



## Great Lakes Dredging Team Conference Summary July 31, 2004

### Participants

Name	Affiliation
Victoria Pebbles	Great Lakes Commission
Dave Knight	Great Lakes Commission
Becky Lameda	Great Lakes Commission
Stephen Pfeiffer	Cleveland Port Authority
Bonnie Eleder	U.S. EPA
Larry Kieck	Wisconsin DOT
Floyd Miras	U.S. Maritime Admin/DOT
Doris Bautch	MARAD
Doug Clarke	USACE, Environmental Lab
Don Wadleigh	USACE - Chicago
Jen Lawton	NOAA
Steve West	Indiana DEM
Jan Miller	USACE,LRD
Jim Bredin	Michigan DEQ
Larry Karnes	Michigan DOT
Bill Fitzpatrick	Wisconsin DNR
Bill Harder	USACE-Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

### Windows Update

Dave Knight reporting that 3 to 4 days of field monitoring of the dredging plume in Maumee Bay is planned for sometime in August in conjunction with dredging activities. The results of the monitoring will be very useful for evaluating impacts on local natural resources, particularly fisheries, during dredging activities and in establishing environmental windows.

### Recreational Boating Study

Dave Knight updated the team on the recreational boating study being conducted by the Great Lakes Commission under contract to the Corps. Michigan State University, a project partner, is conducting a survey using innovative polling methods, which have been demonstrated to be highly effective. GLC staff are compiling data on the status of recreational harbors and their dredging needs. The study will also include selected case studies, information on commercial and government small craft sector. A draft study will be prepared for the Corps early in the fall.

### **WRDA Update**

Jan Miller provided an update on Congressional activities for WRDA. There has been no formal action in the Senate, but language has been developed by the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure (of the Committee on Environment and Public Works), which has been shared with the Corps. The Senate language is contained in bill S. 2554 Section 3302. The major difference between the Senate proposed language and that passed by the House is that the Senate's version combines beneficial use and regional sediment management under a single authority and establishes a framework for regional sediment management of which beneficial use is a part. In addition to aquatic habitat, the Senate bill would expand allowable beneficial uses to include those that are identified in a regional sediment management plan or *"for use in the construction, repair, or rehabilitation of projects associated with navigation, flood damage reduction, hydroelectric power, municipal and industrial water supply, agricultural water supply, recreation, hurricane and storm damage reduction, aquatic plant control, and environmental protection and restoration."* The Senate language appears to allow for uses flexibility for upland uses so long as they are part of a regional sediment management plan.

Other provisions of interest to the team are a new CAP authority for lowhead dams, which allows dam removal for habitat restoration that is not required to be part of a federal navigation project.

### **Upland Testing and Evaluation Framework**

Victoria Pebbles informed the team that a second edition of the Upland Testing and Evaluation Framework would be released later in the summer. Multiple additional copies will be distributed to GLDT members and the Project Management Team for distribution within their respective agency/jurisdiction. The Commission did not receive additional funding from USEPA to do outreach for the framework. It was suggested that the Commission staff discuss possible outreach opportunities with the Buffalo District (not present on the call).

***Action: GLC staff to follow up with Buffalo District to explore outreach opportunities.***

### **Mineland Reclamation and Beneficial Use**

V. Pebbles informed the team about a study conducted by Clean Ocean and Shore Trust (COAST) that analyzed geospatial data on abandoned coal mines, dredging sites and railroads to identify potential opportunities to use dredged material for mineland reclamation. [Exploring linkages between mineland reclamation and beneficial use of dredged material--see

Environmental Management, vol. 32, No 4, pp. 527-534, online at <http://springerlink.metapress.com/openurl.asp?genre=journal&issn=0364-152X>

The lead author of the article (A. Voros) was a key player in the Bark Camp (PA) mineland reclamation project and is interested in discussing what more might be done in the Great Lakes through a workshop or conference. The team was receptive to the idea and noted that it would be important to ensure that rail interests were included along with dredged material managers and abandoned mineland reclamation managers. J. Miller suggested that this is something the DOTS program would be interested in supporting. A workgroup was formed to further explore this issue and help prepare a proposal that could be presented to DOTS. Members of the workgroup include:

- Don Wadleigh (proposed workgroup chair)
- Larry Karnes
- Bonnie Eleder
- Larry Kieck
- Mike Peloquin
- Steve Pfeiffer

***Action: V. Pebbles will work with D. Wadleigh to organize a conference call for the workgroup and Mr. Voros of COAST in the near future.***

#### **Additional Discussion Items**

- In response to an inquiry about the last meeting summary action item regarding prioritizing Corps dredging projects, Bill Harder clarified that the GLDT would be most helpful in guiding long term opportunities for improving dredging operations and dredged material management.
- Doris Bautch noted the release of the President's Executive Order in May establishing an Interagency Great Lakes Task Force (<http://www.great-lakes.net/lists/glin-announce/2004-05/msg00028.htm>).
- Also in follow up to the last meeting summary, staff clarified that advocacy letters on behalf of the state caucus would be sent to the caucus for review prior to being sent.

#### **Next GLDT Conference Call**

Staff reminded the team that the next in person meeting would be held in the spring. Several dates were discussed for a fall conference call and mid-October and early November were general time frames agreed upon for the next call.

***Action Item: GLC staff will circulate an email to confirm the date for the next GLDT conference call.***

