



## **2026 WEDA Fellow Position Description**

The Western Dredging Association (WEDA) is a non-profit technical professional organization devoted to the exchange of knowledge in fields related to dredging, navigation, marine engineering and construction. Active members in WEDA include contractors, consultants, government and regulatory agencies, academia, industry, and manufactures. WEDA has established a position (WEDA Fellow) to assist WEDA members/commissions in their goal of being the center of dredging excellence. The goal of this program is to provide an incentive for students to contribute to the advancement of the dredging profession through significant and sustained contribution to the dredging discipline via excellence in dredging education, innovation in practice or education, demonstrated meritorious service, and/or knowledge sharing.

### **Position Qualifications**

Qualifications of the WEDA fellow position include:

- Enrollment for the 2025-2026 academic year in an applicable program (dredging, coastal engineering, civil engineering, marine engineering, oceanography, or related field).
  - WEDA will consider undergraduates (seniors only), Masters, and PhD students.
- Ability to provide three references, of which at least two must be university professors.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Devote 40 hours per month to the position. Includes meeting with WEDA members and working on assigned tasks.
- Ability to self-direct.
- Support conference preparation and attend the national conference in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, July 20-23, 2026.
- Fellow term is February 2026 through December 2026.

### **Position Tasks**

The WEDA Fellow is expected to have several tasks to support various WEDA endeavors. While not a comprehensive list, given the direction of the Education Commission, tasks may include:

#### *WEDA Dredging Summit & EXPO Preparation and Post Conference Follow-up*

WEDA is hosting the EXPO conference in Montreal in 2026, which will have binational attendance and participation. There will be several tasks that will require support including but not limited to:

- Proceedings preparation and collation
- Supporting the Executive Director and staff with logistics planning
- Short course logistics preparation and planning

#### *WEDA Mentoring Program*

The WEDA Fellow may support organizing a mentoring program focused around an EXPO meet and greet. The WEDA Fellow would support the executive director and planning committee with logistics and outreach and post-conference follow-up.

#### *WEDA Sustainability Initiative*

The WEDA Environmental Commission has an initiative to capture how the dredging industry contributes to sustainable development. As part of this initiative, the Environmental Commission has broadcast a call to the greater WEDA community to submit sustainable projects and activities. The WEDA fellow may provide support to the Environmental Commission Sustainability working group to compile and research sustainable projects.

#### *WEDA Proceedings*

Another task for the WEDA Fellow will be to assist with enhancements to the past WEDA proceedings and papers available online. This task includes:

- Adding journal publications, as well as conference papers in search results on the WEDA website.
- Support the Technical Papers Committee with production of the proceedings materials.

#### *WEDA Webinars*

WEDA hosts monthly educational webinars (1-hour video presentation) for its members. A dry run is hosted one week prior to the Webinar to ensure there are no technical difficulties and provide the presenter with a practice opportunity. The WEDA Fellow may lead dry runs and then provide assistance during the Webinar (prep work, monitoring questions and answers, etc.).

#### *WEDA Promotion/Social Media*

The WEDA Fellow may assist WEDA staff in the development of promotional materials for social media in advance of the EXPO.

### **Position Stipend and Application**

This position will provide a total stipend of \$12,500 for the selected fellow(s) over the course of the 2025-2026 academic year. Interested candidates should complete and submit the attached application by **November 30, 2025**. Estimated start date for the WEDA Fellow will be February 1, 2026. Any questions about the position or application can be directed to Jessica Bridges at [jbridges@westernredging.org](mailto:jbridges@westernredging.org).