

2015 WEDA Environmental Excellence Awards Process and Criteria

Objective

The 2015 WEDA Environmental Excellence Awards will recognize projects for their outstanding contribution to meeting the goals of WEDA, which include:

Promote communication and understanding of environmental issues and stimulating new solutions associated with dredging and placement of dredged materials such that dredging projects, including navigation and environmental dredging, are accomplished in an efficient manner while meeting environmental goals.

Awards

Two awards will be given each year based upon the objective of the dredging project: (1) navigation dredging (purpose is to create navigation channels) and (2) environmental dredging (purpose is environmental enhancement, e.g., remediation or wetland creation). These awards will be presented during the annual WEDA conference.

- Recognition will include a plaque, a press release, and a special highlight on the WEDA website.
- The award will be for a project, and team members will be recognized. The preference is for all project team members to be WEDA members; however, at least one of the project team members must be a WEDA member in good standing. The project must be located within WEDA's territory, i.e., the Western Hemisphere.
- The project must be related to dredging or marine engineering, consistent with WEDA's mission, which includes beneficial use of dredged material. Navigation and environmental dredging projects will both be recognized annually if projects are submitted that meet the award criteria (i.e., two separate awards per year). Second place in each category will be awarded Silver Awards.
- The project must not have been completed more than two years from the date of the award application, or for longer term projects, specific increments or phases must have been completed to be eligible for consideration.
- Applications will be accepted only for those projects which have been approved by all applicable regulatory agencies, and implemented. Project applications will not be accepted without necessary permissions from the project owner (if applicable).
- Previous WEDA Environmental Award winners are not eligible to resubmit the same project, unless it is a major significant new phase. Recipients of the Silver Awards or other projects that were previously submitted can be resubmitted; updating is suggested and the time criteria noted above must be met.

- While projects are awarded based upon their merits using the ranking criteria provided below, the WEDA Awards Review Team does appreciate an application that is well formatted, easy to read, and explains how the project qualifies by the ranking criteria.
- The project application will be included as submitted on the WEDA website and the summary of the project, as written, in a press release and possibly in the WEDA newsletter or other electronic communication; submittal of an application grants permission for these actions.
- Attendance of a project representative at the WEDA annual conference is expected of award applicants.
- On Thursday morning of the conference, the winners, Navigation Dredging and Environmental Dredging Category winners and Silver Awards, will present power point presentations describing the projects during the Environmental Commission Session. 15 minutes each plus Q&A.
- Posters from all applicants: bringing a 20x30 poster showing off the project to the conference will enhance all attendees understanding of the projects, the project team, and the project accomplishments. These will be displayed in the foyer leading to the exhibit hall. If you want to keep the poster, please make arrangements to have it return home with you.

Project Ranking Criteria

- Environmental benefits (35 points)
 - What are the environmental benefits?
 - What unique environmental challenges were addressed?
- Innovation (20 points)
 - How does this project show leadership and take steps beyond "traditional" environmental protection efforts?
 - Did the project "break new ground" in addressing the environmental challenges?
 - What methods, technologies, or approaches (including partnerships) were used?
 - What sustainable approaches were applied?
- Economic benefits (15 points)
 - Explain implementation of cost-effective methods, procedures, or practices in terms of environmental protection efforts. Were there project efficiencies? Were there any specific cost-saving components of the project?
 - How does the project contribute to the economy?
- Transferability (15 points)
 - Are the project characteristics and lessons learned transferable and can they be used by others addressing similar environmental issues?
- Outreach and Education (15 points)
 - What education and/or outreach activities were undertaken?
 - What mechanisms were used to involve the broad array of stakeholders?

Application

- Outline of nomination:
 - Cover page. Does not count towards page count.
 - Summary: project description: goals, objectives, accomplishments (one page maximum)—identify which award category: navigation dredging or environmental dredging. To be used in press release.
 - Complete list of project team members and their affiliations, including the project owner, the role of the team members, WEDA membership status, and the nominating entity
 - Environmental benefits
 - Innovation
 - Economic benefits
 - Transferability
 - Outreach and education
- Applications are to be no longer than 6 pages total length. A cover page and an additional three pages of project figures, diagrams, or photographs is encouraged.
- Applications should be submitted by April 24, 2015, in PDF format to Craig Vogt, Chair of WEDA's Environmental Commission, at Craig@CraigVogt.com.