

Silver Lake Dredging – Chapter #39D

While at the October 2000 FL-LOWPA conference, Rich Eliazs received a copy of a new \$2,500 grant proposal by Dave Reckahn to clean the inlet and the outlet, the SLA was pushing for debris removal. It required involvement of the village and town and community service groups. The SLA Board members suggested that the old south end outlet should get attention. Bill Soules would draft a letter to the DEC about its existence.

At the November 2000 meeting Bill Soules read a (great) draft letter to the DEC on reconsidering the south end outlet that Rich Eliazs would sign for the SLA. The Watershed Commission heard the county proposal for the \$2,500 grant to clean the debris from the inlet and outlet and was supportive.

Patty Becker reported on the Water Quality topics that were discussed at the Watershed Commission meeting. The discussion included; the outlet cleaning by the town of Perry with assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers and a date that was setup by the Rotary for debris removal; money needed for the 2nd year of testing and approved by SLWC; lake condition was better according to monitoring but the standards were getting stricter.

Bob Payne recommended the SLA board write to the state regarding the deepening of the inlet and outlet, which would extend the boating season. The F.X. Browne study recommended it years ago (January of 1991) to improve the flow and water quality. Sue Murphy officially disagreed, noting the north end of the lake was a protected water fowl area and that people could trailer their boats to other launches when Koziel's channel was low. Dredging would ultimately take more state tax dollars from our pockets. Bob countered that extending the season would increase revenues, impacts tourism, and motioned for Lorraine to write a letter to the state.

Under new business at the May 2007 meeting Greg Adams distributed sample petitions regarding a request for the SLA's support to address the outlet sedimentation in Prentice Tract. He had a relative trained to take core samples for testing. He would like to see dredging from Sandy Point to the Walker Road bridge and west in front of Walt's Tract. The FX Browne biological/management study of the 1990s recommended dredging of the outlet. Mary Kay Barton suggested this issue go before the Watershed Commission and the county Water and Soil Conservation District.

The village of Perry Board members had a tour around the lake, 5 SLA members attended. Ed Koziel could not control the outlet water flow due to debris. This had caused some action re: dredging of the lake. This issue came up at the Castile & Perry town meetings. They would both attempt to get funding.

Mary Kay Barton requested money for dredging of the inlet. The DEC had upped the required number of core samples from 3 to 6. It would now cost over \$5,000. Ruth Lavin asked if Terry Murphy submitted the form for permit. Mary Kay said that samples needed to be taken first. Bill Soules noted that nothing happened last time until money was given. Bill then suggested giving \$1,800 for 2 samples. Action on the part of the SLA should help to move the project forward. Rich Eliazs said the SLA should wait until the Watershed Commission meeting in July. He would let them know the SLA would support the DEC requirements. Dick Swanson agreed with Rich and suggested that Ruth write a letter of support.

In a Batavia news article it noted that a special meeting was called by Stan Klein (Castile Board/Watershed Commission member) in hopes to obtain \$18,000 for dredging of the outlet. The Mayor of Perry told the people he had received letter that Silver Lake had been designated a lake for revitalization. It was also noted that the \$18,000 was for the study not the actual dredging.

The DEC had decided that they would now need 12 core samples from the outlet at the cost of \$900 per sample. Mary Kay Barton reported that the number of water samples from the outlet has increased to 12 which would cost a total of \$10,800. Ed Koziel of the Perry Public Works Department had taken the 12 samples and submitted them to the DEC.

Mr. McKurth was able to finance the original cost of 6 samples through a grant in the total of \$5400. The difference of was still needed. Mary Kay stated that the core samples were back from the lab and the DEC had them.

October 2008 there was a Watershed Commission meeting. It was discussed that the core samples of the outlet were now in the hands of the DEC and the SLA was waiting to hear their decision on what was the proper course of action to take regarding the dredging. There were 12 samples taken, 2 at each of the 6 sites. The cost remained at \$5400 which was covered by the grant Greg McKurth was able to get.

Mary Kay and Greg Adams met with Terry Murphy about the dredging issue. They were still waiting for the soil sample report to get to Bill Doleski. A suggestion was made that lake homeowners attend the watershed meetings for a bigger impact. Bill Soules noted that dredging would help cottage owner's better access to the water.

Roy Schneggenburger reported on information received from the Watershed Commission meeting. Perry still needed to submit the application for the dredging. A 6 page DEC letter stated that 60,000 yards of material needed be taken to a DEC approved site. The cost would be in the range of \$6,500-\$7,000. The project should start in the fall of 2009 and take 2 months.

Dick Swanson reported on the Watershed Commission which was in charge of the dredging issue. The process had stalled but he was optimistic. An idea was to go back to FX Brown to update their report. Ruth Lavin asked who would pay FX Brown. Dick responded that the Watershed Commission was made up of members of 5 municipalities. Some of the funds could come from those municipalities. Others ways would be to get funds from individuals, grants, or the SLA. It was asked if the SLA contributed before. Dick Swanson thought it was a governmental agency. Kelly Paganelli added that according to Stan Klein's article it was a grant from the DEC that paid for the original study.