

Silver Lake Association Water Quality Committee Report (07/10/2021)

The SLAWQ team met face-to-face on 06/18/2021 for a cookout and meeting. This Report is based on this meeting. An oral update will be given during the July meeting on some of these items.

Golf Tournament. All tournament proceeds go toward native plant installations within the Silver Lake Watershed. Over that past three years nearly 2,000 native shrubs and trees have been planted, covering more than 15,000 ft along erosion prone tributaries leading into Silver Lake. This work is carried out to help mitigate soil erosion, decrease sediment/nutrient influx into Silver Lake, and improve overall lake health.

The tournament will be held on Saturday, July 31, 2021 at the Silver Lake Country Club. Registration begins at 8 AM. Shotgun start at 9 AM. Scramble format. A lunch, prize give away, and basket Raffle will follow the on-course tournament.

Full details and prize descriptions are available at: <https://cleanatsilverlake.org/golf-tournament>

The registration deadline is July 17, 2021.

As of 07/02/2021, only six (6) team slots remain. Please sign up quickly to reserve your spot.

The popular tournament basket Raffle provides a fun filled opportunity for golfers *and* non-golfers alike to participate.

We Need Help with the Following

- Hole sponsors (\$50/hole). Contact Joe Caputo (Jvcaputo54@gmail.com).
- Gift basket donations for the Raffle from each Tract or from individuals. Contact Karen Norton (karennort@yahoo.com).
- Volunteers to pick-up Raffle baskets, deliver baskets to The Club, and help to display baskets on the evening before the tournament (~9 PM). Contact Karen Norton (karennort@yahoo.com).
- Registration table volunteers on the day of the tournament. Contact Karen Norton (karennort@yahoo.com).
- On-course pizza cart drivers and deliverers on the day of the tournament. Two person teams, two teams. Contact Karen Norton (karennort@yahoo.com).

A sign-up sheet will be available at the 07/10/2021 SLA meeting. Individuals may also reach out to Joe Caputo (Jvcaputo54@gmail.com) or Karen Norton (karennort@yahoo.com).

Dredging Project. The Silver Lake Dredging project continues to slowly move forward. Steve Perkin from Wyoming County met with several Prentice Tract residents on 06/18/2021 to discuss their concerns about the proposed outlet channel width. Brian Kinsman coordinated the visit and reported that the meeting went well. A pair of accurately measured marker buoys have placed in the existing channel at 100' and 175' from the shoreline. Steve has proposed a drone fly over of the site to better maps distances. There was also a discussion of a "channel" currently located to the W of the proposed outlet channel.

Federal St. Dam. As reported at the June SLA meeting, the dam continues to leak. We have requested an update from the Village of Perry Administrator on 07/01/2021. As of this writing, we have not received a response.

Lake Water Level. There is a camera located at the Federal St. dam that is focused on the water-level gauge. A link to this camera is available on the SLA and CLEAN web sites. The URL for a direct link to the camera is:

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

Perry Public Beach Project. The SLA voted at its June meeting to provide \$200 toward a kayak launch system for installation at this site. No additional items were discussed. Please consult previous SLAWQ Reports.

Executive Excursion on Silver Lake. In support of N-end dredging, we hope to conduct a second excursion with a wider group of political leaders. TBD.

Perry High School. Todd Shuskey and his students plan to continue their comprehensive efforts determining the health of Silver Lake.

Todd's "Fish of Silver Lake" poster, available at Family Furniture, remains a popular seller. All poster proceeds go toward supply purchase for Silver Lake sediment and water testing. Please see our web and Facebook pages for more details.

Boat Steward. The boat steward has been at the Silver Lake State boat launch since May 28, 2021 (F-M, 8-6 pm). Unfortunately, the steward's last day was July 5, 2021. A replacement is being sought.

2021 Planting Effort. We will plant at a site located on the corner of East Lake Road and East Spring Brook. Approval from the home owner is in hand, our partners from the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District have toured the site and advised us on non-native species removal, and we have reached out to our native plant expert partners.

