



**INFRASTRUCTURE  
ALTERNATIVES, INC.**

# 2022 WEDA MIDWEST CHAPTER MEETING

## Safety Panel Discussion

CLEAN WATER SOLUTIONS



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# PANELISTS

- Taylor Luke, L.S. Marine \*2019 MV-AGC St. Paul District Safety Award Winner
- Stan Ekren, Vice President, Rivers & Lakes Manager, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company \*2021 WEDA Safety Contractor Award Winner
- Michael Cerda, CHST/Regional Safety Manager, JF Brennan Co, Inc \*WEDA Safety Contractor Award Winner



# Taylor Luke



## BACKGROUND

- Established in 1985
- Marine Construction with Mechanical Dredging Emphasis
- Contracted by St. Paul District Army Corps of Engineers for Channel Maintenance Dredging
- SBA Certified Small Business

## RECENT SAFETY RECOGNITION

- **2018 Superior Safety Performance**  
AGC – Mississippi Valley Branch
- **2016 Superior Safety Performance**  
AGC – Mississippi Valley Branch
- **2016 Regional Safety Award, St. Paul District Corps of Engineers**  
AGC – Mississippi Valley Branch





# Stan Ekren

## Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company, LLC *(Since 1890)*



**Resent Safety Award**  
**Western Dredging Association**  
**2021 Annual**  
**Safety Excellence Award**  
**For a Dredging Contractor**

### HISTORY

- Over 39 Years of dredging experience
- Completed projects in 23 COE Districts & International Work
- Owned/Operated a S.B. Dredging Company
- Project types include:
  - Navigation Maint. & Deepening
  - Beach & Marsh Restoration
  - Reservoir Sediment Removal
  - Environmental Dredging







# Mike Cerda, CHST

## J.F. Brennan Company, Inc.



### Background

- 17 Years in the safety field
- 7 Years working at Brennan as a Regional Safety Manager
- Environmental Dredging Experience
  - Fox River Remediation Project OU2-5
  - Ashland Harbor Remediation Project
  - Grasse River Remediation Project

### Recent Safety Awards

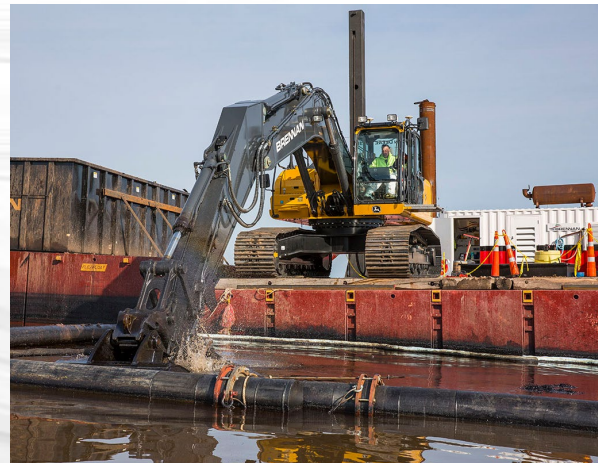
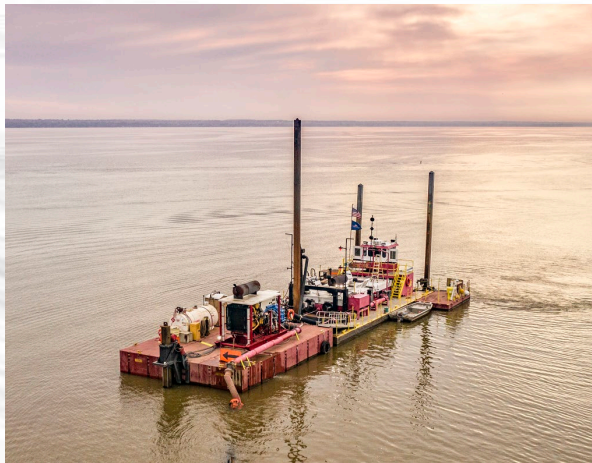
- **2020 Superior Safety Performance**, Association of General Contractors of America, Inc. (AGC)—Mississippi Valley Branch
- **2017 WEDA Annual Safety Excellence Award** for Dredging Contractor



ISO 9001  
Quality  
Management  
Systems  
CERTIFIED

ISO 14001  
Environmental  
Management  
CERTIFIED

ISO 45001  
Occupational  
Health and Safety  
Management  
CERTIFIED



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# AGENDA

- What are some of the “little” things any contractor can do to take the first steps towards organizational safety culture? (Taylor Luke)
- Organizations with established safety cultures sometimes look for the next incremental improvement. Is this best accomplished by corporate leadership or project staff collaboration? (Stan Ekren)





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# AGENDA

- Every project presents site specific challenges. How have pre-construction planning and engineered controls evolved in your organization? (Michael Cerda)
- Most US dredge contractors operate primarily within the requirements of USACE EM 385-1-1 Safety and Health Requirements Manual. The current manual was published in 2014. What are some of the meaningful improvements you see within your organization in the intervening 7 years since last publication? (Panel)



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# ADDITIONAL TOPICS, AS TIME ALLOWS

- What do you see as the lasting legacy of the pandemic on Industry Safety Culture if/when it is behind us?
- National Underwater Utility Pipeline Safety Initiatives
- Does a tight labor market make onboarding and retaining safe employees more difficult?