

Meeting Results
WEDA Environmental Commission
San Juan, Puerto Rico June 7, 2010

The meeting on June 7, 2010, of the WEDA Environmental Commission was attended by the following Environmental Commission members and guests:

Craig Vogt	Chair	Craig Vogt, Inc
Don Hayes	Academic Community	University of Louisiana
Bob Engler	Consultant	Moffatt and Nichol
Marsha Cohen	Media	Terra et Aqua
Michael Gerhardt	Dredging Industry	DCA
Steve Richardson	Media	World Dredging
Judith Powers	Media	International Dredging Review
Gary McFarlane	Consultant	Mar-Land Engineering
Peggy Derrick	Consultant	EA Engineering
Rich Weber	Consultant	Natural Resource Technology
Phil Spadaro	Consultant	Arcadis
Steve Garbaciak	Consultant	Arcadis
Linda Porebski	Federal Government	Environment Canada
Francois Marchand	Federal Government	Environment Canada
Bill Hanson	Dredging Industry	Great Lakes Dredge and Dock
Rene Kolman	Dredging Industry	IADC
Marsha Cohen	Media	Terra et Aqua
Alan Acorn	Consultant	Moffat and Nichol
Ray Bergeon	Equipment Manufacturer	Cable Arm
Darrell Nicholas	Equipment Manufacturer	Cable Arm
Paul Quinn	Equipment Manufacturer	Ellicott Dredges
Lynn Martin	Federal Government	Corps of Engineers
Greg Hartman	Consultant	Hartman Associates
Kathryn Curtis	Port Authority	Port of Los Angeles
Walter Dinicola	Consultant	Anchor QEA

The objectives of the WEDA Environmental Commission:

Promote communication and understanding of environmental issues and stimulate new solutions associated with dredging and placement of dredged materials such that dredging projects, including navigation and remediation dredging, are accomplished in an efficient manner while meeting environmental goals.

Craig Vogt identified the primary objectives of the meeting which included:

- (1) Outreach and education---make real progress on moving toward the goal of making the WEDA website the place to go for information on dredging and dredged material management and associated environmental issues. First step was to work on the FAQ.
- (2) Review draft criteria and identify a process for the WEDA Environmental Excellence Award.

- (3) Determine the theme of the Environmental Commission panel during the 2011 WEDA Conference.

It was noted that the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was bringing positive press to the concept of dredging and we should look for opportunities to leverage that good press. No specific actions.

Bob Engler provided an overview of the PIANC Position Paper, Working with Nature, with the intention of informing the Environmental Commission that the paper existed and if we wanted to take any action. The discussion indicated that the concepts in the paper appeared worthwhile and that it seemed to be mostly an endorsement of the approach already being followed by WEDA members. No specific action is to be taken.

Craig Vogt asked for suggestions regarding potential outcomes of the meeting of the WODA Environmental Commission during WODCON in Beijing in September 2010. Craig was waiting for a response from EADA on current plans for a meeting, agenda items, and potential outcomes. The meeting suggested that one very positive outcome of a WODA Environmental Commission meeting could be the initiation of an EADA/CHIDA Environmental Commission.

Craig Vogt reminded the meeting that the conclusion of last year's meeting on outreach and education was that it was strongly felt that the WEDA website should be the place to go for information about dredging and dredged material management and associated environmental issues. As a starting place, the idea that stuck was development of an organized section of the website that would provide either direct access to info or links to other websites. The operational configuration would be around FAQ that would provide the information and links to other information on other websites. Barry Holliday volunteered to organize the FAQ.

Only a little progress could be claimed in this action. A draft list of FAQ was prepared and a few suggestions for answers and links to websites were provided. A lengthy discussion of the WEDA website concluded that it needed an overhaul. One younger member of the Environmental Commission noted that younger people think that "boring website, boring organization." *A call to action.*

A committee was formed led by Paul Quinn, including Walter Dinicola, Peggy Derrick, and Don Hayes, to evaluate the current website and develop a proposal for features and functions for an upgrade to the website, keeping in mind the current budget situation.

Regarding the FAQ, it was agreed that Craig Vogt would assign everyone at the meeting two questions and each person would also be charged with creating another question and answer [Note: the assignments were made by email on June 7.].

- The answers should be generic and it was noted that the draft list of FAQ was only a draft and edits were requested.
- Caution is emphasized in writing the answers to be sure they are generic and simple, and not based upon opinion, but factual.

- A careful review of all questions and answers will be completed before they are put on the website.
- Deadline: submit all FAQ and answers to Michael Gerhardt at DCA, MichaelGerhardt@dredgingcontractors.org, with a copy to Craig Vogt, Craig@CraigVogt.com.

Peggy Dirrct and Phil Spadaro opened the discussion of the WEDA Environmental Award by providing an overview of award criteria used by other organizations. Conclusions of the discussion:

- Award would go for a project, and recognize the team members.
- We would start with one category for one award for the initial award.
- A nomination process would be established which would include an application that would set out the criteria and the points for each criteria.
- The application process and review process should be developed and established to keep it as simple as possible.
- One potential longer range aspect of the award could be to request Chapters to nominate projects for the award or have their own award at the Chapter level.

The Awards Committee consisting of Phil Spadaro, Peggy Derrick, Beverly Fedorko, and Craig Vogt will meet following the Environmental Commission meeting to establish a proposal for the award criteria and process.

The proposal will first be reviewed by the Environmental Commission via email communications and then provided to the WEDA Board of Directors for review, comment, and approval.

Craig Vogt recognized this year's Environmental Commission Panel during WEDA30.

Theme: 30 years of WEDA and progress in environmental issues

Moderator, Craig Vogt, Craig Vogt Inc, Chair, WEDA Environmental Commission

June 8, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM San Juan, Puerto Rico

Bob Engler, Senior Environmental Scientist, Moffatt & Nichol: "The Foundation of Today's Environmentally Sensitive Dredging Technology: 30+ Years of USACE Dredging Research, 1973-Present"

Paul Quinn, Ellicott Dredges Inc: "30 years of progress in dredging design and operation to address environmental issues."

Tom Wang, Senior Partner, Anchor Environmental QEA: "Has improved understanding of environmental impacts outpaced the ability of technology to mitigate impacts?"

Norman R. Francingues, Senior Project Engineer, OA Systems Corporation: "Three decades of Environmental Dredging - How far have we come?"

These presentations will be included in a future edition of the International Dredging Review.

A brief discussion of next year's Environmental Commission panel theme resulted in the following topic: "Emergency Dredging." Suggestions: Ash dredging near Nashville. Dredging and the BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Delaware Bay & PPL. Mt St Helens ash. Others are welcome and suggestions for speakers are needed.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the WEDA Environmental Commission will be held June 5, 2011, Monday afternoon, 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM during WEDA31 meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

PHOTO to be inserted:

WEDA Environmental Commission Meeting on June 7, 2010 San Juan, Puerto Rico