

**Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission
Board Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
TLAC Conference Room**

Members Present:

Edgar Tuck, Chairman	Jeff Salmon
Darrell Dalton, Vice Chairman	Steve Sandy
Roy Kelley	Vincent Shorter
Tom Lawton	David Wells
Eli Meador	

Members Absent:

David Arnold	Robert Hiss
Dick Grabowski	Frank Rogers
Keri Green	Lorie Smith

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage	Christina Matrangola
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Guest(s) Present:

Barbara Ferrell, Co-Chair, Sedimentation Task Force
Chris Kebler, Co-Chair, Sedimentation Task Force
Rob Mann, External Affairs Manager, American Electric Power
Sam Fertitta, American Electric Power

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tuck called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

2. Invocation

Chairman Tuck delivered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Tuck recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

Darrell Dalton made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Election of Officers

- a. Election of 2026 Chairperson

Mr. Tuck opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson.

Darrell Dalton made a motion to nominate Edgar Tuck as Chairman. David Wells seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed, and motion carried by acclamation to elect Edgar Tuck as Chairman.

- b. Election of 2026 Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Tuck opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

Mr. Tuck made a motion to nominate Darrell Dalton as Vice Chairman. Jeff Salmon seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed, and motion carried by acclamation to elect Darrell Dalton as Vice Chairman.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chairman Tuck asked Ms. Sage to review the items on the 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 as presented. Roy Kelley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously as follows:

- a. Approval of minutes: December 1, 2025 (A-1)
- b. Request for Appointment of Environmental Committee Members and Chairman-SML Members (A-2)
- c. Request for Appointment of Environmental Committee Members and Chairman-LVL Members (A-3)
- d. Request for Appointment of Navigation Committee Members and Chairman-SML Members (A-4)
- e. Request for Appointment of Navigation Committee Members and Chairman-LVL Members (A-5)
- f. Request for Appointment of Vessel Pump Out Committee Members and Chairman (A-6)
- g. Request for Appointment of Smith Mountain Lake Association Representative (A-7)
- h. Request for Appointment of Leesville Lake Association Representative (A-8)

7. Project Update

- a. Sedimentation Task Force Update:

Mr. Chris Kebler, Sedimentation Task Force Co-Chair, introduced himself and presented an update on the Sedimentation Task Force timeline, scope, and deliverables. Mr. Kebler stated there is currently no responsible party designated for maintaining navigable conditions at non-public shoreline areas, including high-priority tributary mouths. Sediment accumulation contributes to water quality and ecological degradation, increased maintenance costs, restricts boat access, and undermines property values. Without a formal management program, these problems will continue to worsen. The data that the task force has is very limited and not accurate as the information is compiled from the APCo five-year sedimentation study. Mrs. Ferrell noted that a pre-bid meeting was held last week and there was good attendance from several different companies.

RFP – Feasibility Study

- Targets Gills Creek & Blackwater River inlets (scope)
- Review sites and provide sediment accumulation (scope)
- Identify prevention strategies (scope & cost)
- Identify sediment removal methods (scope & cost)
- Regulatory & Environmental Compliance (scope & schedule)

- Stakeholder Analysis & Funding (scope & cost)

b. Wake Education Task Force:

Ms. Sage provided a brief update regarding the Wake Education Task Force, stating that the task force is on track with the educational program. Mr. Wells asked if any of the new no-wake dock signs have been sold. Ms. Sage stated that no signs have been sold to date.

c. Hydrilla Remediation RFP Draft for Preview (A-9):

Ms. Sage stated that a meeting was held with Mr. Dan Wilson and Scott Smith Fisheries Biologists, Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in December regarding the remediation of hydrilla. Mr. Wilson recommended that TLAC hold an angler meeting and a public hearing on the hydrilla remediation at Smith Mountain and Leesville Lake.

On January 28, 2026, the angler meeting was held, in attendance were eight (8) anglers, two (2) DWR representatives, four (4) TLAC SML Environmental Committee members, and one (1) member of the TLAC Board of Directors. Some of the noted concerns during the meeting were that Triploid (Sterile) Grass Carp will eliminate all “grass” to the detriment of fish nurseries and the fishery. Anglers asserted that the sport generates \$20M+ in revenue at Smith Mountain Lake – more than other revenue stream. Meeting attendees felt that chemical treatment would be more effective and less detrimental to the fish habitat.

The public hearing is scheduled for February 4, 2026, at 6:00pm at the TLAC office. Announcement was made via email to the Board, and all 82 residents who have submitted an aquatic vegetation report to TLAC, as well as two publications in the Smith Mountain Eagle, the TLAC website, the TLAC Facebook page, and the Smith Mountain Lake Association publication. The public hearing will be broadcast on YouTube Live for anyone who is interested and would like to listen to the meeting.

The Environmental Committee will reconvene to consider all data available including public input from the public hearing. In a conversation with Dan Wilson today he believes an integrated treatment plan approach to include herbicide and sterile grass carp would be most beneficial.

8. Financial Report

a. Financial Report through December 2025:

Kristina Sage reported that there are no exceptional expenditures since the last board meeting. A key point is that the custodial supplies budget is at 89% as the cost of paper products has increased. Additionally, with the anticipated retirement of Jeanne Harvey last year, her part time position was converted into a full-time position. Kristina announced that Madison Kuhn, who was hired in the full-time position decided to resign after six weeks to go back to her former career. A new employee has been hired and will start on April 1, 2026.

There were no questions or remarks.

