

**Proceedings of Great Lakes Dredging Team
Virtual Meeting (WebEx Conference Call)
July 14, 2009**

Welcome from GLDT Co-Chairs:

Scott Pickard, USACE, Buffalo District, Federal Co-chair

Gene Clark, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant, State Co-chair (not present)

Agenda Review

Primary objective: GLDT Membership recruitment and commitment.

- Meeting will be used as a spring board for committee work.
- Planning for in-person annual meeting in Green Bay, WI, October 15-16, 2009.

Participants

Jim Casey, IL; Jim Bredin, MI; Chris Antieau, MI; Larry Karnes, MI; Patricia Fowler, MN; John Watkins, OH; Lori Boughton, PA; Larry Kieck, WI; Bonnie Eleder, EPA; Marc Tuchman, EPA; Patricia Pechko, EPA; Todd Goeks, NOAA; Tim Cummins, USCG; Tom Hempfling, USACE-Division; Jan Miller, USACE-Division; Craig Forgette, USACE-Buffalo; Richard Price, USACE-ERDC.

From the Great Lakes Commission: Gary Overmeir, Tom Crane, Kathe Glassner-Shwayder, Dave Knight

Member Updates

Illinois: Jim Casey: nothing to report.

Michigan: Jim Bredin: nothing to report.

Minnesota: Patti Fowler: nothing to report.

New York: Need recruitment of new delegation.

Ohio: John Watkins: Interest in new CDF in downtown Toledo; opportunities exist for habitat restoration in Maumee Bay area coupled with regional sediment management. Dave K. reported that Pat Coyle, replacement at the Cleveland Cuyahoga County Port Authority for Steve Pfeiffer, is willing to be a new GLDT delegate.

Pennsylvania: Lori Boughton: Nothing new

Wisconsin: Larry Kieck: At the Port of Green Bay Harbor Assistance Grant money will support creation of barrier islands created from dredge materials to protect watershed.

- Dave: Is Green Bay being adequately dredged? Response: No problems at this point

US EPA Great Lakes National Program Office: Dr. Marc Tuchman:

- Great Lakes Legacy Program: 5 remediation programs in Great Lakes, including Kinnikinnick River in WI and Calumet River in IL.
- Great Lakes Legacy: Funded for \$37 million

US Coast Guard: Commander Cummins: Nothing to report

NOAA: Todd Goeks: Great Lakes Habitat: Funded under NOAA Omnibus: Hired Habitat Restoration specialists. Under ARRA (Stimulus Program) funded:

- Indiana Dunes:
- Milwaukee River project: Dam Removal in Ouzakee County
- Muskegon Project: Restore wetlands in AOC to restore beneficial use
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: Funding opportunities
- NOAA Omnibus: Open rivers funding
- Stimulus Money: Allocation for projects was not based on geographic basis ... Great Lakes region came up short in project funding.

Legislative Update: Jan Miller (USCOE)

Congressional Appropriations:

- Dredging funding (\$103 million)
- Replacement lock at Sault Ste. Marie (\$17 million)
- Stimulus Bill: \$73 million for dredging and breakwater repairs (Navigation)
- President's Budget:
 - House add for dredging work: A few \$ million for Lake Superior and \$7 million for Michigan harbors
- Concern for dredging funding into the future (?)

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative:

- Of \$411 million, much of money will go to non-federal partners via grants process
- Workshops to be held in July and August, one in each state and then large regional webcast
- EPA will release document that will discuss multi year program to be discussed at workshops.

GLRI allocations to USACE totaled \$46 million to be spent on dredging related activities.

- GLRI funding can be used by USCOE to dredge within federal channels to compliment sediment clean-up coordinated with Great Lakes Legacy Act (USEPA)
- Looking to states for input where this approach of synergy between enhanced navigation (USACE) that will complement sediment clean up (Great Lakes Legacy Act)
- Is this limited to federal navigational channel? Dredging work driven by prioritization in terms of navigational priorities and disposal capacity
- Partnership between USCOE and USEPA to get as much dredging accomplished as possible, need to consider if sediments are ok for open water disposal, if not, constraints for disposal.

Project on Grand Calumet River: The situation of multiple authorities needs to be overcome.

Strategic planning needed for contaminated sediment remediation across region (benefit cost analysis on benefits of remediation of contaminated sediments).

Lake Erie: USACE working with state of Ohio on island habitat restoration using dredged material. Limiting factor is requirement for non-federal cost share for dredging.

Near shore health: Funding in FY10 available for starting work in Green Bay on Cat Island construction if non-federal dollars available. This will help in dredge material management in Green Bay.

