

**Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission
Board Meeting Minutes - December 1, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
TLAC Conference Room**

Members Present:

Darrell Dalton	Jeff Salmon
Dick Grabowski	Vincent Shorter
Keri Green	Lorie Smith
Robert Hiss	Edgar Tuck
Roy Kelley	David Wells
Tom Lawton	Chris Whitlow
Eli Meador	

Members Absent:

David Arnold	Frank Rogers
Emily Ragsdale	

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage	Jeanne Harvey
Christina Matrangola	Madison Kuhn

Guest(s) Present:

Steven Sandy, Deputy County Administrator, Franklin County

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tuck called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Invocation

Chris Whitlow delivered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Keri Green recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Lorie Smith made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Chairman's Remarks/Other Business: 2026 Officer Discussion

Mr. Tuck reported that he has no remarks at this time. Mr. Whitlow announced his retirement as of February 1, 2026, and introduced Mr. Steven Sandy, Deputy County Administrator, Franklin County, as his successor. Kristina Sage announced Mrs. Jeanne Harvey's retirement from TLAC and welcomed Madison Kuhn, TLAC's new Administrative Associate. Mrs. Harvey expressed her great interest in the lake and has applied to serve on the Navigation Committee.

6. 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. Tom Lawton seconded the motion, abstaining to the meeting minutes of October 6, 2025, as he was not present. The motion carried unanimously. The items approved are as follows:

- a. Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2025 (A-1)
- b. Appointment of SML Navigation Committee Members (James Wright, Jeanne Harvey)

7. Project Update

- a. Sedimentation Task Force Update:

Kristina Sage stated that the Sedimentation Task Force has not met since the last Board meeting. Lorie Smith added that the Executive Committee is scheduled to have a virtual call tomorrow to discuss next steps and funding. Ms. Smith will keep the Board informed of any decisions made regarding this initiative and will be happy to answer any questions of the Board members.

- b. Wake Education Task Force:

Ms. Sage provided an update regarding the Wake Education Task Force, stating that the task force is drafting a letter to local businesses, inviting them to sponsor collateral materials and the educational program. These letters are anticipated to be distributed in early 2026, with a goal of securing support from ten (10) targeted organizations to help fund the budget for the Wake Education Task Force's financial management.

Furthermore, Ms. Sage noted that the executive committee of the Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) has decided that the Association will either continue managing the budget or contributing 50% toward it. Ms. Sage will reach out to Bedford County, to explore the possibility of assuming financial management responsibilities for the Wake Education Task Force.

Additionally, Ms. Sage inquired with Mr. Hiss about the feasibility of Bedford County providing TLAC with the means to accept credit card payments through Bedford County's payment portal. The Wake Education Task Force generally meets with the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) every April and will continue to promote the use of life vests as is emphasized by DWR staff. In response to the request to report on positive impacts that may be attributed to the work of the Wake Education Task Force at a recent Water Safety Council meeting, DWR indicated there are no wake-specific regulations. They focus on issues such as reckless operation, compliance with the 50-foot rule for vessels and PWCs, and adherence to navigation aids. As a result of increased patrols during the 2025 boating season, they have issued more tickets this year compared to previous years. Additional patrols will continue in future years, and 2025 season data will be viewed as a baseline.

8. Financial Report

- a. Financial Report through October 2025:

Kristina Sage reported that there are no exceptional expenditures since the last board meeting. A key point is that \$40,000 was transferred into the revenue stabilization reserve, increasing the account balance to \$89,000. Additionally, we currently have \$10,000 allocated in the aquatic vegetation project budget.

There were no questions or remarks.

9. Action Items:

- a. Consideration of recommendation to lift the period of suspension for No Wake Surfing Zone applications (A-4):

Lorie Smith made a motion to continue the suspension of No Wake Surfing Zone applications and to review the suspension annually at the TLAC organizational meeting, Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Consideration of Recommendation to Sell No Wake Dock Signs at the TLAC Office, located at 400 Scruggs Road, Ste. 200, Moneta, VA (A-5):

Ms. Smith suggested that this information be published on the TLAC website. Additionally, signage and related information could be made available at other locations, including the Visitor Center, Chamber of Commerce, and the Leesville Lake Association. Mr. Tuck suggested the Planning and Zoning office, and Mr. Shorter recommended creating flyers to promote signage availability.

