WEDA - PRESIDENT’s ANNUAL REPORT
June 18, 2014

(Call the Meeting to Order)

First of all, I am so pleased to deliver this report, standing here, in Toronto! WEDA is so pleased to be here in Canada, and we thank our host members, particularly Environment Canada, for offering us tremendous support during planning this conference!

Now, to the President’s report. I am pleased to inform you that during the period of this report WEDA Membership continues to increase. As of this date, our total Paid/Complimentary Membership stands at over 1050. Credit for this continued membership increase must be given to the increased communication protocols and outreach by WEDA, as well as improved Chapter meetings and Annual Conference, as well as increased activities in Central and South America.

Although our effort to increase membership continues to produce excellent results, you are encouraged to let your friends and colleagues know about the advantages of being a WEDA Member. Because challenges throughout our industry are changing almost on a daily basis, the experience and knowledge available to WEDA from new members - especially in the areas of excavation, protection of the environment, and management of contaminated sediments, will greatly benefit our association and our industry. However, there is a large cross section of the dredging industry who are not WEDA members yet; and I would like to challenge us collectively, each and every one of us, to strive to advance WEDA membership by inviting colleagues to join the organization, especially as we charter new and exciting waters!

As to our financial status, WEDA, as a not-for-profit organization, has a Fund Balance of $355,984.40, as of June 15, 2014.
During the past fiscal year sufficient funds were available to allow us to continue our financial support to Texas A & M University through our $3000.00 contribution to the William R. Murden Scholarship awarded annually to a Texas A&M graduate student in the fields of dredging, marine engineering and construction.

Funds are also available to continue to support the WEDA Best Paper Award during our annual Dredging Summit & Expo. WEDA also supports the Student Paper Program that is designed to encourage University students to present technical papers at our annual conference. As part of this program, WEDA waives the student registration fees and will provide financial support in the amount of $500.00 at each annual conference for up to 4 students.

WEDA members are reminded that because of their hard and dedication, WEDA has become the recognized center of dredging excellence throughout the Western Hemisphere. As the only Professional Technical Association in the Western Hemisphere dedicated to the exchange of information and knowledge related to dredging, marine engineering and construction, as well as the enhancement of our environment, WEDA considers it an honor to be able to continue to promote WEDA’s stated goals and objectives through conferences and trade shows such as this one. The planning and preparation of programs such as the Dredging Summit & Expo 2014, along with our Journal of Dredging, have contributed significantly as well.

Safety has emerged as one of the most important issues throughout our industry. Because the health and welfare of WEDA members is paramount and the safety of dredgers and other WEDA Members on and off the job is one of our primary concerns, WEDA is pleased to report that the Dredge Safety Management Program jointly developed by the Corps of Engineers and the Dredging Contractors of America continues to raise to new heights the awareness level of all our members about the hazards they face on a daily basis. WEDA’s Safety Commission Chairman, Thomas Verna, is to be commended for his outstanding efforts in promoting safety throughout the
industry. I am pleased to report that WEDA’s Safety Commission and Panel chaired by Tom at this and other WEDA conferences are having the desired impact in our industry.

I am certain that you all have seen our motto, that “Dredging Creates a Strong Economy and a Cleaner Environment.” WEDA, long ago recognized that Dredging contributes to the preservation and enhancement of our environment. Through the efforts of our Environmental Commission Chairman Craig Vogt, great strides have been made in making environmental dredging issues one of the focal points at these conventions. It has become common knowledge throughout the industry that only by educating all concerned on the importance of Dredging and working together can we hope to remove obstacles to dredging and help solve the environmental problems facing our industry. The steps taken by the Environmental Commission, under Craig’s leadership, to advance these goals are indeed commendable.

No annual report would be complete without mentioning the outstanding job being done by all WEDA Chapters. During the reporting period the Eastern, Gulf, Midwest and Pacific chapters have held their annual meeting in their respective areas. All were well attended and professionally executed.

Following are the planned chapter meetings and other events that are on the calendar, as of now:

- Eastern Chapter: October 14-16, 2014 - Atlanta, Georgia
- Gulf Chapter: To be determined
- MidWest Chapter: To be determined
- Mexican Chapter: To be determined
- Panama Chapter: To be determined
- Brazil Chapter: To be determined
I wanted to take a moment to thank Robert Ramsdell, our Technical Papers Committee chairman, and his committee consisting of Dr. Robert Randall, Bob Wetta and Dr. Julie Rosati, for developing an outstanding conference program and proceedings. CD copies of the proceeding of this conference were included in your registration package. If you have not yet received yours, you may pick one up at the registration desk. I would like to thank Dr. Robert Randall for his efforts, as Editor, in getting the proceedings ready for distribution at this conference. Last, do not forget to consider contributing to WEDA’s Journal of Dredging, our own peer reviewed practice periodical, now electronically published by WEDA, with support from Anchor QEA.

