**Leesville Lake Association**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**December 13 2023, Altavista Library**

**Present:** Roy Kelley, Mary Loiselle, Debra Kiraly, Edwin Hanson, Charlie Hamilton, Cynthia Coleman, Pam McMillan, Dannie Smith, Teri Thomas.

**Absent:** Bill Beckett, Dave Rives, Jeff Markiewicz, Dave Waterman, Chip Zimmerman

**Quorum: Yes**

**I. Call to order:** President, Roy Kelley, called the Leesville Lake Association Meeting to order at 06:30 PM at the Altavista Library.

**II. Minutes:**

1. Roy asked for a motion to approve the October 14, 2023 Membership Meeting minutes.

***Motion:*** *Mary Loiselle made a motion to approve the* October *14, 2023 minutes, Pam McMillan seconded. All approved.*

1. Roy asked for a motion to approve the November 9, 2023 Board Meeting minutes.

***Motion:*** *Mary Loiselle made a motion to approve the* November 9*, 2023 minutes, Pam McMillan seconded. All approved.*

**III. Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer, Edwin Hanson. *Note*: Full treasurer’s reports provided to BOD prior to meeting.

* TLAC reimbursed LLA for last study.
* 177k total assets

**IV.** **Committee Reports**:

1. **Executive** (Standing Committee)**:** Roy Kelley.
	1. Organizational Succession Planning
		* + 1. Secretary Position – Filled by Debra Kiraly.
				2. Board Nominating Chairperson – filled by Teri Thomas.
2. **Finance** (Standing Committee)**:** Edwin Hanson / Mary Loiselle
	1. Tax return was completed using the EZ Form.

*Action Item* – Edwin to submit tax form electronically.

 PEX cards discussion:

* 1. PEX card to have the individual recipients name on it.
	2. No charge for first 5 cards.
	3. Rules to be established as far as card usage such as:
		1. Individual cardholders will need to have the PEX app on their phone or other medium.
		2. Picture of the receipt from a purchase to be uploaded to PEX app.
	4. PEX card load limit needs to be determined.

*Action Item* – Edwin to look into card load limits.

* 1. PEX card line item in accounting system for initial funding and future refills.

*Action Item* – Edwin to look at APLOS system to add a PEX card line item.

* 1. Motion to establish the use of PEX cards: Dannie Smith made a motion to use PEX cards, Cynthia Coleman seconded. All approved.
	2. Several motions made while discussing card recipients. The final motion for the complete list follows:
		1. Motion for Cynthia Coleman, Phyllis Garlick, Dave Waterman, and Pam McMillan to be PEX card recipients: Motion Charlie Hamilton, Debra Kiraly seconded.
	3. PEX card to be funded with $200 each with the exception of the Membership chair’s card to be funded with $500.
		1. Motion by Mary Loiselle to approve funding as above, Dannie Smith seconded. All approved.
1. **Nominating** (Standing Committee)**:** Teri Thomas
	1. Spoke with former committee chair about using the membership rolls to recruit. JW stated he is available to consult as needed.
	2. Planning to begin the recruiting process in the new year after holidays.

*Action Item*: Cynthia to provide access to membership roles for contact information.

*Action Item*: Teri to check with Dave Rives for any volunteer list he may have.

1. **Beautification Day –** Roy Kelley
	1. Summarize APCo Meeting December 7, 2024

a) Improve Debris Reporting Process. (for weekend reports APCo Website)

b) What should residents include in reports? (location and accurate description)

* Roy discussed that APCo monitors their website 7 days a week so best for membership to report debris on the APCo website.

c) Would APCo designate tie up locations? (considering for APCo owned property)

d) Beautification Day additional drop off locations? (APCo wants LLA to pay

 for the dumpsters)

* Discussed Myers Creek as possible off load site. APCo currently gives $2500 for dumpsters

e) Contract Barge for Beautification Day? (will consider)

* Roy shared that APCo is requesting that at least one LLA boat is assigned to support the barge.
* All participants will need Mark’s phone number for APCo support, etc.

f) Fall low pond period in November. (No to running barge for shoreline

 cleanup. Yes to advising of low pond period, but sensitive to competition)

g) Schedule barge to operate when dam is scheduled to run water.

 (Reluctant, but will consider)

1. **Communications:** Dave Waterman (Absent)
	1. *(Carried forward)* Non-member Aquatic TRC representative has an LLA email address. Lou Revelle is a non-member who has email from AEP relayed through an email account ending with the @[leesvillelake.org](http://leesvillelake.org/) domain name.

***Action Item:***Roy to contact Lou Revelle to discuss.

* 1. ***Social Media and Newsletter:****nothing reported.*
1. **Debris:** Pam McMillan
2. Monthly Surveys:

At the recent meeting with AEP, TLAC and LLADC on 12/7/23, project manager Liz Parcel indicated that regular monthly surveys will cease with the exception to high flow events.

