

Meeting Results
WEDA Environmental Commission
Nashville, Tennessee June 6, 2011

The meeting on June 6, 2011, of the WEDA Environmental Commission was attended by the following Environmental Commission members and guests:

Craig Vogt	Chair	Craig Vogt, Inc
Don Hayes	Academic Community	University of Louisiana
Bob Engler	Consultant	Moffatt and Nichol
Marsha Cohen	Media	Terra et Aqua
Michael Gerhardt	Dredging Industry	DCA
Gary McFarlane	Consultant	Mar-Land Engineering
Peggy Derrick	Consultant	EA Engineering
Jennifer Kahler	Consultant	Natural Resource Technology
Phil Spadaro	Consultant	Arcadis
Steve Garbaciak	Consultant	Arcadis
Bill Hanson	Dredging Industry	Great Lakes Dredge and Dock
Jurgen Dholander	Dredging Industry	IADC
Marsha Cohen	Media	Terra et Aqua
Alan Alcorn	Consultant	Moffat and Nichol
Ray Bergeon	Equipment Manufacturer	Cable Arm
Darrell Nicholas	Equipment Manufacturer	Cable Arm
Paul Quinn	Equipment Manufacturer	Ellicott Dredges
Darrell Nicholas	Consultant	Resource Engineer
Ancil Taylor	Dredging Industry	Bean Dredging
Len Juhnke	Dredging Industry	Manson Dredging
Rob Lawrence	Federal Government	Corps of Engineers
Anna Csiti	NGO	CEDA

The objectives of the WEDA Environmental Commission:

Promote communication and understanding of environmental issues and stimulate 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.

Craig Vogt identified the primary topics of the meeting which included:

- (1) Updates and coordination with other organizations (e.g., CEDA, PIANC)
- (2) WODCON—potential revisions to WODA Environmental Policy
- (3) Update on HMTF
- (4) Environmentally sustainable dredging
- (5) Update on WEDA website
- (6) FAQs
- (7) WEDA Environmental Excellence Awards
- (8) Environmental Commission panel topic for WEDA 2012

Anna Csiti provided an update on CEDA's Environmental Commission activities, focusing upon several in which WEDA may have particular interest.

- CEC is drafting a position paper on underwater sound. Comments are welcome from WEDA members, acknowledging that since WEDA does not serve in an advocacy role, WEDA would not be listed as a contributor. Anna will provide the draft paper to Craig Vogt for distribution. Any comments should be sent directly to Anna.
- CEC will have a complete draft by CEDA Dredging Days in late 2011 of an assessment of climate change and potential adaptation actions.
- A paper summarizing 15 years of turbidity information will shortly be on the CEDA website. The paper was distributed to the WEDA EC.
- Anna pointed out that there has been some confusion regarding the topic of "building with nature." CEC was not very involved, as it is mostly a concept of the Netherlands.
- CEDA has contracted with the London Convention (LC) to produce a low technology approach to dredged material management consistent with the LC's waste assessment guidelines. The guidance should be available for review in late 2011.

Todd Bridges provided an overview of the PIANC activities. The EnvirCom meets twice a year and includes 12-15 countries and several NGOs, such as IAPH. Numbers of guidance documents have been produced over the years and are available at the PIANC website, <http://www.pianc.org/aboutpianc.php>.

Barry Holliday stated that progress is being made in the efforts for taking the HMTF offline. The House bill has 100 co-sponsors and the Senate bill has 20 co-sponsors. Barry said that while progress is being made, he does not have a crystal ball for predictions of what the future holds.

Craig Vogt noted that the CEC is suggesting revisions to the WODA Environmental Policy, originally adopted in 1998, for re-adoption during WODCON in 2013 in Belgium. CEC has several early thoughts on potential considerations to incorporate into the Policy. The discussion indicated that the Policy should remain brief, and that any revisions should attempt to move away from the current concept in the Policy that environment, economy, and dredging are separate entities. They should be integrated in the Policy. A subcommittee consisting of Craig Vogt, Bob Engler, Phil Spadaro, and Marsha Cohen was established to sheppard the issue.

