

City of Devils Lake
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City Commission:
Fred Bott, President
Dick Johnson
Tim Heisler
Craig Stromme
Rick Morse

July 7, 2009

Dave Glatt
North Dakota Department of Health
918 East Divide Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947



Dear Dave:

Thank you for your recent presentation to the City Commission regarding water quality within the Devils Lake Basin and Sheyenne River. The presentation was informative and has provided the Commission with a better understanding of the water quality issues associated with Devils Lake.

As stated at the meeting, the City of Devils Lake passed a motion establishing 1446' MSL as the spillway elevation of the lake. This elevation was selected because we feel that even if we are fortunate enough to secure funds for our dam raise, we will remain concerned about the economic vitality of the area should the lake continue to rise and inundate additional farmland and homes.

With the drastic rise in Devils Lake again this year and the continuing rain that we have been receiving, we feel that it is imperative that emergency measures be taken to address our continued flooding. Therefore, the City of Devils Lake respectfully requests that the ND Department of Health and ND State Water Commission work together to identify means of removing additional water from Devils Lake to reduce flood damages. We understand adjustments or variances may need to be made to the stream classification of portions of the Sheyenne River to allow higher flood control discharges from the lake. We also believe that a review of the Sheyenne River channel capacity should be completed to see if additional flows from Devils Lake could be discharged without causing excessive downstream flooding. Please review the appropriate means of making these adjustments and proceed accordingly.

It appears obvious to us that if adjustments to downstream water quality/quantity requirements are not made now to allow increased flows from Devils Lake, a natural overflow could result in future EXTREME water quality and flooding impacts downstream.

Thanks again for taking the time to visit with the City Commission. If there is anything that the City of Devils Lake can do to help our flood fighting efforts, please contact Mike Grafsgaard, our City Engineer, so that we can work with you on this very important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Bott".

Fred Bott
President, Devils Lake City Commission

CC: Dale Frink, PE, State Engineer

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