

## ***The Lake Delhi Voice – Nov 2020***



***“It’s Not Whether You Get Knocked Down, It’s Whether You Get Up,” Vince Lombardi.***



***Leann and Doug Herman***

### ***Welcome***

As I write this letter, I am looking at a light fog hanging over the Lake, enough leaves are still intact to provide a good background to the sun rising above the trees, and the temperature is going to be in the 70's. The deer are on the move, antlers have sprouted, and love appears to be in the air. What a blessing to live in such a place. Enough of that, let's talk about the last year that is almost in the books. First and foremost, I think all would agree that it was a great year from a water management

standpoint. Our award-winning dam is operating as designed and while it is automatic there is always a human touch involved. Someone has to set the parameters for the automatic operation decision making. When we have potential high-water someone has to interpret those events and the probable impacts and tweak the dam operations. Fortunately, we have seen fewer high-water events this year and those moments where we have experienced heavy rains. Those sweaty palm events, especially at the north end of the lake, are minimized because of our great volunteers and engineering firm.

The year has taught us, or reaffirmed our belief that, the NWS river level predictions are by far the very worst-case scenario and often overstated. We have seen older houses torn down, or renovated, into beautiful homes. We have seen bigger boats, maybe too big in some cases, and bigger fish. (Never too big in any case.) We have seen, and according to the assessor will continue to see, valuations rise as some properties on the Lake continue to sell far above their assessed valuations. While the District Trustees have no control over assessed valuations, we will continue to communicate with the County Assessor on this topic with the aim of ensuring that these handful of sales will not inflate all property prices on the Lake; not all Lake properties are created equal.

The Trustees do have control over the \$4.00 District Tax Rate that is applied against every \$1,000 of taxable valuation. As the overall valuation increases, the Board can and will look at reducing the \$4.00 rate. The County, School, and "other" tax rates that create your tax obligation are not, as you know, in our control, only the \$4.00 tax rate. The primary purpose of the District, and the governing Board is to ensure the continued viability of the dam. Therefore, maintenance and oversight of the dam are our number one priority. After that priority, there may be debate as to what is next most important. Many would agree on another important consideration; maintaining the Lake in a manner that is navigable and enjoyable for boating, fishing, and recreation. To meet that obligation, we need to consider and plan for dredging. We have a committee that continues to consider dredging and putting a master plan together for that purpose.

Believe it or not, there are still matters pending with regard to the 2008 Disaster that resulted in the District receiving FEMA funding. I have been working with FEMA on the 2008, 2010, and 2016 flood events prior to my time on the Board. Just last week I had a conference with FEMA, Iowa Homeland Security, the Office of the State Archaeologist, and others. To say we are close to final resolution may be an overstatement, as we are probably 15-18 months from that point. In light of the fact that we are twelve (12) years removed from the 2008 flood I guess we are relatively close. The good news is that we will wrap up those loose ends soon, and with that the 2010 and 2016 will be totally wrapped up as well.

Please know that you can always reach out to your Board Members, you can always attend our meetings, share your thoughts and concerns, etc. In closing, please have a safe rest of the fall, a great Covid-19 free Holiday and winter season and we will see you soon, on the waters of our beautiful public Lake.  
Doug Herman – President, Trustee, The Lake Delhi Combined Recreational Facility and Water Quality District



*Dan Staebell, Dennis Jasper, Larry Burger, Joe Scherrman, Joel Althoff, Steve Leonard & Doug Herman*

## Trustees

The Board would like to recognize and thank Lamont Davidson for his wisdom while serving on the Board; good luck, stay healthy and stay in touch.

Trustee's meetings are open to the public. They are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, now at 5:30pm. The location is changing. It was at the building across from the Maquoketa Valley School. The new location will be announced and will be posted along with agenda on the Website at: [www.LakeDelhi.org](http://www.LakeDelhi.org). If you want to get on the email list, send an email to [LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org](mailto:LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org) or contact secretary Laurie Kramer at [lauriekramer@maquoketa-v.k12.ia.us](mailto:lauriekramer@maquoketa-v.k12.ia.us) or 712A Third St., Delhi, IA. 52223, Ph# 563-920-9863.

### TRUSTEES

Doug Herman: President, Trustee  
Joel Althoff: Vice President, Trustee  
Dan Staebell: Trustee,  
Steve Leonard: Trustee  
Larry Burger: Trustee  
Joe Scherrman: Trustee  
Dennis Jasper: Trustee

## *The Trustees want your Suggestions*

The Trustees want and value your input to make Lake Delhi a better place. There are several ways to give your input, feedback, and suggestions:

- Email: [LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org](mailto:LakeDelhiTrustees@LakeDelhi.org)
- Webmaster Secretary: Laure Kramer, [lauriekramer@maquoketa-v.k12.ia.us](mailto:lauriekramer@maquoketa-v.k12.ia.us)  
712A Third St., Delhi, IA. 52223, Ph# 563-920-9863
- Lake Delhi VOICE Editor: Joe Scherrman, [joescherrman@mac.com](mailto:joescherrman@mac.com). 20572  
254th Street, Delhi, IA. 52223, Ph# 563-590-8242

- Attend our monthly Trustee Meetings every 3rd Thursday of the month, Public Comments are at the end of every meeting.
- Contact any of the Trustees
- Website: [www.LakeDelhi.org](http://www.LakeDelhi.org)

***“The Best Way To Get Started Is To Quit Talking And Begin Doing.” – Walt Disney***



### ***Dam Operations and Review***

Summary of 2020 river flows and Lake Delhi dam operations, by Pat Colgan. Lake Delhi is commonly thought of as a lake with all the recreational attributes of a lake. In reality, Lake Delhi is a man-made lake, a water reservoir, formed by a man-made dam controlling a natural river, the Maquoketa river. Since the Maquoketa is really a river, Lake Delhi is regulated by various levels of government. This was a major influencer with the design of the modern dam that was rebuilt following the dam failure in 2010. The dam design that was finally agreed upon by all the decision makers in 2012 was to be designed as close to automatic operation as attainable. The result was an award-winning engineering design that controls lake level with a combination of an overflow labyrinth spillway backed up by three steel flood gates that powerfully kick in during higher flood flows.

