

**Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

David Arnold  
Bill Butterfield  
Darrell Dalton  
Dick Grabowski  
Eli Meador  
Roy Kelley

Tom Lawton  
Jeff Salmon  
Lorie Smith  
Edgar Tuck  
Chris Whitlow

**Members Absent:**

Robert Hiss  
Emily Ragsdale  
Frank Rogers

Vincent Shorter  
David Wells

**Staff Present:**

Kristina Sage

Christina Matrangola

**Guests Present:**

Barbara Ferrell, Sedimentation Task Force  
David Graham, Resident

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Tuck called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**2. Invocation**

Lorie Smith delivered the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Bill Butterfield led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

**Jeff Salmon made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, and Bill Butterfield seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Public Comment**

Mr. David Graham, Vice President, of the High Point Property Owner's Association announced that he would be available to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding the Application for Establishment of Regulatory Markers on Public Waters of Virginia/No Wake Buoy Application for High Point – Middle Cove, Moneta, VA.

**6. Chairman's Remarks/Other Business**

Mr. Tuck stated that he has no remarks at this time.

## 7. 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.

**Lorie Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Roy Kelley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The items approved are as follows:**

- a. Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2025 (A-1)
- b. Approval of Office Suite Lease Renewal (A-2)

## 8. Project Updates

- a. Wake Education Task (WET) Force Update: Kristina Sage provided an update including information on material distribution and future event plans.
  - Leesville Lake Association members are working to finalize their Recommended Safe Watersports Area map.
  - Publications in SML Insider's Guide, SML Visitors Guide & Laker Media SML Map 2025
  - SML Boating Safely song and video are being released to marina and retail outlets around the lake
  - Finalizing details and dates for SML Christian Academy event when classes resume.

2025 Event Planning:

- Collaborate with Goodhue for several events to include –
    - Vessel Safety Check – May 17<sup>th</sup>, multiple Surf Demo days.
    - Women on the Water – June 14<sup>th</sup> Goodhue Blackwater
  - Plans to meet with Goodhue Marina – (Former Crystal Shores) staff & Rock Outdoors
  - Additional signage/banner locations at high traffic areas.
  - Social Media Day prior to July 4<sup>th</sup> & Labor Day Weekends
  - WET Force videos/short clips for water safety in the works
  - Wake up and Float 2025 – August 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Collaboration with Lake Gaston Association and extended an invitation to collaborate with Lake Anna Association.
- b. Sedimentation Task Force Update: Kristina Sage and Barbara Ferrell provided an update. The Task Force Charge is 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.

Summary of Developments – Next Key Steps:

- Conduct and compile an inventory of information.
- Workshop prioritization of areas of concern/focus.
- Identify stakeholders (their authority, their anticipated roles, and potential points-of-contact) in the overall effort.

Project Plan (April/May 2025): SML Sedimentation Mgmt. Strategy & Implementation Plan is a 5-year plan. The drafted outline includes: Roles, Strategic Goals, Technical Data, Implementation Phases, Funding Strategy

- Software platform options for collaborative planning are being considered for simplified project management, updates and tracking and secure access control. The three (3) platforms under consideration are Google docs, Microsoft Teams, and Smart Sheet.
- Next Steps:
  - Obtain raw data from AEP from which the 5-Year Sedimentation Survey reports were developed
  - Develop RFP(s)

## 9. Financial Report: Financial Report through April

Chairman Tuck asked if there were questions regarding the Financial Report through April. There were no questions or remarks.

## 10. Action Items:

- a. Resolution 2025-004: Approval of FY2025-2026 Line Item Budget – Smith Mountain Lake (A-4)

**Lorie Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-004: Approval of FY2025-2026 Line Item Budget – Smith Mountain Lake as presented. Darrell Dalton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Resolution 2025-005: Approval of FY 2025-2026 Line-Item Budget – Leesville Lake (A-5)

**Tom Lawton made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-005: Approval of FY2025-2026 Line Item Budget – Leesville Lake, seconded by Jeff Salmon. The motion carried unanimously.**

- c. Approval of FY 2025-2026 Work Plan for Smith Mountain Lake (A-6)

**Jeff Salmon made a motion to approve the Smith Mountain Lake Department FY 25/26 Work Plan. Lorie Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- d. Approval of FY 2025-2026 Work Plan for Leesville Lake (A-7)

**Roy Kelley made a motion to approve the Leesville Lake Department FY 25/26 Work Plan. Darrell Dalton seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- e. Consideration and Approval of 2025 Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan for SML (A-8)

**Jeff Salmon made a motion to approve the 2025 Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan. Lorie Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- f. Consideration and Approval of 2025 Aquatic Vegetation Management Program for SML (A-9)

**Chris Whitlow made a motion to approve the 2025 Aquatic Vegetation Management Program. Darrell Dalton seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- g. Consideration of Recommendation for No Wake Buoy Application: High Point – Middle Cove, Moneta, VA (A-10)

Upon review of the No Wake Buoy application, Ms. Smith stated that other initiatives and precautions could be taken by working with DWR regarding alternative signage which may be used. The POA/HOA may post “No Wake Within 50 Feet of Docks & Swimmers It's The Law” signage that the Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) has for sale, they are \$20. Additionally, the

POA/HOA may provide an informational document for the real estate rental properties to include in their rental agreements that state No Wake until you have exited the cove.