1. Liz stated that debris removal activities will still continue as needed and as weather and availability permits.
2. There were no high flow events in the month of November.
3. TLAC submitted 5 debris reports for the month of November.
4. There are no updates on progress to the Myers Creek storage site.
5. There are no updates on the Pigg River diversion/collection device.
6. **Membership:** Cynthia Coleman
	1. Currently, we have 233 membership households. Cynthia will work on moving those who have not paid their dues this year to the Inactive Membership List.
	2. Starting with the January General Membership meeting, this committee will offer a Leesville Lake item up for a drawing of the day's participants. Check the website for more information after Christmas.
	3. Discussed ability to email lake area HOAs and asking them to email their members information about LLA.
	4. Discussed using flyers/maps to help recruit new members.
	5. Plain name tags will be used for the January general meeting.
7. **Navigation:** Glenn Coleman
	1. **Hazard Markers Update –**

The Navigation Committee was invited by Liz Parcell of AEP to a meeting of the AEP Navigation Technical Review Committee on January 3, 2024.  Attached to the invitation were various photographs depicting planned navigation markers on Smith Mountain Lake. The invitation promised pictures of proposed navigational aids for Leesville Lake to follow, but those have not been received. Over a year ago the LLA Navigation Committee reviewed AEP plans for around 40 navigational channel markers and recommended that the number could be diminished to 7 needed markers. Glenn and Joe will try to attend this meeting virtually.

1. **Property:** Glenn Coleman
2. Pontoon Boat status – No maintenance needed, will be checked again in the spring.
3. **Water Safety & Education –** Jeff Markiewicz (absent)
	1. 2023 Vessel Safety Inspections – Gerry Caprario
	2. 2024 Boater Safety Classes
4. **Water Quality:** Charlie Hamilton
	1. General discussion about the Smith Mountain Lake Association had requested and received state funds to help with the algae issues this past summer. Roy looking for opportunities to join with SMLA for seeking state funds for issues on Leesville Lake.
	2. No overall health concerns for recreational use.
	3. Two threats to the lake are evident and are being carefully monitored. These are:

a) Low dissolved oxygen in the tailwaters from Smith Mountain Lake Dam. Appalachian’s VDEQ Virginia Water Protection Individual Permit No 08-0572 (Permit) expires on March 31, 2025. LLA has communicated to APCo and FERC that APCo’s resolution of the DO challenge should be central to whether Permit 08-0572 is renewed, or not.

b) Poor water quality of the Pigg River (subject to 2023 studies)

* 1. A) SMITH MOUNTAIN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT Oct 2023 Monthly Water Quality Monitoring Report ES Project No.: 16402 Date: 12/05/2023, Results show data from:
		+ 1. Instantaneous DO values ranged from 0.5 mg/L to 7.4 mg/L, with an average of 4.7 mg/L.
			2. Daily average DO values ranged from 2.9 mg/L to 6.5 mg/L, with a median of 4.7 mg/L.
			3. AEPCO did not meet minimum standards 19 out of 31 days in October. DO concentrations showed an increasing trend at the end of the month, commencing 22 October 2023.
			4. B) 2023 Pigg River Studies first sampling conducted October 11, 2023. Analysis of the data on-going. Second sampling conducted November 17, 2023. Analysis of the data ongoing.
	2. 2023 Pigg River Study Objectives
		+ 1. In 2023, we propose a further investigation of bacterial content in the waters of the Pigg River and its sediment. We will employ the same sampling strategy as utilized in 2022, but analysis of the nature of bacteria present will be assessed by 16s next generation sequencing (16s NGS). This analysis will provide information about the classes of bacteria present, their metabolism and pathogenicity. Thus, we hope to determine if the presence of large quantities of E. coli presents a human health threat or reflects ongoing processes of vegetative decay in the sediment. We should also be able to assess the nature of bacteria in the Pigg River waters during low flow and increased runoff conditions.
			2. Key parameters to be tracked are turbidity, total phosphorus, nitrate-nitrogen, pH, dissolved oxygen, and two bacteriological tests - E. coli and Enterococci coliform bacteria. Additionally, 16s NGS will be utilized to further characterize the prevalence of different classes of bacteria in the Pigg River and its sediment. This information will allow us to identify appropriate potential risks to human health, courses of action and partners (government agencies and municipalities) with whom we can address the problem.

An article from the Virginia Mercury 12/04/2023 reports efforts to mitigate Pigg River sediment (see below):



Virginia Mercury

**Virginia water board approves new sediment limits in five counties over aquatic life impacts**

By Charlie Paullin,

15 days ago



(Bobby Whitescarver)

The State Water Control Board last week approved new limits on how much sediment, or loose dirt, can enter into waterways in the counties of Rockbridge, Augusta, Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania because of the impact such pollution has on aquatic life.

The new limits, called waste load allocations, are being imposed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, which found that aquatic or semi-aquatic insects like mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies are less prevalent on waterways in those counties than in waters elsewhere.

Scientists are concerned about the low number of insects because of the ripple effect that decreases in those species can have on other aquatic life, like fish, who feed on them. Mayflies, for example, “not only move nutrients within aquatic ecosystems, but they also move nutrients between them,” found [one 2019 study published in Insects journal](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6628430/).

