

Great Lakes Dredging Team Mission Statement and Guidelines

August 2020

Mission: The Great Lakes Dredging Team (GLDT) provides a forum for the exchange of information regarding best practices, lessons learned, innovative solutions, and sustainable approaches to dredging and dredge material management throughout the Great Lakes region.

The GLDT is not an advisory body. Its purpose is not to furnish advice to the federal government and the organization does not operate in any official capacity to oversee or direct the federal government. The purpose of the GLDT is to foster an exchange of information among team participants regarding various aspects of the dredging process and dredged material management.

Information exchanged via the GLDT assists the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in implementing the USACE Environmental Operating Principles, which were developed to ensure USACE missions include integrated sustainable environmental practices. These principles direct USACE to:

- Foster sustainability as a way of life throughout the organization.
- Proactively consider environmental consequences of all Corps activities and act accordingly.
- Create mutually supporting economic and environmentally sustainable solutions.
- Continue to meet corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities undertaken by the agency which may impact human and natural environments.
- Consider the environment in employing a risk management and systems approach throughout the life cycles of projects and programs.
- Leverage scientific, economic and social knowledge to understand the environmental context and effects of Corps actions in a collaborative manner.
- Employ an open, transparent process that respects views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities.

Team Composition, Guidelines, and Activities: The GLDT provides a forum for information exchange among organizations interested in dredging and dredged material management. Participation in team activities is voluntary and open to the public. The GLDT strives to be inclusive and broad participation by diverse stakeholder organizations is key to the strong functioning of the team. The GLDT member entities include federal, state, and local governmental agencies:

- Federal agencies

- Department of Defense/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- Department of the Interior/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Department of the Interior/United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- Department of Transportation/Maritime Administration (MARAD)
- Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
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- State agencies (representing resource management, environmental protection and transportation functions)

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- New York
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Wisconsin
- Great Lakes Commission

Municipal agencies:

- Great Lakes port authorities

Interested stakeholders who may participate in the meetings, but are not members include:

- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Northeast-Midwest Institute
- Academic interests (Sea Grants and universities)
- Trade associations and business groups (Lake Carriers' Association, dredging companies, engineering firms, etc.)
- There is an outstanding open invitation for any interested entity or member of the public to participate in meetings of the GLDT.

The GLDT generally holds two primary events a year, a face-to-face meeting and another virtual meeting via webinar. The face-to-face meeting is traditionally held in the spring and the webinar is traditionally held in the fall. The annual meeting and webinars are open to the public.

Information presented at annual meetings and webinars, as well as information disseminated to support committee discussions, is made available on a GLDT website. The website is currently hosted by the Great Lakes Commission <https://greatlakesdredging.net/>. Other GLDT resources may be found on the USACE-hosted Great Lakes Navigation System website <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Navigation/>.

The activities of the GLDT consist of gathering information about best practices and lessons learned regarding dredged material management from practitioners inside and outside of the Great Lakes basin. This involves identifying published guidance documents as well as soliciting expert advice from those with experience on innovative or novel approaches to dredged material management.

The GLDT is organized by only governmental (federal, state, and local municipal) agencies. Committee members are only federal, state, or municipal staff. The three GLDT committees (Organizing committee, Technical committee, and Outreach committee) work together in locating this input and bringing it forth to the larger GLDT via webinars and meetings which are open to the public for participation.

An Organizing Committee has been established to provide administrative, coordinative, and oversight functions for the GLDT. The organizing committee typically meets via conference call every 4 to 8 weeks.

The Technical and Outreach Committees work together to accomplish the mission of the GLDT in identifying, soliciting, and disseminating information regarding local and regional technical and institutional dredging issues. These committees provide a forum for expressing and understanding the perspectives of the various stakeholders regarding dredging issues, with the ultimate goal of enabling the sustainable maintenance of the Great Lakes Navigation System. The goal of the two committees is not to obtain consensus among members and stakeholders, but openly exchange information regarding dredging and dredged material management, including input from stakeholders and the general public. These two committees hold conference calls and webinars on an ad hoc basis; these calls and webinars are always open to the general public.

The Technical Committee is comprised of dredged material practitioners who have technical expertise and/or experience with actual operations involving navigation dredging and dredged material management both inside and outside of the GLNS. They are a source of information regarding best management practices for dredging operations and handling of dredged material.

The Outreach Committee acts as a clearing house for distribution of member-created products and information pertaining to dredging and dredging-related activities in order to communicate to broad and diverse groups who have an interest in maintenance of the GLNS. In addition, they obtain, organize and provide information internally in a timely manner to ensure maximum transparency. Their relationships and communication skills support Outreach Committee activities.

Participants of the organizing committee, and leadership (chairs) of the technical and outreach committees are decided by a nomination process and mutual agreement among existing organizing committee participants. Committee chairs will provide leadership for a 2-year period beginning at the annual spring face-to-face meeting. Leadership terms may be repeated.