Jeff Salmon made a motion to approve the sale of No Wake Dock Signs at the TLAC Office, located at 400 Scruggs Road, Ste. 200, Moneta, VA. Roy Kelley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- c. Consideration of Cooperative Vessel Sewage Pump Out Program for 2026 (A-6):

Ms. Sage stated that the Vessel Sewage Pump Out Program is anticipated to be in effect from May 22, 2026, (Memorial Day weekend) through September 12, 2026, (one weekend past Labor Day). The hours of operation will be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Total days of operation will be 34 days and performed on Fridays and Saturdays. Beginning the 2025 Vessel Pump Out season, the schedule was changed from Saturdays and Sundays, to Fridays and Saturdays to accommodate employees working the program for family time. Going forward TLAC plans to be flexible on the two (2) working days per week, according to the availability of the employees hired. Dockside pump outs will be managed by truck and will only take place at public marinas. This program includes the availability of two trucks from VDH for the pump outs. TLAC will continue its comprehensive record keeping for the program. The program will be staffed by up to four crew members, including one supervisor.

Darrell Dalton made a motion to approve the Cooperative Vessel Sewage Pump Out Program for 2026, Jeff Salmon seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

- d. Consideration of Recommendation for introduction of Sterile Grass Carp to Smith Mountain Lake – Resolution 2025-008 (A-7):

Ms. Sage stated that this is a background consideration until a request for proposal (RFP) is presented in the spring. The Environmental Committee is researching all options. A meeting was held with the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) on November 19, 2025, where TLAC received recommendations. DWR representatives suggested the ideal stocking size would be 12inch-14inch

carp. An approximate quantity was suggested to be around 1000 minimum – 2000 maximum. To date there have been 82 aquatic vegetation reports received by TLAC, some of which were residents who reported twice. These reports have been shared with AEP for the Kleinschmidt survey and SMLA’s dive team. SMLA identified 16 sites for testing based on historical information and current reports.

APCO Kleinschmidt weed survey results – Smith Mountain Lake:

- 338 points were investigated.
- 89 of the points had SAV.
- 55 of the points that had SAV, had invasive SAV.
- These locations had small SAV beds with low density, the exception being Little Bull Run and Bull Run, where the bed is very large and consists of Hydrilla that is starting to reach the surface.
- The points expand from their original locations.
- No SAV was observed in the Roanoke River arm of the lake.

APCO Kleinschmidt weed survey results – Leesville Lake:

- 1,152 points were investigated.
- 388 of the points had SAV.
- 175 of the points that had SAV, had invasive SAV.
- Curly-leaf pondweed was the only non-native SAV observed.
- SAV was documented at fewer points than in 2024, where it was observed at 199 points.
- A SAV bed was observed below Muddy Run in 2024 and 2025.

Ms. Sage stated that a full report from the Environmental Committee is provided in the agenda packet. The effectiveness of the sterile grass carp stocked in 2013 has diminished to the point where vegetation control is no longer occurring (consistent with the average lifespan of this species of carp, which is typically 10-15 years).

In a meeting of the Environmental Committee on November 25, 2025, it was noted that purchase of up to 1300 sterile grass carp would be ample. TLAC has contacted DWR approved vendors for sterile grass carp pricing. As a result, 1100 grass carp cost estimated is \$12,600 and 1500 grass carp cost estimated is \$16,800. Ms. Sage recommends moving \$10,000 from the reserve account into the Aquatic Vegetation account, bringing the account to \$20,000. It is possible that 500 additional grass carp will need to be introduced in 2027. Additionally, TLAC will plan, advertise, and conduct a public hearing regarding the remediation plan to provide the opportunity for public input from community stakeholders.

Robert Hiss made a motion to approve the introduction of Sterile Grass Carp to Smith Mountain Lake – Resolution 2025-008. Keri Green seconded the motion. Motion carried.

10. Executive Director Updates:

a. 2025 Vessel Pump Out Program Final Report (A-8) - Ms. Sage commented that the program ended on September 13, 2025, and briefly explained the 2025 program’s operation. Mrs. Harvey noted that the vessel pump out trucks received new equipment this season, i.e., holding tanks and accessories. Ms. Sage noted that details of the program were included in the final report provided in the agenda

packet and the report will also be provided to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) with the 2026 Vessel Pump Out Program grant request.

b. Smith Mountain Lake – Ms. Sage reported that there has not been very much rain, therefore the number of debris reports is at a minimum, and the season is heading into the winter months. To date, this year staff has forwarded 87 debris reports and 20 navigation aid reports total to AEP on behalf of residents. TLAC had 12 navigation aid reports total for the year. A few navigation work orders are still pending with Mr. Byrd.

c. Leesville Lake - Ms. Sage reported that to date, this year staff has filed 97 debris reports to AEP on behalf of residents. Five (5) reports were filed in October and there were no reports in November.

