

Silver Lake Association Water Quality Committee Report (09/12/2020)

The SLAWQ team met on 09/11/2020 and discussed the following items:

Federal St. Dam. Following on from last month's SLAWQ Report, SLAWQ and SLA leadership attended meetings held by the Village of Perry (VoP) and the Silver Lake Watershed Commission (SLWC) pursuant to the Federal St. dam failure.

As allowed, we voiced concerns about the poor communication between VoP and SLA. VoP leaders pledged to rectify the problem. One way to address the problem is to have at least one official from VoP and Castile attend our monthly SLAWQ meetings. For a short period of time several years ago, a VoP representative attended SLAWQ meetings.

According to Matt Horn, Interim VoP Administrator, in an update provided on Friday, 09/11/2020, "CP Ward is buttoning up the dam site today, and we expect the coffer dam to be removed on Monday."

With DEC approval, contractors have dredged out materials from in front of the dam and have deposited the spoils at the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) for dewatering and temporary storage. Final spoils disposition will depend on testing and DEC guidance.

Stewardship Directive. The SLAWQ group suggests the following:

The Silver Lake Association supports a viable, long-term approach to proper lake stewardship at Silver Lake that involves all municipalities within the Lake District.

The SLAWQ team encourages the SLA to work toward these ends through the SLWC where we already have representation.

Perry Public Beach Project. According to Matt Horn, Interim Village Administrator, in a response dated Friday, 09/11/2020, "The Beach project is in the punch list phase, and contractors are scheduled to be off site by the last week of September."

On 08/29/2020 SLA leadership and SLAWQ team members attended the Perry Public Beach reopening event. Discussions between SLAWQ and VoP leadership identified a potential opportunity to better educate local public servants about lake-wide issues. Toward this end, the SLAWQ team proposes an "Executive Excursion" with key municipal leaders to highlight Silver Lake issues.

N-end Silver Lake Dredging Project. On Friday, 09/11/2020 Steve Perkins, Director of Environmental Health, Wyoming County Health Department, provided SLAWQ with the following update:

“The Phase II sediment sampling and surveying have been completed. With this data, a preliminary plan of action is being developed and discussed with, NYS DEC. Once this has occurred, and we are provided with feedback, another meeting of the Silver Lake Dredging Committee will be held to review the options available to complete future phases of this much needed dredging project. Hopefully soon! While funding options are limited now, primarily due to the COVID-19 crisis, it is the goal of this agency to be prepared to move forward on this project once those opportunities are made available. Please let me know if you have any other questions.”

The SLAWQ team has significant representation on the Silver Lake Dredging Committee and we will strive to stay on top of this project.

Temperature Arrays. Array 1 (located mid-lake) has been working well following re-deployment. The graphical data is available through the new SLA web site.

Array 2 to be installed at the S-end of the lake will be installed in spring 2021.

Please consult earlier SLAWQ Report regarding how to interpret the array outputs.

Partner Projects. In collaboration with Mr. Todd Shuskey (PHS) and colleagues at SUC-Brockport (Prof. Mike Chislock, Environmental Ecology) and SUC-Geneseo (Prof. Sid Bosch, Biology & Lake Ecology), we plan to investigate the following questions:

Q1: Has the water flow within Silver Lake changed since 1983?

A publication by Englebert & Stewart (1983) showed that water from the inlet did not mix with the rest of the lake. If true, one could infer that inlet water does not contribute to the nutrient loading within the rest of the lake.

We aim to confirm that this is still the case. If it is, then management strategies upstream of the inlet would have little impact on overall lake health.

Q2: What is the actual number of tributaries that contribute to the nutrient loading at Silver Lake?

USGS topo maps list 11 tributaries entering Silver Lake. PHS has only been able to visually verify 4.

Q3: Why are there phosphorous (P) “hot spots” across the lake bed?

If there are bona fide hot P hot spots, localized treatments with something like alum could be very effective. The localized hot spots must be confirmed.

Q4: Are the weed bed densities and species composition different at the N- and S-end of the Silver Lake, arising from nutrient loadings?

2020 Planting Activity. SLA and CLEAN have installed native plants along tributaries leading into Silver Lake to help control sediment influx into Silver Lake.

Over the next few weeks we will be working with our nurseryman, Jim Engle, to identify suitable native species and site plans.

The fall 2020 planting site will be at the Silver Lake State Boat Launch. The tentative prep and plant dates are Friday, October 16 (sighting and digging) and Saturday, October 17 (planting and backfilling).

More details will follow.

Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs). The New York Harmful Algal Bloom System (NYHABS) remains live.

The SLAWQ team has discussed this program many times during previous SLA meetings.

The relevant URL is: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>

Please remember that the NYHABS website represents the official notification site for HABs in New York State. Individuals should familiarize themselves with the definitions used by NYS DEC regarding HABs. Also, as discussed several times during previous SLA meetings, SLAWQ will no longer send information or updates to individuals regarding HABs. We encourage individuals to bookmark the aforementioned URL and consult this web site as often as they feel is necessary.

As of this writing, a “small localized” “HAB” was reported at the SE corner of Silver Lake on two occasions ((a) 10:15 AM on 07/30/2020 and (b) 10:15 AM on 08/12/2020). The SLAWQ has not been contacted by NYS or by the individual(s) making the reports.

2020 CSLAP Campaign. The SLAWQ team has secured, processed, and submitted seven (7) of the eight (8) seasonal CSLAP sample sets. Sampling and submission will continue through September 2020.

The 2020 annual report will be available in spring 2021.

CSLAP Reports. All available CSLAP reports from previous years have been posted on the SLA / CLEAN web site.

Next SLAWQ Zoom Meeting. The final SLAWQ meeting for 2020 will be held at 4 pm on 10/09/2020.