

The History of the Silver Lake Association (SLA) Chapter #9

Water levels and the Dam

Gil Landon attended a Watershed meeting with the topic concerning the Village of Perry requesting funds for the new dam in the outlet. Gil Landon the SLCOA representative to the Watershed Committee reported that the outlet flow studies are now underway prior to the actual reconstruction of the dam gates. Gil was asked to confer with the Mayor about recent increased outlet flow. He also reported that the Village of Perry set a September date for the construction of the dam at the existing site. A motion was made and passed to make a contribution from the SLCOA funds of \$3000 to the dam project in conjunction with continued requests for increased cooperation concerning the operation of the dam and its effect on Silver Lake water levels.

Reconstruction of the dam is due to be completed by November 1981. Gil Landon reported that the \$3000 of financial support was well received by the Village of Perry and the cottage owners present at the 1981 Annual meeting. The Village of Perry sent a letter of appreciation to the SLCOA for their contribution. The idea of having a liaison committee was also supported. This committee would provide communication between the cottage owners and the dam maintenance engineers with regards to the level of the lake; liaisons being Wales Wasson and Dick Bausch. The project of the new dam to better control the lake water level was completed in 1982. The dam on the outlet had been functioning for a year and with the record dry July that summer the lake level would have been much lower.

The Village of Perry was required to submit monthly reports to the Health Department regarding water usage. The committee would investigate if LeRoy and Mt. Morris filed similar reports. No payments were made by the towns for water taken from Silver Lake. Mt. Morris in turn provides water to Cuylerville, Leicester and Comstock Foods/Curtice Burns. It would be investigated if Mt. Morris is charging for this water service. The Watershed Committee would like to continue to their extensive research on lake water usage. It was agreed the information collected was valuable and they would continue. It was noted that Mt. Morris had paid for life-time use of the water from Silver Lake, \$500,000.

A committee was formed, headed by Tony Fricano, to monitor lake water levels and to interact with individuals responsible for the outtake of water in Perry. In September 1985 a Watershed Committee was formed with SLCOA members Tony Fricano, Dick Laley, and Jim Fuller. They have met with Superintendent of Public Works Roger Bauer who was responsible for the outtake of water from Silver Lake. The committee toured the control gate and the Perry Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Bauer had total control of the lake level and the committee thought the water outtake should be metered and monitored. The local Watershed Commission is made up of representatives from Castile, LeRoy, and the village and town of Perry. Mt. Morris previously had a representative but withdrew from participation even though they continued to take water from the lake.

Phil Cowie had replaced Roger Bauer as Superintendent of Public Works. Tony Fricano would then meet with him to discuss controls at the dam outlet. The Watershed Committee had found out that there were rules and regulations governing Silver Lake, but no one is enforcing them. Dave Pierson of the Avon DEC provided this information to the SLCOA at the April 23rd, 1988 meeting: Mt. Morris had submitted an application to take 500,000 more gallons of water per day from Silver Lake. A total of 6.5 million gallons per day is allowed. Mt. Morris' additional water application is an interregional matter – Silver Lake is in DEC Region 9 out of Buffalo, Mt. Morris is in Region 8 in Avon. Because of faulty pipes, Mt. Morris is losing 40% of the water taken from the lake. Perry is losing 60%. Nothing is being done to correct this problem because there was no money. A \$100,000 grant for Silver Lake had been included in the NYS budget. The Village of Perry would be the governmental agency to oversee the spending. Dave Pierson suggested starting with a “priority pollutant analysis” and setting aside other funds for various uses.

Don Manning and Pete Adrian, both Castile Town Councilmen, provided the following information. With State and local governments representatives along with Buffalo and Avon DEC representatives, attorneys from Castile and Perry, and a Trustee from MT. Morris discussed making the Watershed Commission a more viable organization that would have the power to set up and enforce rules and regulations relative to taking water out of Silver Lake. LeRoy is attempting to establish its own water source using wells. Mt. Morris is requesting more water. Castile and Perry each paid 37% toward dam repairs. 92% of the lake is in Castile. Castile had spent \$100,000 in the past and has never taken a drop of water from the lake.