appointment of Vessel Pump Out Committee Members and Chairman (A-6)
- g. Request for Appointment of Smith Mountain Lake Association Representative (A-7)
- h. Request for Appointment of Leesville Lake Association Representative (A-8)

9. Project Update

- a. Wake Education Update: Kristina Sage provided an update including information on material distribution and future plans. She introduced “Splash” the new Wake Education mascot. The task force plans to introduce SPLASH to the public during Boater Safety Week and post the 4 key points and other safe tips throughout the week.

- Leesville Lake Association members are working to finalize their Recommended Safe Watersports Area map.
- April 3rd - met with DWR Safety Officers, DWR Boating Division Assistant Director – Jim Patrillo & Regional Boating Coordinator – Manuel Overby
- March 29th - had a training event with Goodhue – Blackwater Summer staff members.
- Finalizing details and dates for SMLCA event – Possibly late April
- Scheduled to have publications in SML Visitors Guide & SML Map 2025
- SML Boating Safely song.... Music video coming soon.....
- Coloring Contest is looking for artwork – Entries are due May 15, 2025
- DWR – 2024 Recreational Boating Incident Report/Summary – Incidences at SML were down last year. The report has added a “Wake” category. We are working to define what is required to be classified a “Wake” event. There were 6 in the state last year requiring more than first-aid.

2025 Event Planning:

- Plans to meet with Goodhue Marina – (Former Crystal Shores)/staff & Rock Outdoors
 - Continued meetings with SML Christian Academy to plan for educational day/event in the Spring 2025
 - Additional signage/banner locations at high traffic areas
 - WET Force videos/short clips for water safety in the works
 - Social Media Day prior to Memorial Day, July 4th & Labor Day Weekends
 - Wake up and Float 2025 – TBD
 - Coloring Book Contest – Due May 15, 2025
 - Collaborate with Goodhue for several events to include – Vessel Safety Check – May 17th Women on the Water & multiple Surf Demo days.
 - Collaboration with Lake Gaston Association and reaching out to Lake Anna Association
- b. Sedimentation Task Force Update: Randy Hodges provided an update of the meetings held in the first quarter of 2025 for the Sedimentation Task Force. Randy noted that the SML Sediment Community Action Group on Facebook now has 351 members. The task force has held a total of 7 working meetings and are fully engaged in the Next Steps phase of the task force. There are now three subcommittees that meet outside of the regular monthly meetings and have gained 3 new members with unique skills and perspectives. The number of concerned citizens who attend the task force meetings continues to grow, sharing the task force mission with neighbors and friends. Mr. Hodges shared that the task force is moving closer to attaining the Task Force Charge, to research, study and develop sedimentation mitigation and preventive strategies through collaborative approach with stakeholders to promote access, safety, and protection of SML waterways and shoreline. This initiative is needed to promote the short and long-term viability and sustainability of SML for residents, businesses, and communities at large.

10. Financial Report

Ms. Sage indicated that the financial report will be reviewed at the June meeting for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. There are no updates as of this report other than the formatting. The report in the Board packet shows the year-to-date status through February 2025. There being no questions, the report was accepted and approved.

11. Continued...Action Item 11B:

- b. Approval of 2025 Vessel Pump Out Contract – Resolution 2025-002 (A-11):

Mr. Salmon raised a question about the status of federal funding to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) for the grant to cover the cost of the program. Ms. Sage stated she believed the funds were received for this season; she will confirm this with the VDH.

The amended resolution shall read: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors does hereby authorize the Executive Director to process all contributions, expenditures, and grant reimbursement requests necessary for the 2025 Vessel Pump Out Program upon confirmation from the Virginia Department of Health that Clean Vessel Act grant funding has been secured for the 2025 Vessel Pump Out Program.

