

**Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission
Board Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
TLAC Conference Room**

Members Present:

Edgar Tuck, Chairman	Steve Sandy
Darrell Dalton, Vice Chairman	Vincent Shorter
Robert Hiss	Lorie Smith
Tom Lawton	David Wells
Eli Meador	

Members Absent:

Dick Grabowski	Frank Rogers
Keri Green	Jeff Salmon
Roy Kelley	

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage	Christina Matrangola
Carly Mitchell	

Guest(s) Present:

Brannon Littleton, Hydro Manager; Appalachian Power
Rob Mann, External Affairs Manager; Appalachian Power
Joshua Blake, Maintenance Superintendent Sr.; Appalachian Power
Dwain Bever, Energy Production Superintendent, Appalachian Power

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Tuck called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Invocation:

Mr. Darrell Dalton delivered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Robert Hiss recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda:

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

5. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of minutes: June 1, 2026 (A-1)
- b. Request for Appointment of Smith Mountain Lake Navigation Committee Member (A-2)
- c. Request for Appointment of Smith Mountain Lake Environmental Committee Chairman (A-3)

David Wells made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Steve Sandy seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

7. APCo Water Management Presentation - Brannon Littleton, Hydro Manager; Rob Mann, External Affairs Manager; Joshua Blake, Maintenance Superintendent Sr.; Dwain Bever, Energy Production Superintendent:

Rob Mann, APCo External Affairs Manager, reported that APCo continues coordinating with Franklin and Bedford County communications teams to provide public updates on Smith Mountain Lake conditions. APCo responds daily to lake-level inquiries and is working to improve public understanding of the Smith Mountain Pumped Storage Project, FERC license requirements, and water-level management procedures. Brannon Littleton explained that PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM) required winter and summer capacity tests do not remove water from the Project. Trigger 3 was reached earlier than allowed, and APCo received Virginia DEQ approval for a variance effective July 22, 2026, allowing Trigger 3 implementation before the September 30 date in the Water Management Plan due to drought conditions, evaporation, minimal runoff, and groundwater absorption.

Mr. Littleton stated that APCo recognizes the impact of the drought on local communities and will continue working with regulators to balance recreation, customer needs, and downstream environmental considerations.

Under the variance, APCo may further reduce downstream flows from Leesville Dam while still supporting downstream ecology, though recreational use may be affected. The variance remains in effect until Smith Mountain Lake returns to full pond elevation of 795 feet.

APCo implemented Trigger 1 on April 27, 2026, and Trigger 2 on May 11, 2026, and will continue monitoring conditions and adjusting operations as required.

8. Project Update:

a. Sedimentation Task Force Update:

Ms. Sage provided an update on the Sedimentation Task Force. Chris Kebler resigned as Co-Chair in July due to a job promotion and relocation to South Carolina, though he remains in contact with Barb as the task force continues its work. Randy Hodges has also stepped down. To maintain quorum and ensure broad representation, the task force needs to recruit a new Co-Chair and one additional member from the Bedford County side of Smith Mountain Lake.

On June 22, 2026, EnviroScience, represented by Kevin Weinhold, presented to the Executive Committee on the Sedimentation Management Feasibility Study. At the Executive Committee's request, the next step is to meet with APCo before the proposal is brought to the full board for consideration. Additionally, Mr. Weinhold proposed using drone-based methodology to obtain sediment measurements in the two priority zones identified in the RFP, an approach made feasible by current low-water conditions. He will incorporate this methodology into Step 1 of the proposal.

Ms. Lorie Smith reported that APCo's new president, Brian Abraham, plans to convene a meeting with the Executive Committee on Monday to review the partnership. After that discussion, the Executive Committee will complete its deliberation and make a recommendation to the Board regarding how to proceed with the RFP. The Task Force will continue to brief the Board as the process moves forward.

b. Wake Education Task Force:

Ms. Sage provided an update on the Wake Education Task Force. The Wake Education Task Force Mascot, SPLASH the OTTER attended Pancakes with Pirates breakfast and Wake Education coloring placemats as well as crayons were provided for the children. A contact was made to Bedford County Public Schools, Shawn Trosper, Director of Curriculum, to deliver curriculum to Junior High and High Schools. The second Women on the Water event is scheduled for August 29, 2026, at Goodhue Blackwater and will include wake education, as well as instruction on driving, docking, parking, and trailering boats.

