



SML Sedimentation Task Force
Monday, May 19, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Minutes

Members Present:

Barb Ferrell	Chris Kebler
Randy Hodges	Rob Sanders
Dave Johnson	

Members Absent:

David Byrd	Liz McKercher
Keri Green	Bob Pohlad
Daphne Jamison	Jennifer Serafin
Chekka Lash	Robert Weld
Rick Lester	Keith Wrenn

Staff Present:

Lorie Smith	Kristina Sage
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Guests Present:

Joel Reger	Don Shearer
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Randy Hodges called the meeting to order at 3PM. All in attendance introduced themselves.

Members in attendance being less than a majority, approval of the April minutes was deferred until the June Meeting. Ms. Smith requested Kristina Sage consult with legal counsel to determine whether a seated task force under TLAC needs to follow Roberts Rule of Order.

Chris Kebler provided an overview of the teleconference meeting to discuss the Request for Information (RFI) that was issued to Anchor QEA in order to gain insights into sediment mitigation strategies, feasibility of dredging, sediment traps and watershed management measures. Specifically, the RFI is intended to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the scope of work and funding as well as cost estimate components of the Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFI will assist in the development of the RFP which will lead to an understanding of projected funding necessary for future actions. Chris further explained that the proposal will need to include scope, execution and action items. Anchor QEA noted the need to understand the scope of implementation for each tributary and its watershed. They also noted there are always property ownership considerations. It will be critical to specify the intent whether it be to begin with measures that minimize expense and determine future exploration or if it be identifying potential elements that may be effective for more lake-wide applicability to multiple sites. A tiered project approach was suggested for cost effectiveness.

Lorie Smith reminded the Task Force that an RFP will need to be issued by Bedford County, TLAC's fiscal agent. Lorie requested a "ball park" figure of the cost of an RFP. In addition to cost estimates, Lorie Smith requested a chronological plan with present status and updates. The RFP needs to be complete with details of a feasibility study in preparation to talk to the four (4) county administrators. At this time funding available in the TLAC sedimentation project fund is \$25K. Discussion confirmed that the two most critical sites identified are Gills Creek and the Blackwater channel. Chris will send the draft RFP to Lorie Smith prior to submission to the counties.

Dave Johnson reminded the group that Appalachian Power Company (APCO) will conduct another Sedimentation monitoring Study in 2026 which could provide additional data. Thus far TLAC has made two (2) requests to APCO for the data from which profile drawings in the reports have been developed. These requests have been denied, thus Lorie Smith directed Kristina Sage to consult with TLAC's attorney to have FOIA requests sent to FERC and APCO. Kristina will confirm if legal counsel will draft the request on our behalf. She will also confirm whether there are different FOIA regulations for Virginia state and federal government.

Discussion of the potential for funding from APCO, a stakeholder, ensued. Though the sedimentation issues do not currently impact power generation, the ultimate consequence will be the loss of the Smith Mountain Project as a source of power for APCO.

Kristina Sage reported the concern of sedimentation in the "bowl" of Gills Creek is being addressed by the TLAC Navigation Committee. They conducted a survey of the area and decided to signs will be placed at the entry to the bowl warning boaters of the shallow depth. Signs will be ordered and installed with verbiage matching that of the sign on the upper reaches of the Blackwater Channel once that is confirmed.

The task force was pleased with the organizational benefits Chris Kebler demonstrated through his explanation of a workplan developed on the Smart Sheet platform. Several platforms were discussed as options to improve collaboration and workflow through a shared location for resource materials. The sedimentation work plan, RFI & RFP development, as well as reports and documents will be housed on the shared environment. Platforms to consider include Google Docs, Smartsheet and Teams. Chris Kebler and Kristina Sage will discuss and select a platform.

Another goal discussed during the meeting is to identify stakeholders, their authority, their anticipated role, and potential points-of-contact in the overall effort for future reference. To date, the following are listed:

1. Private Homeowners
2. Homeowner Associations
3. Chambers of Commerce / Business Associations
4. Regulatory Agencies
5. County Governments
6. APCO

Lorie Smith advised that consideration of the charge needs to be top of mind when considering who the stakeholders are. Criteria should include what will be requested from potential stakeholders. Dave Johnson noted that stakeholders will be critical for lobbying as well as funding whether it be grant funds or matching funds. Ms. Smith agreed that businesses and private homeowners will be impacted by impaired waterways. It may be necessary to conduct a couple of community meetings to educate the community on the need for advocacy.

Ms. Smith reminded the task force that localities will need to understand “the ask” first, prior to bringing the project to business and residents. The Boards of Supervisors in all four (4) of the TLAC counties need to be informed by the task force of the intended RFP prior to any presentations or communications to the public. The RFP will be essential for specificity and precision in the goals. Communicating first with the counties will ensure the public does not misunderstand the charge of the task force. If an RFP is awarded, those with good scientific data to supplement the RFP organization and can offer to fold it into the RFP.

Randy Hodges made a motion to adjourn. Barb Ferrell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40PM.

The next meeting will be June 23rd, 3PM.