



SML Sedimentation Task Force
Monday, June 23, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Minutes

Core Team Members Present:

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| Barb Ferrell | Chris Kebler |
| Keri Green | Rick Lester |
| Randy Hodges | Kristina Sage, Staff |
| Daphne Jamison | Rob Sanders |
| Dave Johnson | Lorie Smith |

Members Absent:

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| David Byrd, Consultative Team | Jennifer Serafin, Consultative Team |
| Chekka Lash, Core Team | Robert Weld, Consultative Team |
| Liz McKercher, Consultative Team | Keith Wrenn, Consultative Team |
| Bob Pohlada, Core Team | |

Guests Present:

John Vonpreysing

Barb Ferrell called the meeting to order at 3PM, and all in attendance introduced themselves.

April minutes were approved by a motion by Randy Hodges and seconded by Dave Johnson. Keri Green and Daphne Jamison were absent from the April meeting and abstained from voting. All other members voted to approve the April meeting minutes. Lorie Smith moved to approve the May meeting minutes and Randy Hodges seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Kristina Sage reviewed a proposed change to the membership structure for the Sedimentation Task Force as was presented to the Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission (TLAC) Board of Directors during the June 10, 2025, meeting. In recognition of those members who are in the community and most directly involved in the initiative, and to facilitate achieving a quorum, a core team of members will be designated as voting members. The Core Team will consist of twelve (12) members thus a quorum will require seven (7) of those members in attendance at regularly scheduled meetings:

- Lorie Smith Franklin County
- Barb Ferrell Co-chair & Resident
- Keri Green SMLA
- Randy Hodges Co-chair & Resident
- Daphne Jamison Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District
- Dave Johnson Ferrum College
- Chris Kebler Resident

- Chekka Lash Ferrum College
- Rick Lester Resident
- Bob Pohlad Ferrum College
- Joel Reger Resident
- Rob Sanders SMLA
- Kristina Sage TLAC (non-voting)

The following bullets are points of reference regarding a quorum and were confirmed after the meeting:

- According to Robert's Rules, the quorum definition is the minimum number of voting members who must be present at a properly called meeting to conduct business in the group's name.
- TLAC By-laws and Rules of Procedure, Section 6 Quorum: Quorum for the TLAC Board meetings shall be a majority of the voting members.

To ensure the Task Force has expertise as necessary during specific stages of the project, a second team, the Consultative Team, will be comprised of the following five (5) members:

- David Byrd Resident/Lake Contractor
- Liz McKercher Virginia DEQ
- Jennifer Serafin US Army Corps of Engineers
- Robert Weld Virginia DEQ, Blue Ridge District Office
- Keith Wrenn Resident/Mechanic

Keri Green made a motion to approve the proposed membership structure, Rob Sanders seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Chris Kebler provided an overview of the draft he wrote, *Request for Proposals for a Sedimentation Management Feasibility Study – Blackwater River & Gills Creek*. Discussion ensued that the intent to obtain actionable data from which to build a staged approach was critical and needed to be written with specificity. Questions were raised as to whether the depth of material to be removed should be identified as a deliverable and how much information the Task force needs to provide for the vendor regarding the original depths of the lake in the areas of concern. All agreed that a phased-in approach will be best to minimize expenses and to address milestones. This will also enable the Task Force to provide the TLAC board with incremental reporting as the Task Force works toward the end goal. The Task Force agreed to individually review the RFP and provide feedback by July 7th.

Lorie Smith provided guidance regarding the issuance of an RFP. She noted that Bedford County, as the fiscal agent for TLAC, will prevail over the issuing of the RFP and the awarding of a contract. Kristina Sage will provide a copy of the Bedford County Procurement Policy to the Task Force for their reference and understanding. She will also determine state guidelines as they may apply to the RFP. Lorie Smith noted that Chris Kebler should present the final RFP to the Task Force and then the Task Force will need to present it to the TLAC board. Lorie agreed with Keri Green that a presentation should be in-depth and it may be best to approach the presentation as a work session rather than as a board meeting agenda item.

Discussion of the June 10, 2025, BOD presentation included an overview of progress to date. Kristina confirmed submission of a Freedom of Information Act request to FERC to obtain the raw data from which the depictions of Five-Year Sedimentation Survey results were plotted. Kristina confirmed that she submitted the request electronically according to the FERC posted FOIA guidelines. Lorie Smith requested a follow-up certified, return receipt hard copy be mailed referencing the date that it was sent to FERC.

The final item on the agenda, Stakeholders, was initiated by Barb Ferrell who provided an overview of an A.I. search she conducted regarding potential sources of funding. Lorie Smith offered that Congressman Morgan Griffith strongly supports his constituents, and he will be very helpful in supporting our exploration of funding sources. Lorie also offered that the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) may be a helpful source to identify funding. These contacts will be made following the results of the feasibility study and a comprehensive documentation of project needs. One stakeholder not on the *Potential Funding Sources for STF* provided by Barb Ferrell is the Smith Mountain Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Rick Lester moved to adjourn, Lorie Smith seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 4:43PM.