



**Great Lakes Dredging Team
Meeting Summary
June 29, 2005
Omni Hotel, Chicago**

Attendees

Name	Affiliation
Victoria Pebbles	Great Lakes Commission
Dave Knight	Great Lakes Commission
Becky Lameka	Great Lakes Commission
James Casey	Office of Water Resources, IL DNR
Ray Skelton (via conference call)	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
James Weakley (via conference call)	Lake Carriers' Association
Steve Holland (via conference call—state caucus only)	Office of Coastal Management, ODNR
Doug Pomorski	Erie Western PA Port Authority
Donald Benzckowski (via conf. call—state caucus only)	Office of the Great Lakes, PA DEP
William Fitzpatrick (via conf. call—state caucus only)	WI DNR
Larry Kieck	Bureau of Railroads and Harbors, WI DOT
Jan Miller	USACE, Chicago District
Wayne Schloop	USACE, Detroit District
Bonnie Eleder	U.S. EPA, Region 5
Mary Knapp	U.S. FWS
Captain Randy Helland	U.S. Coast Guard
Scott Pickard	USACE, Detroit District
Lynn Martin	USACE, Institute for Water Resources
J. Todd Goeks	Office of Response and Restoration, NOAA
Linda M. Sorn	USACE, Chicago District
Shamel Abou-El-Seoud	USACE, Chicago District
Dave Cowgill	U.S. EPA
Randy Bournique	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Gene Clark	UW-Sea Grant; Duluth-Superior HTAC
Don Wadleigh	3545 Consulting, Inc.
Doris Bautch	MARAD
Tracy Ford	MARAD
Col. Gary Johnston	USACE, Chicago District

State Caucus Meeting

Five of the 8 states were represented at the state caucus meeting. Participating state representatives included:

- Ray Skelton (MN)
- Jim Weakley (OH)
- Don Benzckowski (PA)

- Steve Holland (OH)
- Doug Pomorski (PA)
- Jim Casey (IL)
- Larry Kieck (WI)

The purpose of the state caucus meeting is to provide states a forum to discuss state-federal relationships and advocacy priorities.

Mike Peloquin, the state co-chair representing Minnesota, was unable to make the GLDT meeting. Jim Casey was acting co-chair for the meeting.

Jim Weakley, representing Ohio, noted that the Great Lakes states were not successful in getting additional funding in the FY06 federal budget for dredging. For instance, the Detroit District has a \$130 million backlog of dredging work. The president's budget can be assessed using the "capability" concept. The Detroit District can spend billions of dollars at full capability. The president's budget funds the Detroit District at 70% of its capability and the Great Lakes system at 49% of the regional capability. The FY05 funded the Great Lakes region at 15% of its capability and 20% the year before. He would like to be more focused next year. Caucus members supported the need for the GLDT be engaged early on with the Corps' budget development process which informs the President's budget. Jim Weakley and Ray Skelton agreed to work with Dave Knight to lead efforts to identify opportunities early on in the budget development process to provide input into the Corps's development of priorities for FY07.

State Caucus Action Items:

- **Commission staff will coordinate a GLDT conference call in the fall focusing on the Corps's FY07 internal budget priority-setting.**
- **Jim Weakley will develop a strawman process for state caucus advocacy efforts regarding O&M funding**
- **Commission staff will convene a state caucus conference call in the 2nd or 3rd week of February to discuss prioritization vis-à-vis the President's budget.**

The State Caucus also needs better information about Corps dredging activities so they can better articulate their case to Congress.

The relationship between reductions in O&M which compromises commercial navigation and resultant lack of funding for recreation harbors was raised. One suggestion to end the tension between commercial and recreational funding is to establish a Revolving Fund line item of several million dollars for recreation harbors in the O&M budget.

State Caucus Action Items:

- **The GLC Staff will draft a resolution to support the maintenance of recreation harbors to be reviewed by the State Caucus prior to the GLC meeting in Sept. 05.**

- **GLC staff will work with the membership to present the resolution for adoption at the September, 05 meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan.**

Full GLDT Meeting

Roundtable Updates

Jan Miller, USACE Chicago District, would like to see the GLDT re-energized, particularly through the state caucus and the GLC as a regional advocate for maritime issues. He proposed to convene a meeting in Ann Arbor to discuss a regional navigation strategy and advocacy issues that will inform the Great Lakes Commission's reorganization process, among other things. He noted a "gap in advocacy for Great Lakes navigation," including both commercial and recreational. Early August would be a good time to start a dialogue with the Great Lakes mayors, Council of Great Lakes Governors, etc.

Scott Pickard, USACE Buffalo District, reported on the activities initially coordinated as part of the Windows advisory Team. A study to characterize sediment plumes from Toledo Harbor Dredging Ohio is being pursued.

