

# Friends of Lower Hay

2021  
Fall  
Newsletter

WE DID IT!

If you haven't been on the lake in a few weeks, the channel is freshly dredged! It took only a few days to remove over 50 truckloads of spoils (dredgings), and it is now back to the excellent condition it was in 2009 that the DNR allows. Thanks to everyone who donated towards this project. When the Friends of Lower Hay was started, the channel maintenance was its sole purpose. We have grown to be able to handle more projects like this one through the donations of members and non-members (more than 10 times the cost from years ago). Thank you. I get calls about whether we will still take donations, and my answer is always the same: YES! We account for projects carefully and reserve money for specific future projects. Any dredging money raised that was more than our goal will be reserved for the next dredging. We continue to build a reserve for AIS infestations and have had to use a portion of it for a Curly-leaf Pond weed infestation in 2010 on the West shore and for continual access inspections. Those projects were paid by the Friends of Lower Hay AIS reserves. Only donations given for channel dredging will be used for dredging. Only donations given for AIS projects will be used for AIS. Any donations on a membership form given to "general" will be used as the Board of Directors feels is appropriate. Please remember that as we go into our next membership drive in Spring 2022. Thanks again to those who – as our mission statement says - have helped "enhance the enjoyment of the lake."

Steve Curry – President



## SAVE THE DATE!

FOLH Annual Meeting will be held on  
**Saturday, June 11, 2022** at  
9:00 am at the Jenkins VFW

We hope to see you there!

{Please note the annual meeting will be  
two weeks after Memorial Day weekend.}

***The Friends of Lower Hay Lake Association is dedicated to protecting the water and watershed of Lower Hay Lake and the preservation of surrounding natural resources through sharing of information with other organizations. It strives to enhance the enjoyment of the lake and encourages a sense of community among its residents.***

Friends of Lower Hay is a charitable 501(c)(3) organization



## One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

*Some of the following background information is taken from an article by Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR). The entire article can be found in the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) August 2021 edition of "Liquid Asset". Additional information on the plan will be forthcoming in Spring/Summer 2022. --Dave Topinka & Liz Rollman*

In 2008 Minnesotans voted overwhelmingly for the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment which will help fund the arts and state parks, fund grants to protect wildlife habitat, and fund projects to protect and rehabilitate public waters. Water rehabilitation efforts are complicated by the fact that all waters are connected. One source of pollution will contaminate all the waters downstream. In Minnesota, that is a big deal. Fifty-six percent of Minnesota's surface waters are impaired according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

To address the impairment of our surface water, the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) process was created. 1W1P supports partnerships of local governments and organizations in developing implementation plans for each of the fifty-four watersheds in the state. Lower Hay Lake is in the Pine River Watershed. In 2019 an implementation plan was developed for the Pine River Watershed and approved through a process by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Crow Wing County Commissioners. Once a plan is approved, the Clean Water Council makes funding available for implementation.

**Lower Hay** was selected to be **one of the first lakes** in the Pine River Watershed to participate in the 1W1P program because of our strong lake association and member support of the FOLH mission. We all should be proud of the fact that we are

recognized as one of the most active lake associations!

The implementation plan for Lower Hay Lake is to focus on protecting current water quality by protecting the surrounding land. It set goals to achieve in the next 10 years by focusing on the following areas: phosphorus reduction, shoreline restoration, shoreline and land protection, and groundwater in addition to monitoring Secchi (water transparency) depth annually.

**What does this mean for Lower Hay Lake and property owners?** Property owners can improve lake water quality and achieve watershed goals by implementing projects on their property such as installing rain gardens and/or shoreline buffers, plant trees along shoreline, seal unused wells and maintain sewage treatment systems with some of the project costs paid for with monies from the Clean Water Council. Projects must be pre-approved to receive funding, but this is the time to act if you have been pondering a project on your property that also helps to improve the water quality of the lake. There are many people, organizations, and resources to help with the process! More information will be presented to FOLH members in Spring, 2022. If you have questions, please call Dave Topinka at 218-568-4356 or email him at [DaveAndJudy.T@tds.net](mailto:DaveAndJudy.T@tds.net).

### AIS Update

By Rich Kobes, AIS Director

2021 was a good year for Lower Hay Lake because no new Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) were found in the lake as well as the entire Whitefish Chain of Lakes! Across Crow Wing County there were 25,000 boat inspections that resulted in finding 199 boat/trailers with aquatic plants and 10 with zebra mussels. Boat inspections work! The Lower Hay Lake public access had the 2<sup>nd</sup> most inspection hours of any other boat access on the Whitefish Chain (Corp of Engineers access had the most). There was an average of 3.3 boat inspections per hour. The same number of boat inspection hours at the Lower Hay access are budgeted again for 2022.

The Crow Wing County Starry Trek event found NO sample evidence of Starry Stonewort. However, this aquatic plant continues to spread through Minnesota lakes. A Crow Wing County detailed video overview of the 2021 AIS prevention plan and wrap up can be found on the following Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tT37HIFhdSc>



# Channel Dredging

By Terry Enger, Channel Director

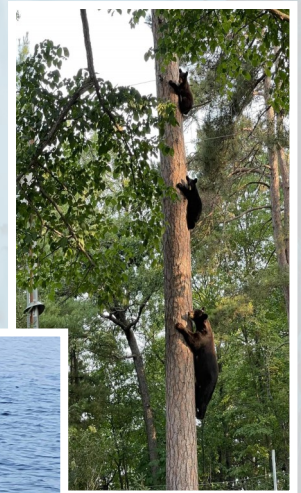
The dredging of our channel between Lower Hay and Upper Whitefish was completed in late September by Northstar Waterways. The total cost of the project, including all required permits, was approximately \$85,000.

As part of the bidding process, FOLH requested proposals from eight different companies ranging in size from large to small and varying in location from local to out-of-state. In the end, we determined that Northstar Waterways was the best choice for our project, and they were awarded the work.

Northstar dredged our channel based on the maximum channel size allowed by our DNR permit. The parameters included in the scope of work provided for a channel that is now six feet deep, based on average water level, thirty feet wide, 100 feet long with a 6 to 1 horizontal to vertical ratio on the sides. In addition to the channel, we were also permitted to dredge to four feet for about 100 feet into Upper Whitefish Lake. The gradual 6 to 1 horizontal to vertical slope on the sides should allow for a viable channel for many years.

Thanks to all who contributed financially to this effort! We also owe a debt of gratitude to Dave and Dana Anderson who allowed access through their property to remove the spoils from the barges into dump trucks to then be removed from the area. Thanks also goes to the Campbells who allowed us to dump the spoils on their property.

We are ready for the 2022 boating season!







## News Around the Lake...

Welcome new neighbors:  
Don & Brenda McCormick  
(Silver Sands Road)

In Memoriam:  
Kay Emkovik  
Marilyn Wooldridge

## FOLH Board of Directors

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### Dave Topinka, Channel/1W1P

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