Jeff Salmon made a motion to approve the 2025 Vessel Pump Out Contract – Resolution 2025-002 with amendment, Bill Butterfield seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

12. Executive Director Updates:

- a. **Smith Mountain Lake** - Ms. Sage reported an update to the Board on the following: To date, this year staff has forwarded 37 debris reports and 4 navigation aid reports to AEP on behalf of residents. The late winter ice storms resulted in a heavy debris load in the upper portion of SML (from the Halesford Bridge to R50). Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake Annual Cleanup Day is scheduled for May 3, 2025. There are over 300 registrations so far and 6 scheduled dumpster sites. TLAC is coordinating efforts to attempt to assist with the removal of debris in the upper reaches of SML.
- b. **Leesville Lake** - Ms. Sage reported that to date, this year staff has forwarded 14 debris reports with 13 reports total in March to AEP on behalf of residents. The Wake Education Task Force is developing a map of safe towed watersport areas on Leesville Lake.

13. Reports from the Board and Committees:

a. Leesville Lake Association (LLA) Report:

Mr. Charlie Hamilton on behalf of Roy Kelley, announced that the water quality at Leesville Lake is good. Water sampling began this month and carries through September. The LLA thanks TLAC for their continued support of the Pigg River Water Quality Monitoring program. LLA's Quarterly Annual Meeting will be held on April 12, 2025, at the Altavista Train Station. Debris levels have been relatively low this spring. The association is expecting an update regarding the Pigg River Debris Diversion Device from AEP soon. Leesville Lake Beautification Day will be held on June 14, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

b. Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) Report: Mr. Butterfield reported the following:

- At the SMLA BOD meeting on December 17, 2024, the BOD approved a new slate of Executive Officers: John Vidovich – President, Keri Green – Vice President, Nancy Davenport – Treasurer, and Rob Sanders – Secretary.
- The cooperative efforts between Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA), Lake Anna Civic Association (LACA), along with the paid for work of Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP; resulted in a \$250,000 budget amendment approved by Governor Youngkin who sent his budget to the VA General Assembly for final approval. This amount is expected to remain

within the final budget. These funds are for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) to be used for Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) sample collection and testing in Virginia Inland Waterways for 2025. Previously the VDEQ had zero funding for HAB testing in Virginia Inland Waterways. Senator Peake and Delegate Bulova sponsored this budget amendment.

- SMLA launched its new website on March 19th. Please have a look at the new website which includes newly revamped Water Quality Monitoring charts.
- SMLA along with Bedford County Public Schools, has organized a Lake Days Event April 9th-11th, and April 24th-25th, at the SML State Park from 9:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. each day. This will include approximately 230 9th grade environmental science students from Jefferson Forest High School, Liberty High School, and Staunton River High School. Students will rotate throughout the day between: Water Quality Monitoring, Wet Lab, Hydropower, and Save Our Streams.
- TLAC's Wake Education Task Force (WETF) was featured in the SML Eagle recently. On the third Tuesday of April, SMLA will feature the WETF in its "Lake Matters" publication on social media.
- Reminder that the SMLA office hours have changed from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. to give the office administrator, Cristina Anglin, uninterrupted time for handling SMLA business needs.

c. **APCo Report:** Brannon Littleton and Brian Ellinwood

Announced that there are 16 new navigation aids due to be installed on Smith Mountain Lake prior to Memorial Day which includes new Junction Markers at Louse Creek, Lynville Creek, and Gills Creek. Additionally, AEP announced that they received approval of the SMP on February 18, 2025.

Pigg River Debris Project:

1. On January 27, 2025, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) and the US Coast Guard (USCG) requested a navigation study from APCo and are currently determining the scope of this study to include identifying qualified consultants to carry it out.
2. Following the completion of the navigation study, APCo will need to submit a new joint permit application (JPA), which will include another 30-day public comment period, and this new permit application will once again be considered by the associated regulating entities.

Due to these developments, APCo cannot provide a specific timeline for permit approval or whether the project will receive final approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) after the study and resubmission.

14. Calendar and Reminders for the Board:

Mr. Tuck reminded the Board that the next meeting will be on June 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

15. Adjournment:

Jeff Salmon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Lawton seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Matrangola