Another part of the final operating agreement was that Lake Delhi would provide daily site observers to give eyes and ears to the success of our plan. Shown is Larry Aschbrenner, who with a handful of other volunteers, have Faithfully (with a big capital F) visited the dam on a regular basis, now for over four years, to fulfill this commitment made to regulators. A very big shout out to them all. **Thank you!**

The overflow labyrinth portion of the dam is the largest labyrinth, by far, ever built in the Midwest. Its unique design automatically controls river flows and lake level 85% of the year or about 310 days. When river flows reach a higher level, mainly after a rainstorm in our watershed, the three flood gates will open automatically based on the river level at the dam. Typically, this will happen about 55 days a year.

This year was a very quiet year for excessive river flows. From April 1 to November 1, the steel flood gates opened only nine times for a total of 21 days, less than half of the anticipated time of steel gate operation. This year the largest flood flow was at end of October. The next three largest flows were, two in June and then one around early September. None of these floods caused damage to lake property and were easily handled by automatic dam operation. A few of us can monitor the dam remotely online and make sure things are under control. This year, our new dam



handled everything thrown at it with ease, without human intervention, as we had envisioned 9 years ago.



### *Huskys – Plans Underway for 2021 Season*

The Hartwick Huskys' Water Show Ski Team made the difficult decision not to have our regular show ski season this year due to COVID 19. While we didn't have our regular practices on the lake, our skiers took the opportunity when they could to continue to learn and work on their skiing. It is exciting to see all the improvements that they have made, and we look forward to seeing that showcased in our 2021 season. W

We had a tough loss this year with the passing of one of our young skiers, Teige Hunt. Teige lived life to the fullest and has left a lasting impression on our club and will be missed.

The highlight for the ski team this year was being home (rather than at a tournament) for the Christmas on the Lake celebration. Many of our skiers as well as any other skiers often seen on Lake Delhi came together and had an impressive barefoot line, ballet line, swivel line, doubles, pyramids and other free skiing. A fun day was had by all and we had many great comments by the residents of Lake Delhi. We hope to do something like that again in the future. We appreciated the breakfast hosted by the Cedar Association and the support of the Lake Delhi residents.

Our Board, led by President Marty Pottebaum, continued to meet in 2020 to continue the work of the 2020 season and work towards a great 2021. Our plans are underway for our 2021 season and we hope to have those set after our December Board Meeting. Keep in touch and visit us on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/HartwickHuskys/>

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### *“Lake Delhi: We Will Be Back” The Movie’s Produce’s Note.*

The lake has clearly changed in many ways, it was unmistakably beautiful. If our telling their story at a time when everyone was feeling beat up brought people together and had anything to do with encouraging folks to press on, then I am very proud.

If that was not the case, I still know people appreciated our efforts and enjoyed reminiscing about the lake when they could not be on the water. I so enjoyed the people we met and appreciated the time they gave Mary and Chris and me to tell their stories. I wish them the very best and hope they will never have to go through anything like that again.”

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, a storm dumped over nine inches of rain on the Lake Delhi watershed causing the most significant flooding ever experienced on the lake. As a result of the high-water levels, the lake began to spill over the road at the Lake Delhi dam at 9:30 AM on Saturday morning, July 24<sup>th</sup>. This started the events that would lead to the complete breach of the roadway and dam, allowing the entire lake to spill through onto the property and communities below, leaving a landscape of destruction and disappointment about a way of life shared by generations that would be lost unless the lake is restored.

“We Will Be Back ["The Lake Delhi Story"](http://www.lakedelhiwewillbeback.com/Lake-Delhi---Documentary.html), highlights a brief early history followed by stories and footage from decades of families enjoying the lake at such familiar places as "Campo Delhi" and "Freddy's Beach." The film’s producers, Charles and Mary Cunliffe, dedicated two years to visiting with the people of the lake and working to tell their story. The couple's son, Robert Cunliffe, has original music featured in the film. In a poignant opening narration that sets the tone for a wonderful viewing experience, Mary Cunliffe who spent summer's there as a little girl, shares her fond memories. "This is the story about a lake, about a flood, but it is much more than that. This is really a story about a way of life shared by generations and at risk now unless we all pull together and determine, that no matter what, "We Will Be Back." Audiences will be delighted by the film, especially those who have ever visited Lake Delhi.

More information about the movie click here:

<http://www.lakedelhiwewillbeback.com/Lake-Delhi---Documentary.html>



## ***Dare You Move***

Abigail Frerichs' cover of the Switchfoot song, in this video, was produced to create interest and support for rebuilding the Lake Delhi dam, which was destroyed during a flood on July 24, 2010.

Enjoy this video produced to create interest and support for rebuilding the Lake Delhi dam. The film, [Dare You Move – “Lake Delhi,”](#) featuring the words and music by Jonathan Foreman, performed by Abigail Frerichs with video by Eric Dean Freese, won the Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival, where it picked up the Silver Eddy Award for Professional Freestyle!. Dare You Move shows much of the devastation around the Lake, which lived with for 6 years! Enjoy the music video on Youtube by clicking here: [https://youtu.be/Ws1\\_Wv9fVoU](https://youtu.be/Ws1_Wv9fVoU)



## ***The Lake Delhi Voice***

***Goodbye 2020, looking forward to 2021 on beautiful Lake Delhi.***