This year, WEDA Board of Directors have been actively engaged in driving many initiatives, to name a few – the Events Committee (in charge of conference planning, thank you Dan Hussin, chair, and members), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Committee (to outreach to the Corps, thank you Tom Verna, Jeff McKee co-chairs, and members), the Communications committee (thank you, Marcel Hermans and members), the Awards Committee (thank you Craig Vogt and Don Hayes, co-chairs, and members).

I also wanted to call out and thank the contributions of a few folks – Marcel Hermans, our Vice President, for leading several initiatives, including WEDA communications; Tom Verna, for all his hard work as our Treasurer, in reviewing our finances; Alan Alcorn, as our Secretary; and Tom Cappelino, as our webmaster – thank you, thank you!
Now, an important topic - To honor our loyal and supportive members, there are WEDA year pins for those who are celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20 & 30 years of membership. Stop by the registration desk and pick yours up.

Before moving on to items of new Business are there any questions or additional items of old business? If there are none, we will now turn our attention to new Business.

The first order of new business is to take a vote on our revised Articles of Incorporation. These were published on the website for members who wished to review them and notifications were sent out ahead of this meeting to the members. Can I get a motion on the floor to approve these articles of incorporation? Don Hayes moved, and John Adams seconded. All in favor (Aye) – anyone opposed? The motion passes.

Next, I am happy to announce that the Dredging Supply Company’s Outstanding Paper Award, on the topic, “Why dredging is Good”; WEDA’s and Dredging Contractors of America’s Best Paper Award; and Anchor QEA’s Young Author Best Paper Award will be presented during the closing ceremonies. In addition, a $500.00 Cash door prize will also be awarded – however, you must be present to claim the $500.00 prize.

I would like to now thank all who have made this conference a great success. While the individual list is endless, thanks should go to:

- All the exhibitors and their excellent exhibits.
- The authors and presenters of the many outstanding papers.
- The chairs of the sessions and the panels
- Sustaining members and sponsors of the Ice breaker, refreshment breaks.
- Dredging Supply Company, Dredging Contractor of America and Anchor QEA for their generous donation that fund the best paper awards
• The Technical papers committee, for an excellent conference program

• Nancy Patella for her hard work on behalf of the Spouses/Guest program.

• And, last but not least, Larry Patella, our executive Director, for all of his efforts in organizing this conference. Without Larry, none of these things would be possible.

It is with a sad heart that I mention that our long time Executive Director, Larry Patella, is retiring from WEDA after this conference – Larry’s plan is to remain as a part time consultant to WEDA for another year before he fully retires – WEDA has benefited tremendously under the tender, loving care of Larry (and his wife, Nancy), over the last 20-30 years. Both Larry and Nancy have given self-lessly to the organization and for that we thank them. Please join me in giving them both a special standing ovation! Thank you – Larry and Nancy!

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors, with Larry’s input, has selected Eileen Maher, as WEDA’s next Executive Director. Eileen comes to us from the Port of San Diego, where she had served for a number of years as an Assistant Environmental Director. She has held Officer positions at WEDA’s Pacific Chapter, and is no stranger to many of us. Please do stop by and say hello and welcome to Eileen! We look forward to advancing many initiatives under Eileen’s Leadership!

Some of our key upcoming initiatives includes: collaboration with the Organization of American States, under Michael Gerhardt’s lead, to advance business opportunities for WEDA members in South and Central America. We are actively planning for the 2015 Dredging Summit & Expo under the Events Committee Chair Dan Hussin’s leadership. As you probably noticed, we have rebranded our conference, and introduced a pre-conference short course which was well attended, and we also have a post-conference technical site tour of Hamilton Harbor, which will be well attended. And there are many other initiatives to come in the future. If you have any special ideas you would like to propose, please see Eileen or me.
Our next order of business is the nomination and election of new board members. The terms of some Board members have expired. Our Nomination Committee of Ram Mohan, Paul Fuglevand and Tom Verna have recommended that Craig Vogt, Michael Gerhardt and Paulo Rodriguez be returned to the board to serve until June of 2017. The nominating committee also has placed the name of Carol Shobrook and Chuck Brussard in nomination to serve until June of 2017. Are there any nominations from the floor? If there are none I will entertain a motion that the nominations be closed. John Adams moved, and Alan Alcorn seconded. The motion was then set to vote – John Adams moved, during discussion, Robert Ramsdell proposed Julie Rosati be placed on the Board – Don Hayes seconded; the amended motion passed. *(The amended motion was corrected the following day by the board, during discussions, as it was pointed out that Julie’s nomination by Robert Ramsdell from the floor was inconsistent with WEDA’s new bylaws, thereby making it invalid.)*

At this evening’s dinner/award ceremony WEDA’s Lifetime Achievement, Dredger of the Year, Safety Commission, Environmental Commission, and Best Booth Awards will be presented. Please join us at this event honoring some great WEDA Members.

Ladies and gentlemen, this completes my report and if there is no other business to be brought before the general membership, our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who have made this conference a huge success and to all the delegates and exhibitors, thank you for attending.