9. Action Items:

a. Consideration and approval of the TLAC By-Laws and Rules of Procedure (A-11):

David Wells made a motion to approve the TLAC By-Laws and Rules of Procedure, Darrell Dalton seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The following amendments were made to the existing bylaws:

- Page 2, Article II Meetings, Section 1. Regular Meetings: b. – current bylaws indicate meetings occur on Tuesday. Bedford County bylaws only specify the time meetings are held and require they “...not be less frequent than once a month.” The proposed change is noted in this section.
- Page 3, Article II Meetings, Section 3. Emergency Meetings: – the word “lease” will be changed to “least”
- Page 5, Article II Meetings, Section 3 All Virtual Meetings: j.: limit all-virtual meetings to 2 per year or 25%, whichever is fewer (since we have 6 meetings and 25% = 1.5)
- Page 6, Article II Meetings, Section 4 Minutes, b: – last line indicates the Chair shall sign the adopted Minutes. There are no signed minutes in paper or electronic files back to 2007. We will begin electronically filing signed minutes with the approved Dec. 1, 2025, minutes.

b. Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Vessel Pumpout Trucks:

Ms. Sage announced that VDH will no longer support the use of their vehicles for pumpout programs beyond the current (2026) Vessel Pumpout program year, for several reasons, but namely the liability is a critical concern. The VDH asked for a Bedford County contact they may put in touch with the Office of General Services staff. By connecting the two representatives they hope to cover all relevant concerns to come to an understanding of whether the ownership transfer of the VDH pumpout trucks to Bedford County, TLAC’s fiscal agent, is feasible.

10. Executive Director Updates:

a. Smith Mountain Lake – Ms. Sage reported that there were six (6) reports for APCo maintained navigation aids and no reports of TLAC maintained navigation aids in December. TLAC received no debris reports in December. Staff has forwarded 87 debris reports and 20 navigation aid reports total to AEP on behalf of residents in 2025. TLAC had 12 navigation aid reports total for the year.

b. Leesville Lake – Ms. Sage reported that staff has filed 97 debris reports to AEP on behalf of residents in 2025.

Ms. Sage thanked Bedford County for printing an article regarding release of Grass Carp in the Bedford County Community Connection Winter 2026. TLAC is also planning for Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake which will be held on May 2, 2026. The Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake Planning Committee would like to thank APCo for their sponsorship of the 2026 event. There are several new members on the planning committee this year who are working on increasing participation of HOAs/POAs and Civic Organizations.

11. Reports from the Board and Committees:

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

Mr. Kelley shared that it has been rather quiet other than the couple of floating docks that have gone underwater due to the weight of the snow and ice that we recently had. The lake level at

Mr. Meador provided a brief update on the Pigg River Debris Diversion Device noting that will not be moving forward with the project. The scope of the project has changed due to financial liability and public safety liability. Alternative options include the potential for new equipment, and this is being explored. Further discussion is taking place on staff capacity, staging, and an additional property purchase in Pittsylvania County.

AEP is waiting for a break in the weather to complete the proposed changes to the Aids to Navigation updates.

12. Calendar and Reminders for the Board:

- a. The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment:

Jeff Salmon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Darrell Dalton seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Matrangola


Edgar Tuck, Chairman

Leesville Lake is slightly below average in contrast with Smith Mountain Lake which was about three (3) feet below average. Leesville Lake remains clear of debris, attributed to a lack of rainfall during the winter months. The Leesville Lake Association will be sending out the sponsorship request for Beautification Day in the next few days.

b. Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) Report: Ms. Sage reviewed Ms. Green's report on the following matters:

- The SMLA BOD elected officers. The slate from 2025 remains unchanged: John Vidovich, President, Keri Green, Vice President, Nancy Davenport, Treasurer, and Rob Sanders, Corporate Secretary. John Vidovich added members to the Executive Committee: Tye Campbell, Jeff Markiewicz, Jill Kurtz, bringing the Executive Committee to the full quota of - seven. A new volunteer indemnification will be distributed to all volunteers for the 2026 season. The board consolidated Grants and Education committees into one, given the chair for both is Tye Campbell, who will head the Lake Days effort this year. Fundraising planning is underway. Discussions about the 40th Anniversary of the Water Quality Monitoring program are being held with Ferrum College.
- Save our Streams recently released the results of the full 2025 season of sampling. The drought conditions significantly affected the fall event results, dropping overall scores from over 60% to around 50%. With rain returning in the spring, the scores should improve.
- The 2025 Water Quality Monitoring Report from Ferrum College was received for comments and finalized. Stay tuned for a press release and link to the full report soon. Dock Watch volunteers continue to monitor at 5 docks throughout the winter, although the low water conditions are affecting some of the Secchi readings. Even in the cold water, it is still possible to find cyanobacteria although they are not prevalent. The 2026 Internship Announcement is live, if you know any college students who need an internship, please have them connect with the SMLA.
- Grants/Education is in full planning mode for Lake Days at the SML State Park scheduled for the last week of March. Bedford County high school Environmental Science 9th graders will have an opportunity to spend a day at the lake learning from volunteers about water quality monitoring, hydropower generation, stream sampling, and other lake science topics. Volunteers are needed.
- The Water Safety Council is planning a Water Safety Roundup for May 16th, at Goodhue-Blackwater.
- The next SMLA Board Meeting is on February 17, 2026.

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

Mr. Meador mentioned that the AEP website was down over the weekend and had sent out error messages when trying to submit a debris report, but in fact they were able to receive those reports submitted. The issue should be resolved as of this morning. The AEP Smith Mountain Project is happy to announce that one vacant position has been filled, there is still one position available to be filled.