This year we propose a three (3) part effort:

- (1) Primary non-native plant removal and disposal (in August).
- (2) Secondary non-native plant removal & as needed soil amendment (in October).
- (3) Plant installation (in October).

Diver Day. The event did not go off as planned because key personnel retired.

Triathlon. The events, spearheaded by Bert Gellman, went off as planned on June 5 and 6, 2021 from the Camp Asbury Retreat Center.

Invasive Species. Kelly Paganelli has been working with Andrea Locke from the Western NY PRISM to develop an information session.

Tart Tins & Flares. Thanks to the hard work of Bob & Sally Capurso and Bob Martin flares and tart tins for the 2021 ring-of-fire were distributed. Our partners at Elitsac were also instrumental. A BIG Thank You to all!

Battery-powered LED flares were also secured by several SLAWQ team members to perform a head-to-head flare-type comparison. We hope to report these comparison results at the SLA Annual Meeting in August.

Temperature Arrays. The array has been down for about a week. The homeowner's WiFi is the culprit.

Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs). Please consult previous SLAWQ Reports.

2021 CSLAP Campaign. The campaign began in early June and three (3) of eight (8) sessions have been completed so far.

The 2020 annual report may be found on the CLEAN web site.

On June 15, 2021, NYSFOLA reached out to all lake Associations within NY State that currently participate in the CSLAP alerting them of *proposed* changes to the next five (5) year contract with DEC to manage the CSLAP. According to NYSFOLA, the *proposed* 2022-2026 CLSAP:

“The [CSLAP] budget has been drastically reduced, but DEC wants to cut the program in ways that we [NYSFOLA] feel are unacceptable when there are other ways to get to the proposed budget numbers. Specifically, they have proposed cutting down from 8 rounds to 4 and setting up a rotation program (2 years in and 3 years out) that we believe is not at all in the best interest of the participating lake associations. At the same time, DEC management wants to increase the number of lakes that benefit from the program -- adding as many as 90 more lakes -- without the resources to do so!”

The SLAWQ response to NYSFOLA is attached.

Land Conservancy. Kelly Paganelli has been working with Ben Gajewski (Executive Director, Genesee Valley Conservancy) to coordinate a presentation to the SLA membership on Land Trust issues at the August SLA meeting.

Next SLAWQ Zoom Meeting. The next SLAWQ meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2021 at 4 pm.

*****SLAWQ RESPONSE TO CSLAP*****

June 30, 2021

Nancy Mueller, Executive Director
NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.
PO Box 84
LaFayette, NY 13084

Dear Nancy –

Thank you for your email dated June 15, 2021 regarding NYSFOLA’s next five (5) year contract with DEC to manage the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP).

Background on Silver Lake (Wyoming County)

Nearly 70% of the land within the Silver Lake Watershed is dedicated to agriculture. As such nutrient influx from these operations presents a major issue for Silver Lake. At the same time Silver Lake provides drinking water for the Village of Perry, Perry Center, the Silver Lake Institute, parts of the Town of Castile, and Mt. Morris with a total permitted allocation exceeding 3.5 million gallons/day (MGPD). Silver Lake also provides water to numerous farms as well as an 18-hole golf course within the Silver Lake Watershed with total allocations exceeding 0.5 MGPD. In the summer season, Silver Lake also provides 30-40,000 gallons/day to a popular splash pad located in the Village of Perry. And, Silver Lake provides all the water that is required to operate the Village of Perry’s sewage treatment plant with an allocation of 2MGPD.

As an economic driver, the Silver Lake homeowners located directly adjacent to the lake contribute nearly \$5 million/year in property and school taxes and these same individuals represent the single largest driver for all local businesses ranging from construction and food to hospitality and recreation, contributing an additional \$8M/year just to the Town and Village of Perry and Town of Castile.

