



SML Sedimentation Task Force
Monday, December 15, 2025, 4:00 p.m. – Minutes
TLAC Conference Room

Members Present:

Barb Ferrell, Co-Chair	Rob Mann
Randy Hodges, Co-Chair	Joel Reger
Daphne Jamison	
Chris Kebler	Kristina Sage, Staff
Rick Lester	Lorie Smith

Members Absent:

Keri Green	Bob Pohlad
Dave Johnson	Rob Sanders
Chekka Lash	

Guests Present:

Don Shearer
Andrew Rountree

Barb Ferrell called the meeting to order at 4PM.

August 25, 2025 minutes were approved by a motion by Joel Reger and seconded by Rick Lester. The meeting minutes passed unanimously.

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

Barb Ferrell presented to the Task Force the change in leadership. Randy Hodges, co-chair, is stepping down from the Task Force. Randy has generously contributed his time and his expertise from his roles as Director, Franklin County Farm Bureau and Franklin County Agricultural Development Committee since the inception of the Task Force. Lorie Smith expressed the Task Force's appreciation citing Randy's excellent work as an advocate for the citizens of Franklin County. Barb and Randy both expressed gratitude to Chris Kebler who readily agreed to fill the co-chair position. Chris led the development of the RFP with a strong focus on organization and prioritization of issues relating to sedimentation in Smith Mountain Lake.

Lorie Smith noted the news of APCO's agreement to continue their role as a member of the Task Force and she announced the new APCO representative, Rob Mann, External Affairs Manager, Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian). Rob expressed his enthusiasm to assist

and support the Task Force. Lorie noted that APCO's participation is critical to the continuation of the Task Force in the eyes of the four (4) county administrators.

The TLAC Executive Committee held a recent virtual meeting in December to discuss the Sedimentation Feasibility Study RFP.

Lorie Smith explained that she noted the RFP will not require any expenditure, and it will provide reference information for future consideration to determine whether some phases of the RFP should be executed. This information will enable making informed decisions. The Executive Committee would like the responses to the RFP to initially be directed to the Task Force. The Task Force will be responsible to create recommendations outlining the "whys" and "why-nots" to the Board. Lorie Smith continued by explaining the counties are very involved and feel well informed by the Task Force. Barbara Ferrell expressed the Task Force's appreciation for Lorie Smith's perseverance and representation of the Task Force's RFP to the TLAC Board.

Randy Hodges discussed the exposure of sedimentation due to current drought conditions. He referred to the exposure of sedimentation as a visual gauge of the magnitude of the issue.

During introductions of all present, Lorie Smith noted that she has always been pleased with Franklin County's relationship with APCO, and that she views APCO's role on the Task Force as foundational to the mission. Rob Mann noted that this is also recognized by APCO leadership and they reciprocate the appreciation of the County's relationship with APCO. Rob also noted that he has a strong relationship with the Hydro Division and he will provide requested information as needed for the Task Force.

Detailed discussion of the RFP led by Chris Kebler. Chris noted that the RFP was written to receive proposals that will allow the Task Force to recommend a piecemeal approach to sediment remediation and/or prevention. He also explained that the specific aspects listed in the RFP were not intended to be addressed sequentially. Instead, they can each stand on their own. Responses will enable the Task Force to evaluate each item included in the RFP individually and will enable the Task Force to prioritize expenditures when developing recommendations for the Board. Chris advised that once the RFP is issued, most vendors will review it for 2 weeks and then perhaps request a bid review meeting. Responses should be expected 2 weeks after the bid review meeting.

Daphne Jamison raised the question about the proposed vendors being quite a distance from the lake and whether that would impact their ability to understand the sedimentation issues we are facing. The Task Force agreed that tools such as Google Earth will support investigations. The group also acknowledged that if a potential vendor were to request an extension to submit a proposal, we can grant that request. The group agreed to add the new firm which Mindy Strevig, formerly of Anchor QEA joined in the past year. Mindy and her Anchor QEA colleagues presented a Sediment Management overview to the Task Force on 9/23/24.

Joel Reger made a motion to approve the schedule for the Sedimentation Management Feasibility RFP as:

- RFP Release Date January 12, 2026
- Pre-Bid Meeting January 30, 2026
 - Chris Kebler
 - Barb Ferrell
 - Kristina Sage
- Submission Deadline February 13, 2026

Chris Kebler then presented an overview of the Task Force focus from a project management perspective (presentation attached). The primary goal to address in January and February will

be to determine project stakeholders and potential funding sources. Initial funding may come from the counties. Additional funding will need to be provided by outside sources. Barb noted that the Task Force should consider “outside-the-box” funding opportunities.

Rick Lester questioned the existence of sediment run-off prevention measures through agricultural programs to which Daphne Jamison responded. In her experience with the Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District, farmers have joined programs which provide monies toward cover crops to hold the soil. The program includes commitments that those crops will not be harvested, and surveys are conducted to confirm farmers in the program honor their commitments.

Joel Reger raised concerns that sediment removal depths should account for the draft on fire and rescue vessels. Their services are essential and the rescue groups need access to shoreline properties. Discussion ensued that permitting generally limits sediment removal to the depth of the original waterway when the lake reached full pond in 1966.

Barb Ferrell confirmed meetings are the 4th Monday of the month. The next meeting will be January 26, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01PM.

2026 Sedimentation Task Force Meetings: 4th Mon. of the month, 4PM, TLAC Conference Room (400 Scruggs Rd., Suite 200, Moneta, VA 24121)

- January 26
- February 23
- March 23
- April 27
- May 18 (3rd Tues. to accommodate the Memorial Day holiday)
- June 22
- July 27
- August 24
- September 28
- October 26
- November 23
- December 28