“The degradation of insects has vast consequences for the water,” said Joe Wood, a scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The agency found that a roughly 20-mile total stretch of segments of Moores and Mill creeks in Rockbridge and Augusta counties, as well as segments of Beaverdam Creek, Fryingpan Creek, Pigg River and Poplar Branch in Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania counties, “do not support a healthy and diverse community of aquatic life.”

“Without this valuable habitat, the diversity of aquatic life in a stream may be severely limited,” DEQ [concluded](https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=meeting%5C103%5C39024%5CAgenda_DEQ_39024_v3.pdf).

The waterways were previously identified as impaired in [Virginia’s 2020 Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report](https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/water-quality/assessments/integrated-report), which found they weren’t meeting standards for healthy populations of benthic animals, or those that dwell at the bottom of waterways.

In 2021, a DEQ analysis found that the primary stressor to insects in the impaired waterways was sediment. While sediment can be washed into waterways from many sources, including construction sites, the agency’s research points to farming as a main culprit. Fields that don’t have a cover crop with deep roots to hold dirt in place are more susceptible to releasing sediment than acreage that is forested or blanketed with no-till plantings that minimize soil disturbance.

According to DEQ, the largest amounts of sediment flowing into the Moores and Mill creek watersheds — about 55% and 54%, respectively — come from hay and pastureland, with the rest coming from forested, urban/suburban and other sources. Beaverdam Creek, Fryingpan Creek, Pigg River and Poplar Branch also traced the majority of their sediment to hay and pastureland, with loads ranging between 36% and 61%.

If sediment loads flowing into these waterways can be reduced, “healthy aquatic life is expected to be restored in these streams,” DEQ found.

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DEQ will now craft a plan to meet the new limits, which will require approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. While the agency will be calling for reductions across multiple sectors, the agricultural decreases it’s seeking will be significant, ranging from 23% for some watersheds to 76% for others.

Some of the strategies DEQ will likely be including in its plan are planting riparian buffers — bands of trees along streams whose roots filter out sediment — fencing cattle out of streams, encouraging farmers to adopt conservation tillage practices and restoring eroded stream banks. Expanding street sweeping programs in urban areas can help too, DEQ states.

The department says it won’t require local pollution sources that already have a stormwater permit, such as Devils Backbone Brewing Company in the Mill Creek watershed, to change their operations to meet the new load reductions.

Virginia operates cost-share programs to help farmers adopt such practices, generally called best management practices, or BMPs. The General Assembly put [$116 million toward the programs last year](https://www.virginiamercury.com/2022/06/29/record-funding-to-reduce-agricultural-pollution-expected-to-aid-bay-cleanup/), and [$286 million was allocated this year](https://www.virginiamercury.com/2023/09/05/whats-in-virginias-long-delayed-2023-budget-deal/)as a result of a state revenue surplus.

Legislation this past session [extended the deadline for farmers to voluntarily install](https://www.virginiamercury.com/2023/02/16/deal-reached-over-extension-for-va-farmers-to-adopt-pollution-reduction-practices/)BMPs before state officials require them as part of broader goals to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. A workgroup is now gathering data to understand [the current rates of BMP](https://www.virginiamercury.com/2023/10/05/virginia-hunting-for-lost-practices-to-progress-toward-bay-cleanup-goals/)adoption in Virginia.

Only some of the waterways that will be subject to DEQ’s new sediment limits fall within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Others, such as the waterways in Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania counties, are part of the Roanoke River Basin that flows down into North Carolina. Officials’ efforts to clean up those bodies are aimed at addressing water quality issues more locally, explained Wood.

“It’s an early step,” Wood said. “We need to do something.”

**V. TLAC:** Dave Rives

 A. Roy to forward summary from December meeting.

**VI. AEP:**

A. Technical Review Committee Update(s)

**VII. Old Business:**

1. Chairperson task moves
	1. Calendar task moving from Communications to Nominating Committee.

**VIII. New Business:**

Volunteer Coordinator for 2024 General Membership Meetings:

i. January 13, 2024 – Pam *Board members Chili Cookoff!*

ii. April 13, 2024 - Mary

iii. July 13, 2024 - Cynthia

iv. October 12, 2024 - ?

Confirmation of next meeting –

i. General Membership Meeting, January 13, 2024, 10:30am, Altavista Train Station

ii. Need to reserve the Train Station

***Action Item:*** Roy to schedule January and April general meetings with Train Station.

iii. Need a guest speaker (Lou cancelled again) - Suggestion of a short presentation on Dark Skies was discussed. Mary to investigate Dark Skies and Cynthia volunteered to present.

**T-shirts** sales briefly discussed:

 2023 shirts for $5 or 3 shirts for $10 (all years) is under consideration.

**Scrub LLA website** – Roy asked that we do a scrub of our website and send him a list of things no longer working or no longer needed.

**Adjourn:**

Motion: Cynthia Coleman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30. Debra Kiraly seconded. All approved.