



PRESS RELEASE

Contact Information:

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(June 10, 2011) WEDA President, Bob Wetta, and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Paul Quinn, announced the inaugural selections to receive the WEDA Environmental Excellence Award at the organization's annual conference held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tennessee, June 5-8.

The newly created award is given in two categories, Navigation Dredging and Environmental Dredging. This year's selections were the Columbia River Channel Improvements Project (CRCIP), located in Oregon and Washington States, in the Navigation Dredging category and Wisconsin's Kinnickinnic River, in the Environmental Dredging category.

In announcing the two selections President Quinn noted, "there were six projects submitted for consideration which was very encouraging for the first year of this award. The competition was significant and each of the projects was top notch; which made selection difficult, but clearly a testament to the quality of dredging projects being accomplished throughout the United States."

The following projects were recognized as Honorable Mentions:

Black Lake Beneficial Use Site, Louisiana--Navigation dredging; Dominion Cove Point LNG, Maryland, salt marsh restoration--Navigation dredging; J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area, Salt Bayou Marsh Restoration Project, Texas--Navigation dredging; and the Lower Fox River Cleanup Project--Environmental dredging.

The Columbia River Channel Improvements Project was recognized for using a formal adaptive environmental management process, the CRCIP successfully deepened 103 miles of the Columbia River providing access to the river for deep draft vessels and significant economic benefits while ensuring that juvenile salmon and sturgeon habitat quality and availability were not diminished during dredging and disposal of dredged material. The CRCIP Adaptive Management Team and its dredging partners are recognized for their role in ensuring that the Columbia River deepening protected salmon, sturgeon, and other aquatic resources by regular and timely monitoring, evaluation of environmental risks and benefits, and instituting best management practices. The Portland District of the US Army Corps of Engineers is the project owner.

The Kinnickinnic River Project was selected for the successful dredging of PCB and PAH contaminated sediments from Milwaukee's Kinnickinnic River contributing to the removal of restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, and achieved the project's goal of cleaning up the River with the support and involvement of the public. The project is a model for multi-stakeholder collaboration, technical innovation, workforce development, and waterfront revitalization. The project owners are the US EPA Great Lakes National Program Office and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

More information on all of the projects is available by contacting Lawrence Patella, WEDA's Executive Director or Craig Vogt, Chair of the WEDA Environmental Commission, which sponsored the awards.

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WEDA is a member of The World Organization of Dredging Associations. (WODA) The **Western Dredging Association (WEDA)** region covers North, Central and South America. The **Central Dredging Association (CEDA)** covers most of Europe, Africa, and the Mid and Near East. The **Eastern Dredging Association (EADA)** covers the Far East and Pacific region. The three organizations constitute the **World Organization of Dredging Association (WODA)** with equal representation on the WODA Board of Directors. The goals and objectives are common for each of the three organizations, however operations to attain these are independently carried out.

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WEDA Goals and Objectives

- To promote the exchange of knowledge in fields related to dredging, navigation, marine engineering and construction by sponsoring or co-sponsoring national and international technical conferences, seminars, and symposiums, including publication and dissemination

of the proceedings.

- To provide a forum for improvement of communications, technology transfer, and cooperation among associations, societies, and all organizations interested in dredging, navigation, marine engineering and construction.
- To emphasize the importance of understanding and development of solutions for problems related to the protection and enhancement of the marine environment.
- To support educational institutions for students interested in pursuing dredging and marine engineering as a career.
- To promote membership in and furtherance of the Western Dredging Association through establishment and support of Chapters.
- To recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding engineering and operational achievement.

CRCIP Team Members and Partners:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District
E2 Consulting Engineers
National Marine Fisheries Service
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington Department of Ecology
Ports of Portland and St. Helens, Oregon and
Ports of Longview, Kalama, Woodland and Vancouver, Washington
Great Lakes Dredge and Dock
J.E. McAmis
The Dutra Group

Kinnickinic River Team Members and Partners

U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
Wisconsin Department of Environmental Resources
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Detroit District
Port of Milwaukee
City of Milwaukee
Milwaukee Business Improvement District 35
CH2M Hill
Ryba Marine Construction Company
Gillen Company
Freeman Environmental Services

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