

Small Commercial/Recreational Harbor Challenges at Washington Island, Wisconsin

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*2013 Midwest Chapter Meeting Midwest Dredging:
Successes and Challenges*

Small Commercial/Recreational Harbor Challenges at Washington Island, Wisconsin

There are 112 Federal Harbors on the Great Lakes

Recreation Harbors contribute \$5.5 billion annually and 60,000 jobs



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15 commercial ports in Wisconsin

- ▶ 11,000 jobs
- ▶ Economic impact of \$1.3 billion
- ▶ \$277 million wages, salaries, proprietor income

“Wisconsin's harbors and ports serve as hubs of economic activity for manufacturing, ship-building, cargo handling, passenger ferry services, transportation logistics, commercial fishing, and as recreational centers.”



Small Commercial/Recreational Harbor Challenges at Washington Island, Wisconsin

Problems....

- ❖ Resources
 - ▶ Personnel
 - ▶ Funding
- ❖ Political Bravery
- ❖ Contaminated Sediment
- ❖ Community Expectations
- ❖ Lack of Planning
- ❖ Environmental



Small Commercial/Recreational Harbor Challenges at Washington Island, Wisconsin

❖ Federal Funding

- ▶ Massive backlog of dredging and repair needs
- ▶ Priority Harbors
- ▶ Areas of Concern
- ▶ Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund

❖ State Funding

❖ Private Sponsorship

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Project Site
Washington Island
“Deaths Door off the
Tip of Door County”



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Washington Island Channel Existing Conditions:

- ❖ Federally Authorized Channel
- ❖ USACE Construction 1939
- ❖ -14 feet Below LWD
- ❖ 150' Wide
- ❖ 4,000' Long



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Washington Island Ferry Service

- ❖ Provides Year Round Daily Connection
- ❖ 84,000 Tourists Annually
- ❖ Operates in all Weather Conditions
- ❖ Cargo to/from Island
(tourists/residents/mail/grain/fish/timber/produce)



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Washington Island Challenges:

- ❖ Viable Navigational Channel
- ❖ Ferry Line Needs
- ❖ Community Expectations
- ❖ Dropping Water Levels
- ❖ Weather



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Washington Island Challenges Cont:

- ❖ Size of Project
- ❖ Project Funding



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Washington Island Target Conditions:

- ❖ Viable Navigational Channel
- ❖ Depth to -17' Below LWD
- ❖ Widen Channel to 170'
- ❖ Maintain the 4,000' length



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Design for Dredging:

- ❖ Hydrographic Survey October 2011
- ❖ Sediment Characterization
Completed January 2013
- ❖ Dredge Design Winter 2013
- ❖ Project Bid April 2013

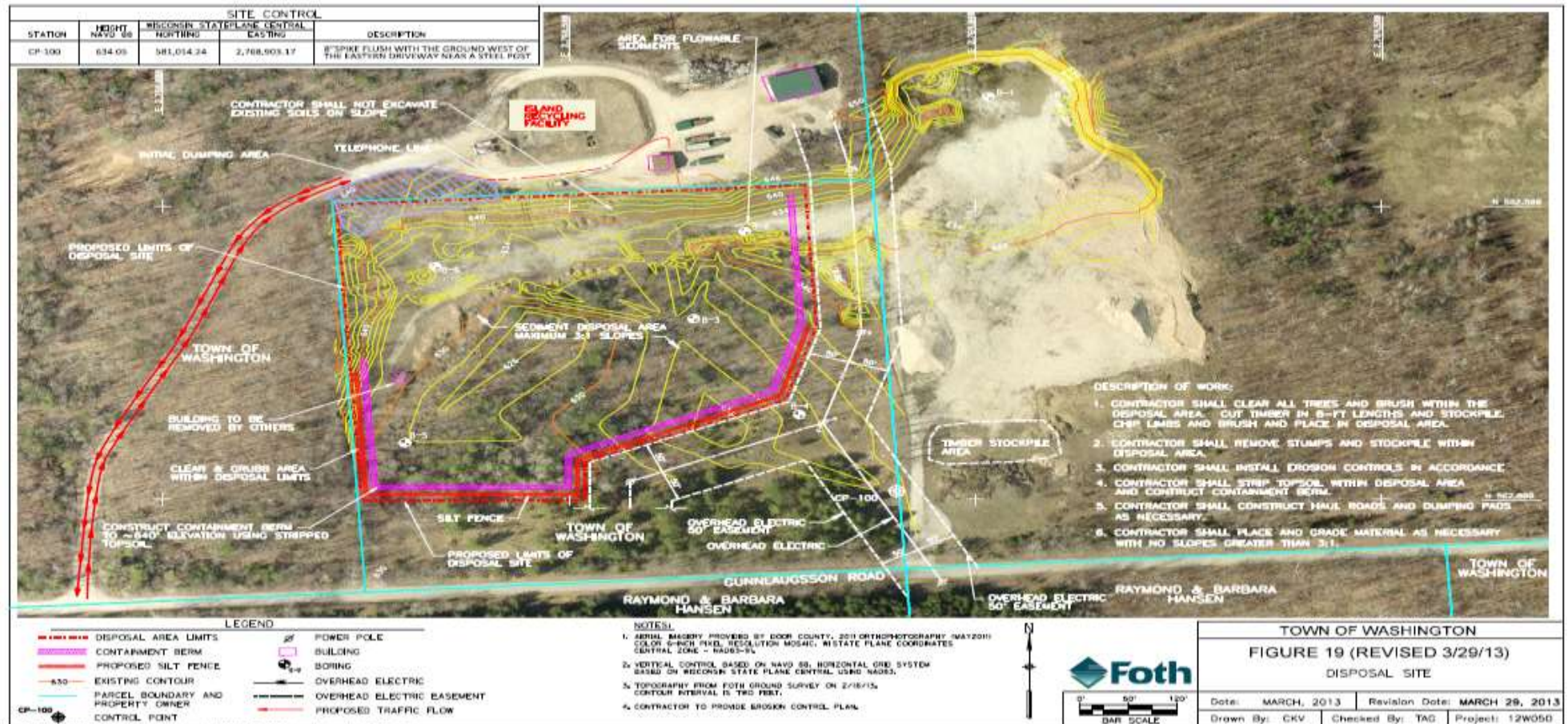


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Washington Island Solutions:

- ❖ Engaged State Politicians
- ❖ Secured Funding through State Program
- ❖ Federal Navigational Channel
- ❖ Sediment Disposal

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Summary;

- ❖ Funding – Creativity (Feds; \$31 mil in 2013)
- ❖ Political Bravery – Planning
- ❖ Community Expectations - Public In-Put
- ❖ Dredged Sediments – Material Disposal and Beneficial Re-Use
- ❖ Environmental - Do the Homework



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