

SLA Water Quality Meeting Discussion Items

(for May 8, 2024 SLA Meeting)

Weeds. Several Silver Lake residents have written to Frank Bright complaining about lake weeds.

Dan Horgan has agreed to join the WQ team and lead a sub-group investigating possible weed harvesting at Silver Lake.

Weed harvesting is not uncommon in NYS and it is executed in many different ways.

This issue was discussed at length during the 06/07/24 SLAWQ meeting.

Michelle Hess, Kelly Jo McMurty, and Todd Shuskey are interested in working with Dan on this. Bill Soules and Todd provided significant input related to previous efforts and outcomes.

SLA should provide input to best guide this committee. Specifically, what does the association want from this sub-group? How should this sub-group be populated (e.g., representation from problematic tracts)?

Gray-Blue Water. In winter '23 Ron Norton reported that the water in the Walker Rd Bridge area was cloudy and grey-blue in color. Subsequently, a blue paint roller was discovered in the area along with a rock coated in blue. The blue coating on the rock was identified as latex paint.

Meetings.

It is important that SLA members follow the Perry Herald to identify municipal board activities that may potentially impact Silver Lake.

Please feel free to forward any information to Frank and Kelly Paganelli.

A. Town of Perry (ToP) Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

There has not been any follow up on the original 05/2/2024 ToP ZBA meeting and Site Plan Review Application for a Dairy Farm Expansion at the Emerling Farms Dairy on Rt-246.

B. Wyoming County Planning Board (WCPB)

There has not been any follow up on the original 05/06/2024 WCPB meeting where the Site Plan Review Application for a Dairy Farm Expansion at the Emerling Farms Dairy on Rt-246 (item A above) was discussed.

C. Silver Lake Watershed Commission (SLWC)

There has not been a new SLWC meeting.

D. Wyoming County Water Resource Coordinating Committee (WCWRCC)

There have not been any new developments since the 04/18/2024 WCWRCC meeting.

E. Wyoming County Water Resource Agency (WCWRA) Board of Directors

The April '24 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for 07/24/2024.

F. Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)

Ron and Frank have been participating in these meetings, representing the SLA. We are delighted that the project focus has become more expansive to include the entire Silver Lake watershed, all water users, and the project has been renamed the "Silver Lake Communities".

The next meeting is scheduled for 06/25/2024.

G. Canandaigua Watershed Forum.

Rob Ritz attended this forum along with 80 other persons. He noted quite a few algal blooms on Canandaigua.

H. Water Chestnut Meeting.

Rob attended a meeting Andrea Locke (Director, WNY PRISM). Rob reports most of water chestnut is at Ellicott Creek and down in Allegheny State Park. Muskrats have started eating water chestnuts.

Perry Herald (PH). Two items appeared in the 05/23/2024 Issue on p. 6 under the Town of Castile Board Meeting Report of 5/9/2024:

Item 1. The following text appeared: "New York Congresswoman Claudia Tenney announced that she is looking for big projects specific to Wyoming County that can be funded. County Planning jumped to put forward the lake dredging project and applied for a three-million-dollar grant. With any luck, the County will receive these funds and be able to commence the project by this fall."

Kelly Paganelli and Frank Bright wrote to Congresswoman Tenney thanking her for her interest in Silver Lake and for shepherding this proposal.

Others may write to Congresswomen Tenney at: <https://tenney.house.gov/contact>

Item 2. The following text appeared: “Supervisor Klein raised the matter of a pilot program, a gravity-fed biodigester being managed by the county’s Soil and Water Conservation District. Located on Fairview Road, the biodigester is expected to be installed in the summer. The hands-off machine is meant to manage the ditch run-off and naturally siphon nitrates in the water as it runs through. This should help prevent a dangerous build up of nitrogen in Silver Lake, at least from that source. The trial is being funded entirely by a state grant and will be monitored closely by the Soil and Water Conservation District. Anyone seeking further information on this project is encouraged to inquire at the County Ag department.”

Frank checked in with our Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District (WCSWCD) partners and discovered this discussion was about the bioreactor project discussed at the May ’24 SLAWQ and SLA meetings and there was no grant funding.

WCSWCD staff were reaching out to correct all misconceptions and errors.

Yard Waste. This item was discussed at the May ’24 SLA meeting and it appears the matter will be addressed.

Dredging. Please see the April ’24 SLAWQ Report and earlier sections.

