Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission
Board Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bill Butterfield	Vincent Shorter
Darrell Dalton	Lorie Smith
Roy Kelley	Edgar Tuck
Eli Meador	David Wells
Jeff Salmon	Chris Whitlow

Members Absent:

Dick Grabowski	Emily Ragsdale
Robert Hiss	Frank Rogers
Tom Lawton	

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage	Christina Matrangola

Guests Present:
Keri Green, Vice President, Smith Mountain Lake Association
Troy Rech, Resident/Wake Education Task Force member

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation

Darrell Dalton delivered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Jeff Salmon led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

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. David Wells seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The items approved are as follows:

a. Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2025 (A-1)
b. Resolution 2025-006: Appropriation of SMLA check for the 1st installment of 2025 VPOP Program (A-2)
c. Request for Appointment of Smith Mountain Lake Association Representative (A-3)

7. Project Update

a. Sedimentation Task Force Update:

Kristina Sage stated that the task force is finalizing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Sedimentation Management Feasibility Study of the Blackwater River and Gills Creek Channel of Smith Mountain Lake. TLAC will contact APCo to request a meeting to discuss the RFP prior to issuing for bids. Ms. Smith asked Chairman Tuck for a meeting of the Executive Committee regarding this matter.

8. Financial Report

a. Financial Report through June 2025:

Kristina Sage stated there is nothing exceptional to note in the report, and that she will be meeting with TLAC's fiscal agent next week to review the new budget and to separate the Vessel Pumpout Program Grant funds annually to clarify the project budget. There were no further questions or remarks.

9. Action Items:

a. Recommendation to Remove No Wake Buoys at the Penhook Boat Ramp (A-5):

Ms. Sage explained that TLAC received an email from Mr. Jim Patrillo, Waterways Program Manager, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR). The email indicated that DWR's Law Division and Facilities personnel had contacted Mr. Patrillo to discuss the necessity of the No Wake Zone at the Penhook Boat Ramp. The primary purpose of establishing the No Wake Zone at the time of its initial approval was to protect fuel docks, which have since been removed. The Law Division has now concluded that the No Wake Zone is no longer needed, and DWR's Facilities Division has expressed a desire to remove the buoys. DWR is currently the responsible party for the Penhook Boat Ramp No Wake Zone. There are currently three approved No Wake Buoys at this location. The TLAC Navigation Committee reviewed the proposal and supported the removal of the No Wake Zone. Mrs. Smith suggested posting an advertisement in the newspaper to notify the public of the intention to remove the No Wake Zone.

Jeff Salmon made a motion to provide the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources with a recommendation supporting the removal of three (3) No Wake Buoys at the Penhook Boat Ramp. Lorie Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Consideration and Approval of No Wake Dock Signage Program (A-6):

Ms. Sage reported that she has been in communication with the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) regarding a proposed dock sign designed by the Navigation Committee at the request of the Board. The DWR indicated that the original design, featuring a reflective orange border and a reflective orange band, would be considered regulatory and would require a lengthy review process. In response, Ms. Sage created a sample sign with different characteristics: a reflective yellow background and reflective black lettering, with standard dimensions of 18 x 24 inches. The DWR reviewed this version and confirmed that it is suitable for its intended purpose and would not interfere with existing regulatory signage. It was proposed that the Smith Mountain Lake Association, which currently sells other signage

and lake maps, could also offer this sign for sale. Ms. Sage mentioned that the quote for producing the sign is $52.14 each and asked whether the Counties had any recommendations for local vendors who may offer more competitive pricing. Additionally, Ms. Smith suggested TLAC inquire whether the DWR would allow the addition of the boating law/state code at the bottom of the sign, with the wording "It's The Law," to remind boaters of the importance of the message displayed. Ms. Sage will confirm the usage and wording with the DWR and discuss this information with the Navigation Committee.

