

**Great Lakes Dredging Team
Meeting Summary and Action Items
May 8-9 2003
Michigan City, Indiana**

Bill Harder	USACE Cincinnati
Don Wadleigh	USACE Chicago District
Bill O'Donoghue	USACE Detroit District
Paul Schroeder	USACE ERDC
Rich Weber	Montgomery Watson Harza
Jim Casey	IL DNR
Jen Lawton	NOAA
Scott Pickard	USACE Buffalo District
Rachel Adams	USEPA (National Dredging Team)
Dave Cowgill	USEPA
Steve West	Indiana Dept of Environmental Management
Jan Miller	USACE Great Lakes Ohio River Division
Rich Greenwood	USFWS
Victoria Pebbles	Great Lakes Commission
Frank Kudrna	Great Lakes Commission (Illinois Delegation)
Additional Participants During Day 2 Conference Call	
Julianna Cruz	MARAD
Larry Karnes	Michigan DOT
Ray Skelton	Duluth Seaway Port Authority

DAY 1

Legislative Update

Jan Miller provided an update of federal appropriations and WRDA. The Administration's

budget request is significantly lower than FY03 and proposes no new starts in '04. The President's budget includes \$68 million for O&M, \$552 K for environmental dredging and \$1million for tributary modeling.

The issue of Corps reform, which brought WRDA reauthorization to a halt last session is still a major obstacle. The House is likely to take up WRDA this session. Beneficial use language will need to be advanced again; cannot assume bill will be the same as last year.

CDF Report to Congress

The final draft is being prepared for agency review, but the review timeline is indefinite. As a result, the report may be distributed in draft. No money is available for printing, so it will be available electronically (via the Web) only.

Great Lakes Tributary Modeling Project

J. Miller provided an update on the Great Lakes Tributary Modeling Project, which has conducted initial scoping for 3 tributaries, and another 6 tributaries are under development. The models identify erosion sources and rates and can be used for watershed planning. It was suggested that tributary modeling results could be incorporated into DMMPs and that the modeling effort could identify priority tributaries that might be eligible for conservation assistance through the Farm Bill. It was also suggested that the **next GLDT conference call or meeting offer a briefing on the Farm Bill provisions that relate to soil erosion and sediment control and other conservation activities that might ultimately reduce dredging needs.**

Great Lakes Legacy Act

Dave Cowgill of USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office provided a detailed briefing on the Great Lakes Legacy Act, including eligible projects, funding priorities and limitations, and the research and public information programs. The presentation is available online via the GLDT "scoop" page at <http://www.glc.org/dredging/scoop/scoop.html>. Dave indicated that USEPA could benefit from GLDT input on Legacy Act implementation, including priority projects. There was also considerable discussion about the potential for a GLDT role in the Legacy Act Public Information Program. However, the Public Information program has received no money in this year's Administration budget. There was also a suggestion that the Great Lakes Commission help to ensure that Legacy Act implementation is consistent with priorities identified under the Great Lakes Restoration Plan, which is under development. This discussion was revisited on Day 2 of the meeting, but no decision was made on the GLDT role and it was decided to discuss it further during the next GLDT conference call.

Action: Discuss GLDT Role in Great Lakes Legacy Act Implementation during next GLDT call. Explore options for advancing remediation technologies in the Great Lakes

Canadian Involvement in GLDT

J. Miller and Victoria Pebbles briefed the GLDT on efforts to follow up on a recommendation in the IJC 11th Biennial Report to expand the GLDT to include Canadian membership. A conference call was held with IJC staff, Commission staff, GLDT co-chairs and Environment Canada to explore this issue. One key issue in Canada is the privatization of ports and harbors. It was decided that Environment Canada (Murray Brooksbank) will compile a list of potentially interested parties and the GLC will draft a letter that describes the GLDT goals, objectives, organization, and level of membership commitment and seek feedback on level of interest.

Environmental Windows

Julianna Cruz (MARAD), Steve Thorp (GLC) and Doug Clark (USACE, WES) joined the GLDT via conference call for this segment of the program. S. Thorp provided an overview of The Windows Advisory Team (WAT) goals and objectives and status of activities. With little funding, no major products have been completed. The group has, however, identified 3 indicator species. It is anticipated that the WAT will develop papers discussing each of these species with respect to their life history and vulnerabilities to dredging operations during the summer of 2003. These papers will also identify research and monitoring needs for the three species. WES commented that they are looking to do field and lab work in support of the WAT and indicated a desire to tie field work into the dredging schedule for Toledo Harbor. There is some money available through the DOER program to do lab work, but the Corps would need some outside support to do the field research.