11. Reports from the Board and Committees:

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

Mr. Kelley shared that the lake level in November was well above average, which was maintained. In contrast, Smith Mountain Lake was about three (3) feet below average. Leesville Lake remains clear of debris, attributed to a lack of rainfall. To date there have been 2,115 tons of debris removed from Leesville Lake.

The Leesville Lake Navigation Committee has successfully completed the replacement of buoys that were in disrepair. Water quality in the lake has been very good. At the recent LLA Annual Meeting in October, the Chief of Hurt Fire and Rescue served as the guest speaker. Donations are currently being accepted by Hurt Fire and Rescue to help fund the purchase of a new sonar system for their boat. Additionally, Mr. Kelley inquired about the status of the Pigg River Debris Diversion Device.

b. Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) Report: Ms. Green reported the following:

- SMLA hosted its Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on October 16, 2025, at the 4H Center, where over 100 volunteers were honored for their contributions. Each received an SMLA baseball cap, and annual awards were presented to recognize outstanding service. The Melvin S. Johnston Award was awarded to Keri Green, the Spirit of the Lake was presented to Andie Gibson and Jennifer Church, the Water Safety Council Lifesaving Award was presented to Nick Belotte.
- The SMLA Board recently held its annual election and welcomed four new members effective January 2026. Currently, the SMLA board is planning for annual events such as Lake Days at SML State Park with Bedford County's 9th graders, Environmental Science classes, Creek Week with Franklin County's 6th graders, stream and water quality monitoring, and the Water Safety Roundup. They are also wrapping up the Dock Watch season, budgeting for the new year, and securing insurance coverage for volunteers and board members. Additionally, the SMLA board is considering participation in the Charity Home Tour and seeking a coordinator for the effort. For the first time, SMLA is also planning a large-scale fundraising event for the first quarter of 2026.
- Dock Watch continues monitoring five (5) docks throughout winter, with an annual report expected soon. Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) has completed extended temperature readings, and Ferrum College will provide a report by year-end. Save Our Streams (SOS)

concluded the fall monitoring season, but drought conditions have led to lower scores compared to spring. A rebound is expected in the spring. SMLA's Education Committee is in charge of planning another week of Lake Days at the State Park. Invasive Species prepared a report regarding the findings of the Scruggs Dive Team vegetation survey. Divers found hydrilla has increased in density and size significantly from last year at all sites visited. The report has been provided to TLAC.

- The Lake Quality Council recently held a training session with Fold Scope, a maker of paper microscopes, distributing over 500 units to SMLA and representatives from schools in Franklin, Bedford, and Campbell Counties, the Franklin County Homeschool Hub, Girl Scouts, Master Naturalists, and the State Park. SMLA has a few scopes still available, contact Keri Green if you are interested.

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

Mr. Meador mentioned that the AEP Smith Mountain Project still has vacant positions to fill. Recently, there has been an uptick in the number of applications received, and interviews will be conducted the week of December 15, 2025. Additionally, the Annual Shoreline Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee meeting is set to occur by the end of December.

In November, a total of five (5) tons of debris was removed from Smith Mountain Lake, bringing the year-to-date total to 2,285 tons. In the same month, Leesville Lake saw 60 tons of debris removed, resulting in a total of 2175 tons this year. cleared year to date. Mr. Meador provided a brief update on the Debris Diversion Device noting that APCo remains committed to the project; alternative options, including financial considerations and potentially new equipment, are being explored. Further discussion will take place in 2026.

Many of the proposed changes to the Aids to Navigation have been implemented. After speaking with Mark McGlothlin, he indicated that the crew is making the last few changes including updates in Craddock Creek, flash rates on certain lights, and resequencing on the Blackwater between B-22 and B-26. The Aquatic Vegetation Annual TRC meeting was conducted on November 13, 2025.

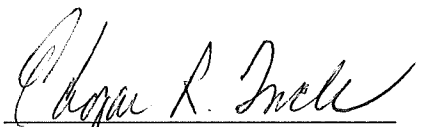
12. Calendar and Reminders for the Board:

- a. The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
- b. Reminder: Please contact your respective Board of Supervisors or Board of Directors regarding your appointment to serve on the TLAC Board. We should receive appointment letters no later than January 12, 2026.

13. Adjournment:

David Wells made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Matrangola


Chairman