Walker Rd Bridge Replacement. Ron reports the bridge replacement should begin in June or July. The project will see the new bridge raised two (2) feet in comparison to the current bridge.

SLAWQ team members note an absence of sediment fences in the work area.

Japanese Knotweed (JK) Spraying. SLAWQ team members have surveyed all previously sprayed sites and touch-up treatments have been performed.

Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). The NYS DEC has managed the CSLAP data for several years and they have been moving toward more detailed and interactive reporting.

DEC changed the Report format this year to “better contextualize individual lake data results and make it possible to generate lake reports for any lake in the state, regardless of CSLAP participation.”

Recent reports for nearly all NYS lakes are available through the “CSLAP Dashboard”:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c32878596a0a47deb5f97ea5e07ec9c5/page/Dashboard/>

When using this site click the left button labeled “Go to CSLAP Reports” and search for your lake name (e.g., Silver Lake Wyoming, Livingston*).

Data at Silver Lake have been consistent.

Water sampling and submissions for the '24 CSLAP campaign has begun.

Potential Planting Sites. The proposed Silver Lake Wood Chip Bioreactor Pilot Project was discussed at the May '24 SLA meeting. This will serve as the '24 SLA and CLEAN project.

Monarch Butterfly / Milkweed Program. KellyJo McMurtry reported that she's volunteering on a Butterfly Garden in the Institute. Kelly Jo and Lisa Schiske have self-funded the project along with donations through Institute residents.

Frank has put Kelly Jo in touch with Doug Kelly (Director, Letchworth State Park) to discuss ideas for native pollinator plant installations at the Silver Lake State Park.

SLA / CLEAN Water Quality Golf Tournament. The 2024 Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, July 20, 2024 at the Club at Silver Lake.

We sold out all the original team slots by mid-May, but we were able to create three (3) additional team slots.

As of this writing there are only two (2) unfilled team slots remaining.

Please urge your friends and neighbors to assemble their teams and register ASAP at:

<https://cleanatsilverlake.org/golf-tournament>

Reminder:

Please remember it is never too early to collect and assemble your baskets and gifts for the 2024 SLA/CLEAN Water Quality Golf Tournament's Gift Basket Raffle.

Please reach out to Bonnie Bright (bbright4046@gmail.com) or Karen Norton (karenmort@yahoo.com), if you have questions.

Items may be dropped off starting on July 1 to the Bright's cottage (4046 Lakeside Ave).

Perry High School. Todd Shuskey and his students have been working diligently on:
(1) Fyke net-based fish counts to support the DEC's Big Pan Fish Initiative (see below);
(2) macrophyte surveys; (3) zebra mussel size distribution at the lake's N- and S-ends;
(4) Secchi depth measurements; (5) zooplankton; and (6) depth-dependent O₂ and pH measurements.

His Report will be posted very soon.

DEC Big Panfish Initiative (BPI). SLAWQ briefed members last year on this project. Please stay informed by visiting the BPI web site:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/124966.html>

Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB). Please remember that all HAB sightings, reporting, and updates are found at NYHABS web site:

<https://nysdec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ae91142c812a4ab997ba739ed9723e6e>

Please stay up-to-date on HABs by checking this web site as often as you wish.

Silver Lake Water Level. Remember that the Village of Perry (VoP) maintains a camera at the Silver Lake Outlet damn site. The link to this camera is:

<https://villageofperry.com/departments/water-sewer/source-of-water/lake-water-level/>

Please stay up-to-date on the lake water level from anywhere by checking this site.

U.S. National Drought Monitor. The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is a map released every Thursday, showing where drought is and how bad it is across the U.S. and its territories. The map uses six classifications: normal conditions, abnormally dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought: moderate (D1), severe (D2), extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4).

The link to the interactive USDM map is:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Please stay up-to-date on drought levels by checking this web site as often as you wish.

Temperature Array. The Silver Lake temperature array has been working since it was rebuilt, repositioned, and reinstalled.

Data from the new array can be seen at the following web site:

<https://karl.hanafins.com/silver-lake-thermocline-data---station-1>

Water Steward. The Steward at the State Boat Launch has been in place for several weeks and reports are favorable.

Flares. Chemical flares remain available through Tract Directors. LED flares may be purchased using the QR Code posted on all our SLA websites and some money will come to SLA / CLEAN.

Next Meeting, Friday, July 12, 2024, 4 pm, Frank and Bonnie's, 4046 Lakeside Ave.