Great Lakes Dredging Team

Overview Presentation

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Great Lakes Dredging Team
Briefing Overview

- Background on National Dredging Team
- Background on Great Lakes Dredging Team
- GLDT objectives, membership, and structure
- GLDT accomplishments
- Current issues
- Old and new priorities
- Take home message
Great Lakes Dredging Team

Background

- 1994 - Dept of Transportation led Interagency Working Group on the Dredging Process
- Working Group recommends formation of National and Regional Dredging Teams to coordinate federal actions and policies relating to dredging
- National dredging team established in 1995 with Corps, USEPA, MARAD, Interior, and NOAA is still active and chaired by EPA
Great Lakes Dredging Team

Background

• 1996 – USACE and EPA stood up the Regional Dredging Team for the Great Lakes at the same time the Great Lakes Dredged Material Testing & Evaluation Manual was being completed

• Unlike the National Dredging Team, the Great Lakes Regional Dredging Team is composed of both Federal and State members

• The Dredging Committee under the Great Lakes Commission was integrated into the GLDT

• First co-chairs of Great Lakes Dredging Team are Roy Deda (USACE-NCD) and Chuck Ledin (Wisconsin DNR)
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Charter Objectives

• Assure timely and cost effective dredging of harbors and channels, while meeting regional environmental goals
• Facilitate resolution of dredging issues common to the Great Lakes region
• Promote implementation of recommendations of interagency report on dredging process
• Facilitate stakeholder communication
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Membership

USACE
USEPA
MARAD
USFWS
NRCS
NOAA
Coast Guard
Great Lakes Commission

New York
Pennsylvania
Ohio
Indiana
Illinois
Michigan
Minnesota
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Structure

- Each state to have two representatives (one from environmental and one commerce)
- Co-chairs from federal and state members to serve 2-year terms
- Permanent legislative committee chaired by Great Lakes Commission
- Manage using consensus-based approach
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Initial Priorities

- Promote more consistency among State dredging policies and regulations
- Recognize and enhance the linkages between navigation and environmental dredging
- Champion for advancing beneficial use of dredged material as alternative to open water disposal
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Accomplishments

• Promote greater understanding and consistency in decision making practices and policies
  - White paper on dredged disposal decision making process (1998/9)
  - Inventory of state regulations
  - Coordination on specific DMMPs
  - Testing & evaluation workshops
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Accomplishments

• Promote greater understanding and consistency in decision making practices and policies
  ➢ Inventory of state dredging windows and rationales
  ➢ Field evaluations on impacts of dredging on priority fish species
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Accomplishments

• Enhanced collaboration between navigation dredging and remedial dredging
  ➢ Assessment & Remediation of Contaminated Sediments (ARCS)
  ➢ Superfund/NRDA
  ➢ Great Lakes Legacy Act
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Accomplishments

- Enhanced coordination with related programs and activities
  - Great Lakes Soil Erosion & Sedimentation program
  - Great Lakes Tributary Model program
  - Great Lakes CDF report
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Accomplishments

• Promoting beneficial use of dredged material
  ➢ Public workshops and symposia
  ➢ State framework for upland disposal testing
  ➢ Interactive website with local marketing opportunities
  ➢ Educational media

Testing and Evaluating Dredged Material for Upland Beneficial Uses: A Regional Framework for the Great Lakes

September 2004
Second Edition

Waste to Resource: Beneficial Use of Great Lakes Dredged Material

Why do we dredge?
What is beneficial use?
Why do we need it?
What about contamination?
Get my community become involved!
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Accomplishments

- Innovative technologies
  - Presentations and site visits to new and emerging technologies for dredging and sediment management
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Accomplishments

- Outreach and Communications
  - Symposia and workshops
  - Dredging Team Website
  - Educational materials

www.glc.org/dredging/
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Current Dredging Issues

• Decline in federal funding for dredging
  ➢ Recreational harbors totally unfunded
  ➢ Commercial harbors underfunded

• Low Lake Levels
  ➢ Recreational harbors are especially hard hit

• Limited CDF capacity
  ➢ Cleveland and other harbors are approaching crisis

• GLRI funding for Areas of Concern cleanup
  ➢ Delisting requires eliminating the dredging restriction BUI
  ➢ Opportunities for creative disposal and beneficial use
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Old and New Priorities

• Regulatory inconsistencies
  ➢ Achieving consistent dredging windows
  ➢ Addressing open water disposal limitations

• Beneficial use of dredged material
  ➢ Developing local markets for dredged material through an effective outreach strategy
  ➢ Resolving any remaining policy and regulatory obstacles

• Role in Areas of Concern cleanup
  ➢ Celebrate successful linkages between navigation and environmental dredging and build more of them
  ➢ Support elimination of dredging restriction BUI
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Take Away Message

• Dredging Team provides a forum for federal and state agencies to collaborate on matters that are vital to the restoration of the Great Lakes as well as continued sustainable development

• Balance of members with economic and environmental viewpoints is essential

• Near-term conditions have created a sense of urgency and an opportunity to accomplish many of our priorities, if we can act quickly
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Charter Objectives

• Contribute to the national goal of assuring that the dredging of U.S. harbors and channels is conducted in a timely and cost effective manner while meeting environmental protection, restoration, and enhancement goals

• Facilitate the resolution of dredging issues common to the Great Lakes region among the participating local, state, tribal and federal agencies
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Charter Objectives

• Promote implementation of the relevant portions of the recommendations of the interagency report on the dredging process.

• Facilitate effective communications and decision-making among federal and state agencies represented on the Dredging Team and between the Team and key stakeholders in the dredging process.