

## Maintaining Echo Lake: Leveraging The County's Support

Over the past 40 or so years, residents have looked for ways to bring in funds to help with expensive maintenance such as dredging. However, no significant outside source has been found, especially for the major dredging project we are facing now.

Dredging, because it directly benefits the homeowners, must be paid for by the homeowners. This year, in 2021, the special dues (see the President's Message) will be the source of funds for the needed, extensive dredging. The ELHA Board has been wonderfully active in dredging the silt trap and doing other regular maintenance and improvements, but, as has been said, an especially extensive and expensive dredging is needed now.

We cannot forget that the county has contributed significant monies to maintain Echo Lake over the years. In the past 25 years, the county rebuilt the dam and maintained it. This amounts to about a million dollars. No small sum.

Right now, the county is engaged in rebuilding a slow-release Simmons Lake dam which should reduce the sediment that washes into Echo Lake. The cost of that project is not available, but it must be significant, likely in the hundreds of thousands range.

Overall, it is worthwhile for the homeowners to do the new dredging, even if expensive. This will leverage and enhance the large investment made by the county as well as the maintenance efforts by our Board. Obviously, it will also maintain a high-quality resource for our community for many years to come.