Lynn Martin, USACE, Institute of Water Resources, is interested in ideas to engage the GLDT stakeholders into regional sediment management efforts.

Mary Knapp, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, reported that her agency is involved in a project looking at habitat restoration units for Toledo Harbor.

Doug Pomorski, representing Pennsylvania, reported that the Erie Port Authority is involved in a project to reclaim a portion of the CDF as a camp site.

Todd Goeks, NOAA, Office of Response and Restoration, reported that that the Great Lakes Habitat Initiative is in the president's budget for FY06, funded at \$1.5 million and that NOAA is looking for opportunities to partner with other federal agencies on delisting AOCs.

Colonel Johnston, USACE Chicago District, raised a comment that innovative ways to manage CDFs need to be explored. Future issues that the Corps must face concern navigation structure repairs (e.g., breakwaters and piers) which will divert funds away from dredging, homeland security response, and the development of a Corps 5-year plan for O&M.

Shamel Abou-El-Seoud, USACE Chicago District, reported that the Calumet Harbor CDF is 90% full. He suggested that the GLDT look into how its capacity can be expanded such as using the sediment beneficially after cleaning it.

In the Duluth Superior harbor, current priorities have included the Hog Island cleanup project under the Legacy Act and the continued reuse of dredged material since the Erie Pier CDF is full.

J. Miller noted that the Corps does not have an official policy on how to allocate costs when mining material from a CDF. The Division has asked headquarters for guidance on this issue, but none has been issued to date.

New members to the GLDT include:

- Tom McAuslan representing New York
- Doug Pomorski, representing Pennsylvania
- David Mackey, representing Ohio

Congressional Activity Update

Jan Miller reported on WRDA reauthorization language of interest to the GLDT, including:

- Beneficial use of dredged material
- Small projects for navigation (Sec 107)
- Dredged material disposal (Sec 217)
- Soo Replacement Lock
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Regarding Energy & Water Appropriations, Miller noted that appropriations bills had passed in both the House and Senate, with major differences on reprogramming and project adds. Great Lakes programs are cut across the board and the trend in decreasing funding for O&M continues. Colonel Johnston suggested that region should develop a plan if the WRDA bill does not pass. For more detail on this update, please see the Congressional Activity Update presentation on the GLDT web site at www.glc.org/scoop.

USACE Operations & Maintenance Budget

Wayne Schloop, USACE Detroit District, highlighted two challenges for the region given O&M budgets for FY05 and FY06:

- Managing harbor maintenance in the context of the Great Lakes system and not just individual projects
- Maintaining/repair aging harbor structures

In the FY05 budget, 5 recreation harbors received funds for dredging. Because of a lack of CDF capacity and funding, a total of 1.9 million cubic yards will be dredged, representing about half of materials usually dredged each year.

The FY06 budget contains no funding for recreation harbors. A total of 2.4 million cubic yards will be dredged. 40% of the materials will nourish beaches, and 55 % will go into CDFs.

A relatively new approach by the Corps in its budget development process is the use of performance metrics to determine which harbors will be funded. In general, the federal government has not regarded recreation harbors as a benefit that merits a federal interest. The performance metrics include:

- Benefits/Costs Ratio (BCR)
- System Ton-miles – This metric is calculated by multiplying the total tons by the total distance from origin to destination. Current performance metrics require low-use ports to support 1 million tons of commerce to qualify for dredging.

Specific Great Lakes dynamics are not recognized in these metrics, and therefore the GLDT should promote and package the regional needs as a system. It should be noted that the communities with ports in the less than 1 million-ton category are very reliant on water transport to support local industries.

For the FY07 budget, the Corp is also looking at the cost per ton as a metric. Priority will be given to harbors that have costs at or below \$2 per ton (an average over five years). Other indicators include commercial fishing, public transport, public safety and investment return.

Funding recreation harbors through Congressional adds is not sustainable. For \$3 million a year, the Corps could take care of the most pressing maintenance needs. Schloop emphasized the importance of being able to articulate to Congress the region's needs as a system well in advance, since budgetary priorities are usually established 2-years before project work actually occurs. He also noted the challenge in getting Congress to see and thereby address the system as a whole rather than a series of separate projects.

For more detail on this session, please see the O&M Budget presentation on the GLDT web site at www.glc.org/scoop.

Great Lakes Recreational Boating Economic Impact Study

Dave Knight, Great Lakes Commission, reported that the Great Lakes Recreational Boating Economic Impact Study is undergoing review at the Corps. The second phase of the study will focus on the developing an economic assessment tool for planning marinas.

For more detail on this session, please see the Great Lakes Recreational Boating Impact Study presentation on the GLDT web site at www.glc.org/scoop.