Two points were made regarding the TLAC Navigation Committee's recommendation to not approve the application:

- Placement of no wake markers would not be protecting "the public in places where the general public launches or docks boats," nor would it protect a designated "public swim area." No Wake buoys are not to be viewed as a solution for traffic control, or protection to personal property.
- As cited in the application there are two rental properties within the cove, but it is not designated commercial.

**Mr. Salmon made a motion to deny the No Wake Buoy application from the High Point Property Owner's Association; Mr. Whitlow seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

h. Consideration of Recommendation for Danger Marker(s): Gills Creek Bowl (A-11)

Ms. Sage explained that the Navigation Committee gathered on April 10, 2025, to perform a site evaluation at the bowl on Gills Creek. It was determined to be very shallow in many areas of the bowl and warranted marking of the waterway with two (2) Danger Shallow Water Ahead signs to be placed at the opening of the Gills Creek Bowl in the form of non-lighted pilings around 10 feet from the shoreline. The Navigation Committee agreed on a sign size of 17 x 22 inches, featuring a reflective orange border and reflective orange bands.

**Mr. Salmon made a motion to approve the Gills Creek Bowl Danger Shallow Water Ahead signage, Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**11. Executive Director Updates:**

- Smith Mountain Lake** - Ms. Sage reported an update to the Board on the following: To date, this year staff has forwarded 55 debris reports and 1 navigation aid report to AEP on behalf of residents. During Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake Clean-up Days, 26 tons of debris was removed from the lake. TLAC is currently hiring individuals to work the Vessel Pump Out Program. Once there are 2 or more employees, the program can begin.
- Leesville Lake** - Ms. Sage reported that to date, this year staff has forwarded 31 debris reports with 4 reports total in May to AEP on behalf of residents. The Wake Education Task Force is developing a map of safe towed watersport areas on Leesville Lake.

**12. Reports from the Board and Committees:**

**a. Leesville Lake Association (LLA) Report:** Mr. Kelley reported the following:

The Leesville Lake debris survey was held last week and 2025 has been one of the lightest debris years, to date. Rainfall has been minimal therefore no significant debris is entering the lake. The association is expecting an update on the Pigg River Debris Diversion Device from AEP. Mr. Kelley asked if there are any methods to expedite this application process. Leesville Lake Beautification Day will be held on June 14, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The LLA Appreciation Day is July 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.

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

- The SMLA Board of Directors (BOD) reviewed the response that would be provided to the request for public comment on the decision from VDH to exclude cell count, for harmful algal blooms (HABs), as one of two criteria determining future VDH swim advisories for VA inland waterways. SMLA BOD members present voted unanimously to send to the VDH their opinion that cell counts should remain as one of the two criteria for determining whether a swim advisory should be issued. SMLA summarized their opinion in a public press release also.
- The education committee reported a remarkably successful Lake Days event at the SML state park. 40 volunteers (24% were first-time SMLA volunteers) over 4 days presented to Jefferson Forest HS and Liberty HS, Bedford County students. They participated in water quality testing, healthy streams, water/boater safety and other lake life matters.
- The buffer garden project at Mariners Landing golf club's 5th hole, has made great progress.
- Several lakefront owners have submitted flora from around docks and are awaiting the decisions of the Environmental Committee at TLAC for direction regarding remediation.
- 20 streams were tested by the SMLA Save Our Streams group and clean stream results were very encouraging.
- The VA Tech study report on HAB's at SML has been extended until August.
- The VA General Assembly approved \$250K of funding for the VDEQ to collect and analyze HAB samples from VA inland waterways.
- The work of the SML Water Quality Alliance to qualify Ferrum College as a DEQ/VDH approved collection and testing of HAB's at SML has been fully funded for 2025.

c. **APCo Report:** Eli Meador reported the following:

Mr. Meador reported that AEP staff members participated in the 2025 Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake Clean-up Day event. The debris removed in April/May from Smith Mountain Lake was 480 tons and 150 tons from Leesville Lake. Mr. Meador stated that he will check for any updates on the Debris Diversion Device, but to this point he has not been made aware of any updates since the last communication from Mr. Littleton and Mr. Ellinwood.

### **13. Calendar and Reminders for the Board:**

Ms. Sage reminded the Board that the next meeting will be on August 12, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

### **14. Adjournment:**

**Lorie Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Lawton seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Matrangola