

Silver Lake Water Level – Chapter #39C

March of 2000 Rich Eliaz was concerned that the village of Perry still controlled the lake level and the SLA was not a voting member of the Watershed Commission. The Lakers have the most to gain/lose by the commission's decisions and should be represented by the SLA even if it meant paying an annual fee. Stan Klein was re-elected as Chairperson of the Watershed Commission.

The lake level was at 78 inches at the 100 inch overflow dam. LeRoy's contract allowed it to draw two million gallons per day from September to May. Other users with similar allotments year round were: Perry (serving the village, Perry Center, Silver Lake Institute and Gardeau districts, Letchworth Park) and Mt. Morris.

The lake level had been at 96 inches. The agreed level was 94 inches. Comments were made about the concerns of such a high level. The level may be high because of the pending drought forecast. Automatic water level indicating equipment could be added at the pump house at the end of Sandpipe Road which could provide a graphic record of the lake level.

Rich Eliaz distributed a copy of Colleen Calmes' letter regarding the lake level. More information about the dam operation was needed as well as any grant money available to clean it/or stabilize the banks. Rich would bring these issues to the Watershed Commission. Rich would try and lobby for the SLA to have a seat on the Watershed Commission Board.

A report from the Watershed Commission on the monitoring of the lake level remained to be a big question as there was no accurate figure on the amount of water being drawn. Colleen Calmes reported that she called SCS about it and she was referred to the Army Corps of Engineers, which said it did not have jurisdiction over the level and referred her to the DEC.

Bill noted that the water level was at 94 inches at the 100 inch dam; the village-set limit. This may have been good for some cottages but on the east side it could cause soil to wash into the lake because walls were not high enough. Lorraine explained the usual reasons for opening the gates included; preventing flooding, cleanup work, and sewer plant operations. Roy obtained regular reports on the dam operation and the water level, which he brought before the full board during the year. The dam gate was not fixed (September 2004), Ed Koziel was the new Gatekeeper.

Bayne Johnson noted that the Department of Public Works Supervisor/Dam Operator Ed Koziel should attend Watershed Commission meetings. He also noted that the Village of Perry received a 6 month extension to repair the dam gates. At the May 2005 meeting it was reported that the dam gates were repaired. Bill Soules reported that the lake level was normal at 95".

It was reported that Perry controlled the lake level and Ed Koziel monitored the lake level. Mick Griffin noted that the water level was up 6" from 2 weeks earlier. Bill Soules said Perry should maintain the level at 95" at the dam. The level had been noticed up to 97". The level could not be lowered too fast after it rained because this would cause shoreline erosion. The Watershed Commission decided on the 95" rule. Rich Eliaz then said that the Village of Perry purchased an expensive metering device to monitor the water level.