

## Water-related Topics Overview Committee

Devils Lake was nearly dry in 1941 and at present it is at 1451.6 which covers about 188000 acres of which about 125000 acres is ag land.

Millions of dollars has been spent since 1993 raising roads, building embankments to protect the City of Devils Lake and Spirit Lake Nation, not to mention private money spent to stay in the area. (Roads, pumping water and protecting properties). By the end of 2012 over a billion dollars will be spent on roads and dikes. NDDOT estimates if the lake reaches 1458 spill elevation the cost to raise essential roads to 1465 elevation would cost 250-300 million dollars and take 2 years to complete. This does not take into Consideration County, Township roads and city streets in the basin. Raising Amtrak rail passing through Churches Ferry the study will cost about \$700,000 with the estimate to raise the rail to 1465 elevation between Churches Ferry and Devils Lake is about \$60 Million Dollars.

Towns being bought out (Churches Ferry-Penn-Minnewaukan) plus all of the deeded land under water taking farmers off the land, which is the lifeblood of the communities, will devastate the area.

School busses, emergency services, shopping, marketing farm products due to bad roads causing folks to travel to other towns because of the difficulty to get to Devils Lake.

Population loss because of moving about 400 homes, loss of ag land, flood farm homes and buildings and just tired of fighting the flood.

Counties, School Districts, Cities and Townships suffering loss of tax base to keep operating or have to cut back services in order to meet budgets is not fun.

Personal issues such as mental and fiscal stress because of loss of income, homes, roads and Ag land being flooded.

The time is long overdue for relief from the raising waters of Devils Lake. We can not wait any longer we need to start moving more water out of the East end in addition to what the state outlet has been doing on the West end of the lake. Action needs to happen by spring.

If something does not happen soon the downstream cities will be in big trouble with Devils Lake breaking out at the Tolna Coulee. It ill be the largest disaster North Dakota will see

Thank you to the Water-Related Topics Overview Committee for allowing me to speak.

Joe Belford

Ramsey County Commissioner