9. Financial Report:

a. Financial Report through June 2026:

Ms. Sage reported that there have been no significant changes since the June meeting. She noted that this financial report may appear different, since several county contribution entries have been reconciled, while some journal entries have not yet been entered. In the revenue section, Ms. Sage identified two adjustments. The miscellaneous revenue amount of \$1,112.12 represents remaining Wake Education Task Force funds that were transferred from SMLA. The \$4,448.50 adjustment reflects Campbell County funds that had not been recorded correctly due to an oversight. Ms. Sage also reported that expenses remained unchanged, with the exception of the new sign purchase.

Mr. Wells asked whether the VRS line applied to TLAC staff and Mr. Sandy questioned if TLAC's audit is performed during the Bedford County finance audit, Ms. Sage explained that VRS does apply to TLAC staff, as Bedford County is the fiscal agent and confirmed that TLAC's audit coincides with the Bedford County finance audit. Ms. Smith added that TLAC is a quasi-governmental entity. There were no further questions or comments.

10. Action Items:

a. Consideration and Approval of 2026 Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan for SML (A-5):

Ms. Sage explained that the highlighted information on page three (3) of the 2026 Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan for SML identifies the Department of Wildlife Resources list of herbicides approved for use at Smith Mountain Lake as was requested by the Board at the June meeting. She reviewed the herbicide treatment options available for hydrilla remediation. During a consultation with Harry Looney of the Lake Anna Civic Association, it was suggested that TLAC collaborate with Virginia Commonwealth University to seek state funding for hydrilla control for Lake Anna, Lake Gaston, and Smith Mountain Lake. Ms. Smith offered to speak with Delegate Bulova regarding state funding. Ms. Sage also noted that APCo has updated the Aquatic Vegetation Permit on its website and that she is aware of one property owner who has filed permit application for Aquatic Vegetation Treatment. A meeting will be scheduled for December with the Department of Wildlife Resources, TLAC, anglers, and residents to discuss a more integrated approach than we had this year.

Robert Hiss made a motion to approve the 2026 Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan for SML. David Wells seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Executive Director Updates:

- a. Smith Mountain Lake – Ms. Sage reported that there were two (2) reports for APCo maintained navigation aids and no reports of TLAC maintained navigation aids in July. TLAC received three (3) debris reports in July. Staff has forwarded twenty-nine (29) debris reports and eight (8) navigation aid reports total to AEP on behalf of residents in 2026.
- b. Leesville Lake – Ms. Sage reported that staff has filed two (2) debris reports to AEP on behalf of residents in July and ten (10) debris reports total in 2026.
- c. Vessel Pumpout – Ms. Sage provided an update on the Vessel Pumpout Program, reporting that the program began on June 26 and that season-to-date data is being tracked. She noted that low water levels are affecting the ramps leading to the docks; however, the crew has managed the issue by limiting the amount of effluent in the cart before returning to the truck. Lake Mart and Deli are again providing an open account for fuel purchases this season.
- d. Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake (A-6) – Ms. Sage announced that for the first time, Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake Annual Cleanup Days registered in the statewide initiative, The Greatest Virginia Greenup 2026, to celebrate the United States 250th anniversary as well as Smith Mountain Lakes 60th anniversary encouraging the community to beautify the Commonwealth. Keep Virginia Beautiful is the official state affiliate of the national non-profit organization Keep America Beautiful. They work together on nationwide and statewide environmental campaigns, such as litter prevention, recycling programs, and community cleanups. Take Pride in Smith Mountain Lake placed 3rd in the state for Most Volunteers as well as 3rd for Most Bags of Trash Collected.
- e. Annual Report (A-7) – The 2025-2026 TLAC Annual Report was included in the meeting packet. Ms. Sage summarized key areas, including debris, Take Pride in SML, navigation aids and signs, wake education, vessel pumpout, sedimentation, hydrilla concerns, and the new Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring Program.

Ms. Sage also provided a social media update, reporting that TLAC has supported DWR with multiple reminders for public comment regarding proposed changes including requirement for children 13 and under to wear life jackets (in line with USCG); expanded requirement for use of Engine Safety Cut-Off switches in boats, and fee increases to support DWR with necessary funding to accomplish the demands of recreation in VA.

12. Reports from the Board and Committees:

- a. Leesville Lake Association (LLA) Report: Mr. Kelley submitted a report on the following matters:

The Leesville Lake Association expressed appreciation for TLAC's donation and AEP's support of Beautification Day in June. Due to drought conditions and the absence of a high-flow event this year, debris levels on the lake were limited, and the Pigg River did not carry a significant volume of debris into the lake. Lower water levels also reduced the amount of debris collected from shoreline areas. In total, 40.54 tons of debris were collected during this year's effort.