Lorie Smith made a motion to table the matter until the next Board meeting, asking the Navigation Committee to review the Boards potential recommendations. Darrell Dalton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Executive Director Updates:

a. Smith Mountain Lake – Ms. Sage reported an update to the Board on the following: To date, this year staff has forwarded 76 debris reports and 10 navigation aid reports to AEP on behalf of residents. Channel marker B-49 was removed today and B-48 has been updated with signage that delineates caution, end of marked waterway. Additionally, TLAC has received several weed reports and is working with the Smith Mountain Lake Association to coordinate focused dive sites to investigate these reports. Ms. Sage also gave a brief update on the Vessel Pumpout Program activities this season.

b. Leesville Lake - Ms. Sage reported that to date, this year staff has forwarded 72 debris reports with 15 reports total in July to AEP on behalf of residents. The Wake Education Task Force completed development of a map reflecting the safe towed watersport areas on Leesville Lake marked in yellow, as well as included a statement regarding the frequent water fluctuation at Leesville Lake.

c. Legal Counsel - Ms. Sage announced that all members of the Executive Committee confirmed agreement to hire Mr. Mike Lockaby of Spillman, Thomas & Battle.

d. Wake Education Task Force:

- Meeting with the SMLCA Principal Lincoln Bryan on Thursday to schedule a presentation for student education during PE classes (ages K-12)
- Arranging for a wake education event for a homeschool group at the Moneta Public Library

11. Reports from the Board and Committees:

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

Mr. Kelley shared that the Leesville Lake Beautification Day on June 14, 2025, was successful, with 55.19 tons of debris removed—a slight increase from last year. The association appreciated the support from APCO and TLAC. However, a subsequent high flow event has led to ongoing heavy debris cleanup. APCO has added extra barge days for this work. The LLA is still waiting for contact information regarding the Pigg River Debris Diversion Device to expedite their application process.

b. Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) Report: Mr. Butterfield reported the following:

- Jill Kurtz has replaced Andie Gibson as marketing representative for "Take Pride in SML," cleared by the SMLA Board of Directors.
- Eli Meador is now overseeing the Shoreline Management Plan for AEP, with additional job openings posted.
- LQC - On June 30th, a resident in Poplar Camp Creek cove emailed pictures of the water at their dock and asked if the material was a HAB. A sample was collected on July 1st, and Ferrum collected a sample for taxonomic identification. Dock Watch also looked at the sample and

measured phycocyanin. The Dock Watch found significant cyanobacteria in the sample and measured a PC of 90. For reference, phycocyanin readings at docks generally range from 1 to 10 on average, and last year the highest measurement was 37. Ferrum confirmed the presence of significant cyanobacteria of the types that are considered to produce toxins, and they recommended the site be reported to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and that they commence their toxin analysis. Ferrum ran the sample for microcystin and detected 1 ppb. The state standard for microcystin is 8 ppb. Ferrum is still enumerating the sample for cell count.

- Upcoming Press releases:
  - WQM Latest Results
  - Awards Nominations
  - Annual Meeting
  - VT/DEQ report and public forum

- SMLA Annual Report will be publicized in September.
- There is public forum in the works for November which will discuss the VT/DEQ study at SML during 2024-2025.
- A call was issued to the public for the SMLA annual awards to be presented at the September SMLA annual meeting.
- Membership committee reported a decline in SML membership since December 2024.
- The SML Water Quality Alliance revenue received totals $12,500 and is restricted revenue. YTD reimbursement to Ferrum College was $6,897.
- Algal Reports - Residents were provided information about inherent risks of swimming in natural water bodies and encouraged to review the VDH Swim Healthy information on their website.
- VT State Study - The state study is still on track to be completed early August. It will be sent to the DEQ policy review office, and in November, likely host the VT and DEQ teams here at the lake for a public meeting to discuss the report.
- SMLA added 2 docks (Bull Run and Bridgewater Plaza) resulting in 22 docks in the program.
- SMLWQA – Mr. Butterfield is meeting this Thursday with Ferrum (Dr. Clay Britton) to receive an update on the program to qualify Ferrum as an approved algal bloom toxicity laboratory.

c. APCo Report: Eli Meador reported the following:

Mr. Meador indicated that the AEP Smith Mountain Project has hired one new employee and has two additional job openings to fill. In July, the debris removed from Smith Mountain Lake totaled 230 tons, while 740 tons were cleared from Leesville Lake. Mr. Meador also announced that channel marker B-49 has been removed, which means the end of the marked waterway is now at B-48. He provided a brief update on the Debris Diversion Device and stated that he would email the full report to the Board.

12. Calendar and Reminders for the Board:

Ms. Sage noted that due to changes in the Bedford County Board of Supervisors' monthly meeting schedule, the TLAC Board would likely need to adjust their meeting day. After discussion, the Board concluded that meeting on the first Monday of every other month at 4PM would work best for everyone.

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 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Matrangola