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

Jan Miller briefly described the status of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. The collaboration produced a draft document which is currently under public review. The draft report Sustainable Development Strategy Team, one of 8 such teams under the Collaboration, highlighted the GLDT as an example of an effective regional partnership in promoting sustainable development, particularly as it pertains to balancing the region's needs for commercial and recreational navigation infrastructure and environmental protection. He noted that the draft strategy to be released on July 8 would undergo a 60 day public review period during which 5 public meetings will be held, and **encouraged all GLDT member organizations/agencies to review and comment on the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration documents**. The draft strategy team reports are online at: <http://www.glrc.us/>

Outreach Activities Report

Bonnie Eleder, U.S. EPA, and Victoria Pebbles, Great Lakes Commission summarized the major points from the National Dredging Team (NDT) meeting in Annapolis, Maryland. They noted that the GLDT is no longer the model team for the nation. The subsequent NDT conference call resulted in a few decisions; the NDT should have quarterly conference calls and annual meeting that would rotate around the country.

Action Item: At the next GLDT meeting/conference call, GLDT co-chairs will designate a liaison to follow the NDT meetings and report back to the GLDT.

They also discussed the activities of the Mineland Reclamation Workgroup. The workgroup assisted in the planning of this GLDT meeting. The meeting is piggy-backed to the Water Environment Federation's Residual Material Symposium. The idea is to facilitate networking among GLDT members and the residual materials community. Per full GLDT endorsement, the activities of the Mineland Reclamation workgroup will continue. The workgroup should be renamed, however, to reflect its expanded approach to cover a larger array of beneficial uses. Eleder volunteered to chair the workgroup since former workgroup chair Don Wadleigh has since retired.

Action Item: Bonnie Eleder will email GLDT to confirm membership and solicit ideas for and establish new workgroup name.

Case Studies

David Knight and Becky Lameka, Great Lakes Commission presented the following case studies: Open Water Disposal on the Great Lakes, Peoria Lakes to Chicago Beneficial Use and Making Topsoil in Grand Haven, Michigan. These presentations summarized the hardcopy papers distributed to the GLDT members before the meeting. Members are encouraged to submit written comments to GLC Staff by July 19.

On the open lake disposal case studies, several members noted that it was a helpful document to understand regional policy discrepancies. Some brief discussion ensued about the differences among state regulations in classification of dredged material and in-water disposal and beach/littoral nourishment.

Action Item: Team members will email comments to staff on the three case studies by July 19.

Great Lakes Dredging Issue: Toledo Harbor Dredging Negotiations

Scott Pickard, USACE Buffalo District, and Randy Bournique, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), discussed the historical context of the Toledo Harbor dredging management. OEPA wanted to kick start the implementation of the Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP) and increase the beneficial use of dredged materials through the 401 water quality certification process. This ultimately resulted in a legal challenge, and a negotiated settlement is pending. This settlement will likely see decreased open water disposal and increased beneficial use over time for the Toledo Harbor sediments.

Regional Sediment Management and Beneficial Use: Opportunities for the Great Lakes

Lynn Martin, USACE Institute for Water Resources, gave an overview of the regional sediment management activities nationwide. She defined the regional sediment management approach as integrated management in the context of the sediment system with long-term implications in mind. The “sediment-shed” approach refers to the larger scale context for project-scale decision. These decisions are determined by the sources and sinks of the sediment system. The development of a sediment budget (not fiscal but physical) is important to this process.

For more detail on this session, please see the Regional Sediment Management & Beneficial Use presentation on the GLDT web site at www.glc.org/scoop.

Great Lakes Legacy Act Update

Dave Cowgill, U.S. EPA, GLNPO reported that Congress funded the Legacy Act by \$22 million for FY05. President Bush requested \$50 million in FY06 for the Legacy Act, more than double the level funded by Congress in FY05.

The Big Picture of Beneficial Use

Cindy Drill, Great Lakes By-Products Management Association, was invited to speak about the work of her association. However, she did not arrive to the meeting due to travel complications. Her presentation is posted on the GLDT web site at www.glc.org/scoop.

Selection of State Co-chair

Mike Peloquin the state co-chair, has been promoted and will no longer be a GLDT member. GLC Staff will work with its Minnesota delegation to find a new representative. Ray Skelton, also representing Minnesota, will give Victoria Pebbles, Great Lakes Commission, a few recommendations.

Jim Weakley was selected state co-chair for GLDT.

The GLDT Charter does not specify terms of service for the co-chairs. V. Pebbles suggested that it be a two year term and that the GLDT charter was up for review in 2001 and the co-chair terms could be addressed in an updated charter.

<p>Action Item: Staff and co-chairs will initiate review of GLDT Charter and discuss present it to the full GLDT for review and approval during next conference call/meeting.</p>
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Date and Location of the Next Meeting

The next in-person meeting will be in the spring '06. It was recommended that if possible, it be held in conjunction with the Great Lakes Commission's semi-annual meeting.