- b. Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) Report: Ms. Green submitted a report on the following matters:
 - Board: SMLA welcomed Billy Howland to the board in July. A Union Hall resident and SMLA Business Partner through Billy's Slappin' Sauce, he has volunteered with DWR habitat installation and SMLA's Take Pride in SML efforts. SMLA looks forward to his business experience and energy.

- Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) reports in June and July: More than 20 cyanobacterial bloom reports were submitted by residents and SMLA through the online HAB portal. SMLA coordinated with DEQ and Ferrum to sample some reported sites for toxicity and cell concentration. Blooms were widespread in the Blackwater arm, with additional reports along the Roanoke arm in Franklin and Bedford counties. DEQ results are still pending; preliminary results show no toxins above state standards. Ferrum's tests showed higher toxicity levels, but still below state standards. Reports came in between June 17 and July 14, 2026. A VDH map with report locations and limited DEQ data is available on the SMLA website.
- Water Level White Paper: SMLA worked with Tim Barr, developer of the SML+ app, to share his white paper, "The 2026 Smith Mountain Lake Drawdown - An Evidence-Based Reconstruction of the 2026 Smith Mountain Lake Water Level Crisis," available on the SMLA website.

Mr. Barr, a senior data scientist with experience at General Dynamics, Cray Research, and Booz Allen Hamilton, independently prepared the document to help explain the situation and identify changes that could better mitigate future drought impacts.

SMLA is coordinating with APCo and regulators to monitor water level management. As Water Management Plan amendment discussions begin, SMLA will track progress and advocate for improved science and responses to climate-related inflow and outflow impacts.

- Join SMLA and SMAC for a 60's Sock Hop celebrating SML's 60th anniversary on September 5, 2026, from 5:30–7:30 p.m.
- Nominations are open for Annual Awards; the online form is available on the SMLA website.
- Water Quality Monitoring: The WQM team continues sampling despite low water levels, and latest tests show SML is safe for recreation.
- Save our Streams: Spring results are in. Although drought affected scores, SML streams still outperformed most Virginia streams. SOS volunteers will present at the Virginia Water Quality Monitoring Council's annual conference in September on land use changes and SOS water quality results. Spring 2026 results: volunteers tested 20 streams, with 14 of 21 ratings satisfactory.
- Invasive Species: A Dock Watch volunteer in Bull Run observed new grass carp near their dock. Dead hydrilla from last year remain visible, but no new sprouts have been seen; limited local observations suggest the carp may be helping.
- Dock Watch: The lab helped manage HAB reports in late June and early July. Trained volunteers quickly responded to calls and emails, identified cyanobacteria, and coordinated DEQ sampling. Dock Watch will provide a mid-season volunteer update this month and plans to improve monitoring next season with new equipment, including chlorophyll monitoring.

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

Mr. Meador reported that updates to the Smith Mountain Project website are now available to the public. There have been updates on lake level as well as an administrative update to the Occupancy and Use Permit process. Effective July 31, 2026, APCo implemented changes to the issuance and amendment of Occupancy and Use Permits for structures located within the Smith Mountain Pumped Storage Project boundary. Changes included, Occupancy and Use Permits will now expire two (2) years from the date of issuance, rather than one (1) year. Also, APCo will no longer process Occupancy and Use Permit amendments for the purpose of extending permit expiration dates.

Mr. Meador explained that he did not have July debris totals today, Mark McGlothlin and crew are currently performing a lake debris survey. As of June 30th, the lake crew removed 40 tons, the contractor removed 50 tons for a total of 90 tons removed from Smith Mountain Lake, and 290 tons removed by the lake crew and 30 tons of debris removed by the lake contractor for Leesville Lake. Year to date total of debris removed from both lakes is 410 tons.

Mr. Meador provided an update on APCo's recently acquired property in Pittsylvania County. Permits have been approved by Pittsylvania County for proposed property improvements. This was a huge step forward in the first phase of the project.

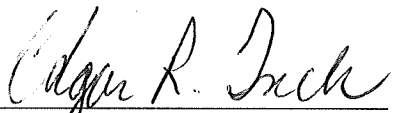
12. Calendar and Reminders for the Board:

- a. The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment:

Tom Lawton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Wells seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Matrangola


Edgar Tuck, Chairman