

***Hydrolab* – Chapter #39B**

Bill Soules presented a request from the Water Quality Committee. Bill handed out a written proposal to purchase a Quanta Hydrolab for monitoring the temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and conductivity at various depths of the lake. The proposal was from the Hach Environmental Company of Loveland, Colorado. Bill had stated the advantages of the SLA owning their own hydrolab. The last time a study was done was with Dr. Stuart of the University of Buffalo. The Ott instrumentation had 5 sensors to complete the testing. Larry Bauer said we should use the county machine if they have a hydrolab. It should be made clear to the county that Silver Lake was the largest body of water in Wyoming County. The county needed a boat and they could only monitor Monday –Friday. The county was asked if the SLA could borrow their machine. Bob Frosino asked if there was an annual maintenance cost or was it a one-time purchase. Bill Soules told the board to think about this purchase. It would give the SLA the control to monitor correctly. Bob Frosino said that we should look to our mission statement. He continued that his tract, Heron Cove, wanted this to be done. Larry Bauer agreed but wanted the county to be accountable.

Mary Kay Barton gave the Water Quality Report. For a variety of reasons, including personnel changes within Wyoming County, the county's Hydrolab would be available for the SLA to use but it would be shared with Java Lake. Dick Swanson reported that the Budget/Finance Committee was willing to recommend SLA purchase its own Hydrolab. A discussion followed about the potential use of data from the Hydrolab vs. the cost to SLA. Mary Kay Barton agreed to contact Bill Soules and ask for a better understanding of the potential uses and outcomes of the data the SLA would collect with its own Hydrolab.

It was requested that Bill Soules help run the hydrolab tests for Java Lake. He had responded that he was not available. Dick Swanson noted that the finance committee was in favor to purchase a hydrolab, but wanted the full understanding of the SLA board. Bill then read some example questions and gave his responses; the cost of the hydrolab was approximately \$5,000.00. The SLA would take readings every 2 weeks and check at 5 levels in lake water for hydrocarbons and dissolved oxygen. The hydrolab does not measure sediment and does not help weed control. It would help inform the community of facts. It is a tool for research and development. The facts collected would help inform the SLA to take action when needed. Bill continued saying, an option was to borrow the county hydrolab and take readings over 2-3 weeks as a pilot program to see what our own hydrolab could do for us. Lead time for a new hydrolab was 4 weeks. Bayne suggested raising dues to offset the cost. Bill then suggested tabling the issue until he got more information from a pilot program.

At a May 2008 meeting Ruth spoke in the absence of Bill Soules and said that Greg McKurth had replaced Dave Reckahn. The new technician would sample Silver Lake with the hydrolab. The county had asked that Bill help get him set up to do so.

Bill Soules included a long and comprehensive report in the packets handed to the board. After some discussion of the contents including how tests were done, Ruth Lavin asked if we were in a financial position to afford the hydrolab equipment. Bill stated he had talked to the company representatives about such equipment but didn't want to take much of their time if the SLA couldn't buy it. The cost was in the range of about \$5600. Jim Coles asked if a maintenance agreement was included. Ruth made a motion to allow Bill to get information and estimates on the equipment and commit SLA funds to buy it. Judy Baumer suggested the SLA look for a grant to buy it. After a discussion, Ruth amended the motion to put a cap of \$6000 on the purchase.

A discussion started the October 2009 meeting regarding the Hydrolab that was being researched by Bill Soules. Bill had determined the most suitable equipment would involve an expenditure of a little over \$6000. This figure covered delivery costs, and calibration, which Bill explained, was essential. The board agreed and approved that Bill should order the equipment. Bill followed by asking about the status of insurance on the Hydrolab. It was said that the insurance cost could be approved by the Executive Committee.

Bill Soules stated that the Hydrolab was purchased. The unit was defective and had to be exchanged. There were very unusual readings showing no nitrates/nitrites found in the water. It was noted that the Hydrolab was unable to calibrate so it was sent back. Water somehow got inside of the equipment. The company was sending a new one.