Response to Your Queries

We have reviewed the proposed program changes with our team and stakeholders and we respond below.

Generally, we feel it is critical to maintain continuity. Once valuable data is gone it is gone forever and can never be recaptured or replicated. Further, CSLAP volunteers will scatter during “out” years and restarting for “in” years will become problematic. Might CSLAP/DEC consider a tiered approach to allow better data set continuity? For example: (1) ‘Easily’ collected data could be collected at higher frequency each year by volunteers (e.g., YSI profiles/in situ water chemistry, Secchi depths, some lab analyzed samples); (2) Data/samples deemed to be ‘critical’ for program continuity would be collected at a lesser frequency each year; (3) During “in” years, intensive monitoring/data collection would occur, including a full suite of analyses, etc. Also, might CSLAP/DEC allow lakes to buy in for expanded services during scheduled “out” years and pay an additional fee? If the DEC plan as cast comes to be, lakes will likely go out on their own and collect and analyze samples by using local partners with facilities, personnel, and then keep those data internally. Out of necessity, new partnerships might well spring up between the to-be-impacted lakes and lakes may end up realizing lower costs of services with new partnership that would then compete directly with CSLAP/DEC offerings.

Now to your specific queries:

Q1. Please tell us (in detail) what your lake association would do if the program were cut from 8 rounds to 4, and what the impact would be with a three year "out" cycle. What happens to your data? Your volunteers? Your funding? etc. What would your alternatives be?

A1. The Silver Lake Association would likely fund efforts with existing local partners to fill in data gaps. There would be no loss of data or continuity and we would then retain our data.

2. DEC is justifying the cut in the number of rounds of data on the agency's needs for waterbody assessments required of them under the Clean Water Act. NYSFOLA feels very strongly that they are ignoring the many other uses of this data by lake associations and their partners, academia, and consultants. Four rounds of data might not be enough for the other uses of the data. So, we have homework to do!

A2. Over just the past seven (7) years CSLAP data from Silver Lake (Wyoming County) has been used by our partners to help secure funding for numerous major projects. Examples of large local projects that have used Silver Lake's CSLAP data include the following: (1) A >\$1.5M environmentally-friendly renovation to the Perry Public Beach and along the Silver Lake Trail. (2) More than 100 high school students from Perry High School have received hands on training on Silver Lake with water/sediment sampling and analysis and data interpretation and our Lake Association and a local 501c3 entitled CLEAN@Silver Lake co-funded purchase of a dedicated, new boat for Perry High School students to allow their continued research, teaching, and service efforts at Silver Lake. (3) In concert with landowners, farmers, the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District, the NY State Parks Department, and Association members, nearly 15,000 feet of heavily erosion-prone land along tributaries leading into Silver Lake have been planted with over 2,000 heavily-rooted, native shrubs and trees to help mitigate sediment/nutrient influx into Silver Lake. (4) Over \$8.5M to upgrade the Village of Perry water treatment plant located on Silver Lake. (5) A rapidly forming county-lead, multi-million dollar plan to dredge the North-end of Silver Lake along with the entire Silver Lake Outlet to *simultaneously* expand lake utilization, generate new jobs, increase bed taxes, and open new opportunities, improve overall lake health, and expand an existing Wildlife Management Area within Silver Lake. (6) And, recognizing the ongoing need to better mitigate nutrient influx into Silver Lake, a \$360k grant funded project to install a new, 3 million gallon concrete manure storage lagoon that helps the dairy farm operation to control and better mitigate nutrient infiltration from their operations into Silver Lake

Summary

We oppose the as cast DEC proposal for CSLAP. We clearly demonstrate here the value and use of existing CSLAP data as a vehicle to improve our lake as well as local communities. However, should the DEC proposal come to be, our lake will very likely self-fund sampling, analysis and interpretation efforts with local partners and we will use those data with our partners.

Sincerely,

Frank Bright, Ph.D.
Co-Chair, Silver Lake Association Water Quality Committee