Legislative Update (Tuchman): House: Full \$475 million and Senate at (\$400 million) Senator Boxer, Chair of Senate Committee has been favorable for full \$475 million.

Water Resources Development Act: We may see activity in the fall, no language developed to date. Proposed language to change requirements to mine CDF facilities so capacity can be increased.

Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund is an issue that has yet to be addressed.

GLDT Work Plan: Administered by GLC

Element 1: Technical and Administrative Support

- Membership is priority: Committee plan is to get full participation of members

Element 2: Committee Development & Profiles

- Environmental Windows
- CDF Management
- Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials
- Open Lake Placement of Dredged Material (Proposed)

Action Item: Assign committee chairs and recruit members

Environmental Windows

- Risk adverse situations for dredging windows: Evaluate for impacts to fish biology: e.g., re-suspension of sediments and affects on fish spawning, including condition of eggs
- Do opportunities exist to open up windows season (springtime?)
- Big issue for Buffalo District

CDF Management

- Expensive to construct which require non-federal cost share
- Environmentally intrusive
- Issues related to capacity and management to minimize costs

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

- Pressure to be more innovative to find uses for dredge material
- Identify markets
- Specific criteria for use where permits required
- Generate a list for beneficial use projects that are shovel ready

Open-lake Placement of Dredged Material

- Supported by most states, opposed by a few
- What kind of science is lacking in terms of assessing impacts (both negative and positive)
- Federal guidelines are expected to change towards more conservative, need to consider how this meshes with state water quality standards
- Open lake placement located in areas where it is considered safe, need to consider capacity for material to be introduced into the water column
- Toledo Harbor: Concerns change over time
 - 1980s: oxygen, pH, phosphorus
 - Concern shift to resuspension of sediments
 - Algae blooms (cause and effect relationship)

Operation of GLDT Committees

- Staff support will be provided for the operation of each committee
- Each committee will establish specific goals with measurements of achievement,
- Schedule quarterly meetings
- Prepare reports for GLDT meetings
- Maintain web page

Scott: Other people outside the GLDT are encouraged to participate; state members to chair committees

Beneficial Use Testing Manual: Richard Price: USACE Engineer Research and Development Center

Beneficial Use Testing Manual

- Purpose: Environmental Enhancement
- Issues
 - Perceptions without scientific basis
 - Lack of clear regulatory guidance
 - Identify benefits and acceptable risks
 - Considerations in habitat restoration: Transport of invasive or detrimental biological species

Testing guidance for Environmental Suitability

Bottom Line: Any dredged material can be used beneficially: Money is the only limitation →
What is needed is:

- Proper selection of BU alternatives
- A thorough understanding of potential risks
- Willingness of stakeholders to share responsibility

Toledo Harbor Dredging Summit: Craig Forgette, USACE Buffalo District

- Listening to all stakeholders on dredging issues for Toledo Harbor, so they are heard and can be defined
- Timeframe: September 2009
 - How to address limitations on contractors
 - How to move forward on beneficial use
 - How achieve sediment reduction
 - How to minimize dredging impacts on ecosystem using environmental windows
 - Looking for outcomes and metric

Dave Knight: Broader implications for region, Committees should be aware of issues, particularly for open lake placement committee

Great Lakes Regional Sediment Management: Great Lakes Commission Staff

GLC will meet with states on web-based tool to facilitate marketing of dredge materials. Will also try to connect Dept. of Transportation personnel with port authorities.

Current RSM Program:

Task 1: Promote use of dredged material for Great Lakes habitat restoration: Link sediment availability with markets, identify examples from around the country, conduct outreach.

Task 2: Provide support for Toledo Dredging Summit, follow up with meetings/workshops to facilitate state participation from broad range of Ohio state agencies.

National Dredging Team Meeting

- Tracking system is being considered to track beneficial use of dredged material across country, which could be of value in measuring success, sharing ideas.
- Interest in environmental windows extends nationally; important survey being undertaken in the northeast.
- New leadership: Molly Madden is being replaced as the EPA's NDT facilitator.

Fall 2009 GLDT Meeting

- Site is Holiday Inn City Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin: Oct. 15-16, 2009
- Will work with Larry Kieck and Dean Haen at the Port of Green Bay on program and agenda.
- Field trips will be planned to demonstrate habitat restoration and other issues.

Action Items

- Advance GLDT committee development
 - solicit chairmanship nominees
 - recruit membership on committees
- Confirm/recruit members on GLDT:
 - New York State position needs to be filled.
- Establish ad hoc committee to address collaboration of USCOE and USEPA on dredging of navigational channels and remediating contaminated sediments.
- Develop agenda for Green Bay meeting.