Corps Dredging Projects

Bill Harder provided an update on dredging projects in the Great Lakes, including funding levels, geographic distribution of projects for FY 02 and 03 and a lake by lake breakdown. In FY02 there were 26 projects—19 deep draft and 7 shallow draft that dredged over 2 million cubic yards of material from Great Lakes navigation channels, ports and harbors. There was a \$10.8 million shortfall in FY02. In FY03, 19 dredging projects are anticipated in four of the five Great Lakes (no dredging in FY02 or 03 for Lake Ontario). Harder noted that all of the lakes were below average in April 2002—from 3 inches in L. Superior to 12 inches in Lake St. Clair. Section 343 of WRDA authorizes dredging overdepth (beyond authorized depths) if lake levels fall below Low Water Datum. Other key points were that Great Lakes dredging is more expensive than dredging in other parts of the country due to lower volumes per project, fewer dredging contractors and increased mobilization costs. Bill distributed a table entitled **“Continuous Update of Great Lakes Dredging Projects” that includes project location, last year dredged, cubic yards, funding, and Corps District. It was suggested that columns be added material destination/management and environmental windows that could be placed on the GLDT web site.** There was some discussion on the need/desire for the GLDT to develop more case studies that demonstrate successful dredging projects or dredged material management. It was

pointed out that the GLDT web site already features five such case studies. GLDT members agreed that 3-4 new case studies would be useful. **Suggested case studies include: Michigan City Trail Creek, Indiana Harbor, Illinois (TBA) and CDF reuse in Cleveland (Dike 14).**

Action: GLDT members are to take the lead in drafting the case studies. GLC staff will work with GLDT members and other relevant contacts to edit and publish the case studies online. If your jurisdiction was identified for a case study, please contact GLC staff to help coordinate.

Upland Testing and Evaluation Project

V. Pebbles provided an update of the Upland Testing and Evaluation Project, for which the GLDT serves as an Advisory Committee. The project is being supported with funds from USEPA-GLNPO with in-kind support from the Corps and Great Lakes States. The project will produce an annotated bibliography and detailed briefing paper on the topic of testing and evaluating dredged material **for beneficial uses in upland environments**. The presentation is available online via the GLDT “scoop” page at <http://www.glc.org/dredging/scoop/scoop.html>.

Upland Testing Manual

Paul Schroeder of the Corps Waterways Experiment Station offered a presentation on the new Upland Testing Manual. This manual is designed to assist with testing **for placement of dredged material in upland CDFs**, not for beneficial use. However, many of the evaluation procedures and testing methods will be useful for the Upland Testing and Evaluation project. The document is available online at: <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/dots/guidance.html>.

U.S. Steel Presentation

Rick Menozzi of U.S. Steel provided a detailed presentation of the remediation dredging that U.S. Steel is undertaking on the Grand Calumet River. The project is featured online at <http://www.ussteel.com/corp/rcra/index.htm>.

DAY 2

Day One Recap and Updates

Conference call participation was made available, but few GLDT members took advantage of this option. Videoconferencing was suggested as another option given many state travel restrictions. GLNPO and USFWS both offered their offices to host a GLDT videoconference.

State Membership: Ohio needs a transportation rep; Indiana needs a second rep; Illinois needs

an ILEPA rep.

Indiana Harbor dredging project is underway. 4.7 million cubic yards is planned to go to a nearby CDF. There is large public opposition. The CDF is being constructed on a former oil refinery, which is considered a brownfield. There is a proposal to create upstream sediment traps on Trail Creek that could be used to trap clean fill for industrial/commercial uses. Similar to Erie Pier, the Port Authority is looking at setting up a permanent dewatering site to support this activity as part of the Michigan City DMMP.

Michigan has an interagency review committee that meets twice a year and reviews Corps' projects. The Corps is developing a DMMP for Saginaw River and looking to secure a longterm facility at St. Joseph harbor. State fuel taxes fund a portion of the state's dredging budget.

USFWS: Island conservation, landscape level GIS and lake sturgeon are 3 priorities of the USFWS Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team. USFWS is also interested in beneficial use of dredged material where it involves habitat creation/enhancement. GLDT members asked Rich to identify locales where island restoration and habitat creation/enhancement (e.g., beach nourishment) is needed or desired. USFWS also developed a decision support system (DSS) model for the Upper Mississippi dredged material management.

Action: Arrange for a USFWS presentation on the Upper Mississippi DSS for dredged material management at the next GLDT meeting.

National Dredging Team is developing a dredged material management action agenda for NDT members; undertaking effort to combine inland testing manual and ocean testing manual.

Buffalo District may not dredge Toledo this year due to a 401 certification issue. One third of the CDF in Erie, PA has been turned over to the Port Authority for a campground.

Observer Comments

Rich Webber of Montgomery Watson Harza, a consulting firm, described their alliance with BioGenesis Enterprises to engage in sediment remediation projects around the world. He described a pilot test in Venice Italy, an ex-situ remediation project in Hong Kong and the first full-scale sediment treatment and beneficial use facility in Kearny Point, New Jersey. The Kearny Point facility is specially designed to treat fine-grained harbor sediment and will treat PCBs, metals, furans, dioxins and PAHs among other contaminants. More information about their products and services is available online at www.biogenesis.com.

Action: Determine time and date of next conference call or meeting.