



SML Sedimentation Task Force
Monday, August 25, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Minutes

Core Team Members Present:

Barb Ferrell, Core Team
Rick Lester
Daphne Jamison (remote)
Chris Kebler

Kristina Sage, Staff
Joel Reger
Rob Sanders
Lorie Smith

Members Absent:

David Byrd, Consultative Team
Keri Green, Core Team
Randy Hodges, Core Team
Dave Johnson, Core Team
Chekka Lash, Core Team

Liz McKercher, Consultative Team
Bob Pohlad, Core Team
Jennifer Serafin, Consultative Team
Robert Weld, Consultative Team
Keith Wrenn, Consultative Team

Guests Present:

Don Shearer

Barb Ferrell called the meeting to order at 3PM.

July 28, 2025 minutes were approved by a motion by Rick Lester and seconded by Joel Reger. The meeting minutes passed unanimously.

Lorie Smith made a motion to recognize Daphne Jamison attending virtually. Rick Lester seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Lacking a quorum at the opening of the meeting, review of the July 28 meeting minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

A discussion regarding the Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian) response to Kristina Sage's request, on behalf of the task force, for a member to replace Neil Holthouser on the Sedimentation Task Force was discussed. The Tri-County Lakes Administration (TLAC) has documentation of the original request to Appalachian as well as the TLAC meeting minutes when the task force was approved. The task force respectfully disagrees with Appalachian and recognized Neil Holthouser as a member of the Task Force.

The same email to Kristina Sage from Appalachian, received Friday, August 22, 2025, responded to the task force request for a meeting to review the draft RFP for a feasibility study. Appalachian changes were:

Appalachian's review comments on the RFP (limited to references to Appalachian therein) are provided below.

II. PROJECT BACKGROUND, first and third bullet items: reference to Appalachian's 2021 Five-Year Sedimentation Survey Report

Response

The subject survey report does not state or indicate that sediment accumulation is affecting navigation, etc. or that the sedimentation surveys have identified critical sedimentation zones. Please delete reference to Appalachian's 2021 Five-Year Sedimentation Survey Report from the end of each bullet item sentence.

II. PROJECT BACKGROUND, fourth bullet item: "Regulatory concerns involve permits from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Virginia DEQ, VA Division of Wildlife Resources, VA State Historic Preservation Office, Appalachian Power, and FERC."

Response

If "Appalachian Power" is deleted from the sentence, Appalachian has no comment. Otherwise, please clarify what permits from Appalachian are regulatory concerns and provide an explanation/description of the regulatory concerns.

III. SCOPE OF WORK, 6. Stakeholder Analysis & Funding Assessment: "A. Identify key stakeholders including HOAs, landowners, regulatory agencies, and Appalachian Power."

Response

Appalachian respectfully declines being identified as a key stakeholder in the RFP as it would not be involved in STF's proposed feasibility study. Please delete Appalachian as an identified key stakeholder.

The Task Force agreed to request legal review of the STF request and the APCO response within 1-2 weeks in order to have a report for the next sedimentation task force meeting. The primary legal consideration is to ensure the Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission (TLAC) will not be exposed to liabilities by proceeding with the feasibility study or by pursuing recommendations of the study. TLAC has been diligent in keeping APCO engaged in the STF since the work needed to accomplish the mission will be within the 800-foot contour of the lake, which is under APCO control. The other concern for which legal review is to be requested is whether the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should be copied on communications with Appalachian. Also to be answered is whether an MOU should be established between TLAC and Appalachian. In the request to counsel, background of the formation of the task force is to be included. The appointment will be scheduled either in person or remotely with all materials provided prior.

Discussion regarding funding included the need for members to determine potential grant opportunities. The group agreed that Keri Green's professional experience may include knowledge of potential grant sources. Kristina Sage recently received training in grant writing and agreed to write a first draft to be provided to someone with grant writing experience once identified. Barb Ferrell noted she will put a call out to her sedimentation Facebook group.

Barb Ferrell also introduced the group to a web-based company, Envirobidnet, where the RFP can be posted to find vendors in addition to those we have identified. She noted that we have a list of 7 vendors specifically identified, including recommended firms and also Kleinschmidt who has done monitoring studies for APCO on Smith Mountain Lake.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20PM.