SLA Financials – Chapter #52

This is the last chapter of the "History of the Silver Lake Association (SLA)". This chapter will outline how the SLA financial resources were used from 1961-2011.

Sometime after the SLA formation there was an annual membership fee of $1. Over the years this fee was raised to keep up with the rising expenses (e.g., $2 in the mid-1980s to $5 and then to $10 in 2001). This enabled the SLA to communicate with its members via newsletters and the SLA website; pay for monthly meeting expenses; join memberships in key state-wide water quality organizations and attend annual water quality conferences; complete projects around Silver Lake and to continue testing, monitoring and reporting. Over the SLA's entire existence, support and involvement of members never wavered as the SLA continued its mission of monitoring the water quality and caring for the Silver Lake community.

The available meeting minutes include some information that had significance to the financial aspect of the association. These are just a few of the relevant statements.

A budget was attached to the September 2004 minutes report. Bill Soules was not looking to take any action on the budget at that time. It was asked that comments go to the Budget Committee members in writing. Ruth Lavin wanted Bayne Johnson to be on the committee and May Kay Barton wanted Steve Dziak on the committee because of his CPA background. The board approved their assignments.

Dick Swanson reviewed the overall SLA budget and worked with committee members Steve Dziak, Betty Nasca, Gerry Kelly, and Bayne Johnson. The recommendations the committee had were: having a pay voucher that Steve Dziak would make; Mary Gillette would maintain itemized records that Gerry Kelly would put on a spreadsheet; Gerry would also make a form for the tract directors to use; a flare form would be developed for sign in-sign out; and a similar form would be made for SLA gear. The SLA newsletter would tell people not to mail dues or pre-pay them. Other ideas that the SLA board considered were: solicit off-lake businesses to join; raise dues to $12; change the fiscal year to Jan 1 – Dec 31 due to confusion; make the membership list available in the winter newsletter; expand SLA Gear; Betty cited the SLA by-laws on mailing the winter newsletter to members only and doing the same with the directory.

A discussion continued on the new forms the Budget Committee faxed for filing claims for payments, reimbursements and to track spending and income. Lorraine retyped the claim form to create a computer document file. At the bottom of the claim form, there were lines calling for the signature of an authorizing official and a date of Board approval.

Record keeping continued to be very important and the SLA Budget Committee started to be more mindful of the SLA funds. Eight basic fund categories are used to show how resources were distributed.

The categories included: Administration and postage; Monthly meeting expenses (room rental); Membership fees and Conference expenses (Federation of Lakes Association, Chamber of Commerce, Wyoming County Tourist, State of the Lake Conference); Office expenses (copies, newsletters, advertisings, supplies); Liability insurance; Donations; Projects (road signs, dry hydrants, water quality testing and supplies, sediment ditch repair, equipment); and Miscellaneous expenses (trophies, subscriptions, novelty items).

Editorial from the author

I hope that the information from the "History of the SLA" was an enjoyable and educational read. I would encourage anyone who is involved or who would like to be involved with this organization, read the History of the SLA. Personally, I have learned about the many great leaders and volunteers this organization has had and continues to have and seen the desire and passion it takes to have a successful all- volunteer organization that works. I encourage

everyone to support the SLA mission to the extent that they can and be stewards for Silver Lake and its community. It is very important to have this resource not only for our families to enjoy but for the betterment of the surrounding communities.

Mark Emmerson President of the SLA