**Channel Dredging Project**

(D. Jayne 4-26-24)

Since dredging was done in the channel in the mid-1950s, sediment and aquatic vegetation has filled the channel to the point boats can barely navigate and on occasion pass so close to each other that safety has become an issue. The shallow navigation channel is a major concern because it greatly limits boat access between the lakes late in the summer, and it can cause expensive damage to boat propulsion equipment. Also, propellers of each passing boat stir up nutrients that degrade water quality by promoting growth of aquatic vegetation.

In October of 2022, your TLIA Board completed a project to address this pressing issue. In the spring of 2022, we received permits to suction dredge about two feet of sediment across a 40-foot-wide navigation channel between the narrows at Upper Twin Lake east to the bridge at the entrance to Lower Twin Lake and north from the bridge to the channel boat launch.

The Board retained the services Envirodredge, an experienced company, to help us implement the project. Dredging removed 5,350 cubic yards of sediment. Sediment was pumped up to 2,000 feet via floating pipeline to the channel boat launch parking lot. Polymers were then added to the slurry to help separate the water from the sediment and then pumped into two large geo-textile bags for dewatering. Dewatering of the filter bags has taken place over the past six months. In May of 2023, the residual sediment was loaded and hauled about 3 miles to the Scarcello ranch to be used as a soil amendment. The boat launch site was cleaned up and restored to its pre-project condition by about the end of May. We expect this project to greatly improve late summer navigation through the channel and reduce nutrient loading to Lower Twin Lake.

Estimated project costs are approximately $250,000. Funding is still needed to support cleanup efforts conducted last spring. If you would like to contribute to this project, you can donate under “How to help” tab on the website. We will update you on this project as more information becomes available.

More information on the channel dredging project is available on the attached Powerpoint presentation and the attached project video.

If you have questions about the project, please contact Mike Knowles at (509) 863-4359, Doug Jayne (509) 710-7188, or Debbie Andrews at (724) 553-8779.