Paul Quinn and Don Hayes reported that major progress has been made in redesign of the WEDA website. In the Environmental Commission meeting in 2011, a subcommittee was formed led by Paul Quinn, including Walter Dinicola, Peggy Derrick, and Don Hayes, to evaluate the WEDA current website and develop a proposal for features and functions for an upgrade to the website. Over the year, Steve Cappellino of Anchor QEA took the lead and has done a great job in the redesign. Just prior to the Environmental Commission meeting, the WEDA Board of Directors approved going live with the new website. Populating the website will soon be the needed action. A subcommittee was established to identify what topics and information should be included on the website regarding environmental issues and actions and the activities of the Environmental Commission. Members include: Craig Vogt, Peggy Derrick, and Alan Alcorn. More volunteers are needed.

Regarding the FAQ project, Michael Gerhardt distributed the list of FAQs and draft answers submitted to date. Several observations were made during the discussion: (1) most of the answers (and some questions) were USA centric and they should be broadened to consider that WEDA is western hemisphere; (2) the draft answers looked mostly OK but some editing would be needed; and (3) a number of answers were not yet prepared. Meeting participants volunteered to fill in the missing answers. Craig Vogt will assign one or two per meeting participant with a due date of June 17 for submittal of the answers, to Michael Gerhardt (MichaelGerhardt@dredgingcontractors.org), copy to Craig.

A careful review of all questions and answers will be completed before they are put on the website, including an opportunity for review by the Board of Directors.

Peggy Dirrct and Phil Spadaro provided a brief summary of the Environmental Excellence Award process and criteria that were followed in selecting the winners of the 2011 awards. Two separate awards were to be made at the June 8 WEDA dinner for navigation dredging and environmental dredging. Craig Vogt thanked the Awards Subcommittee: Phil Spadaro, Peggy Derrick, Beverly Fedorko, and Bob Wetta. The subcommittee will assess lessons learned prior to distribution of the call for nominations for the 2012 awards (should happen earlier in the year than 2011).

Todd Bridges introduced the concept of environmentally sustainable dredging. The focus of the lively discussion was in the “how” to shift the paradigm, i.e., how to change the dynamics between the dredging community and the environmental protection community, including resource agencies? What strategic directions and actions? How can dredging projects provide incentives to resource agencies to accomplish their goals integrated with efficient and effective projects to deepen navigation channels? No conclusions were reached, except that specific ideas and actions are needed to move forward.

Craig Vogt recognized this year’s WEDA31 Environmental Commission Panel.

Theme: Emergency Dredging: Get It Done

*Ancil Taylor, Bean Dredging;
“Louisiana Oil Barrier Berms”*

*Robert Lawrence, US Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District;
“The COSCO-Busan Oil Spill, San Francisco Bay, Responding to the Potential for Submerged Oil in the Vicinity of Dredging Projects”*

*Tim Harrington, Aether dbs;
“Fly Ash Recovery from the Emory River”*

*Ram Mohan, Anchor QEA; S. Messur (Arcadis-US); C. Shamory (PPL Corporation)
“Emergency Response Dredging to Restore the Delaware River”*

These presentations will be included in a future edition of the International Dredging Review and will be included on the WEDA website.

The theme for the panel discussion at the San Antonio conference will be “Environmentally sustainable dredging...what is it?” Panel members will include: Todd Bridges, Bill Hanson, Barry Holliday, and one or two others to be identified.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the WEDA Environmental Commission will be held June 11, 2012, Monday afternoon, 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM during WEDA32 meeting in San Antonio, Texas. If you submit an abstract for a paper, please work with Ram and Bob such that it is not scheduled during that time.



WEDA Environmental Commission Meeting on June 6, 2011 Nashville, Tennessee