



Minutes  
**2017 WEDA Annual Membership Meeting**  
June 27, 2017, 12:15-12:45pm PT  
Hyatt Regency, Vancouver, BC, Canada

WEDA President, Marcel Hermans, called the meeting to order.

**President's Annual Report**

Marcel delivered the President's Annual Report, as follows:

"On behalf of the Western Dredging Association, I would like to extend a thank you to all the contractors, engineers, consultants, government agencies and industry leaders for their membership and support over this past year. I would also like to recognize and thank those specific members who participate and volunteer their time preparing papers and presentations, along with moderating sessions at our conferences. These individuals directly help WEDA achieve its primary goal of promoting the exchange of knowledge in fields related to dredging, navigation, marine engineering and construction.

Because of the support received by memberships, our not-for-profit dredging association could achieve many of the goals and initiatives we set forth to accomplish throughout the year. Some achievements worth mentioning here are:

- WEDA expanded its presence in Latin America and hosted a successful Central America Chapter Meeting in Panama City, Panama last September;
- We increased our scholarship contributions 40% to assist under-graduate students in extending their knowledge of dredging to ensure our industry has a bright and successful future;
- We developed a separate dedicated website for the Dredging Summit Expo to enhance user-friendliness and ease of navigation of content;
- We expanded the use of the WEDA mobile application to make it easier to get the most out of the Dredging Summit and Expo; hopefully everyone has that installed it by now!
- And overall, we have furthered WEDA to become a better, stronger, more streamlined professional organization.

And looking ahead to next year, I am pleased to announce that the 2018 Dredging Summit & Expo will be in Norfolk, Virginia the last week of June. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us again next year!

**Membership**

WEDA's membership and support throughout our industry continue to increase. As of this date, our total membership stands at approximately 620, with 36 industry sustaining members. We encourage everyone to let your friends and colleagues know about the advantages of being a WEDA member, our goals and objectives and the pride each and every one of us has being a part of this association. Due to challenges within our industry that change almost on a daily basis, the experience and knowledge available to WEDA from new members - especially in the areas of excavation methods, coastal resiliency, environmental protection, and sediment remediation, will greatly benefit our association and our industry. However, there are also quite some professionals in 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.



## **Financial Status**

WEDA is a not-for-profit organization with total balance sheet assets as of June 15, 2017 of about \$767,000.00. As of June 15, 2017, about \$343,000 of that was held in our checking account, \$250,000 was in our savings account, and the remaining \$174,000 constituted our pre-payment to the Hyatt for this Dredging Summit & Expo event.

After deducting the estimated total Dredging Summit & Expo '17 expenses of \$225,000.00, our estimated net balance after this conference will be approximately \$542,000.00. In addition to having a solid financial foundation, I'm also happy to announce that WEDA has completed its first full independent financial audit, for the past calendar year 2016, which confirmed that our financial reporting is sound and accurate. Many thanks go to the financial management and monthly reporting provided by our Treasurer, Matt Binsfeld and our Executive Director, Tom Cappellino along with my fellow officers, Vice President Alan Alcorn and Secretary Carol Shobrook. Their collaborative work behind the scenes is what keeps WEDA going strong!

WEDA continues to support technical excellence, including the *Best Paper Award* during our annual Dredging Summit & Expo. WEDA also supports the *Young Author Program* that is designed to encourage university students and young professionals to present technical papers at our annual conference. As part of this program, WEDA at each annual Dredging Summit & Expo waives the student registration fees and will provide financial support in the amount of \$500.00 for up to 4 students. In addition, we also have the *Young Author Award* in the amount of \$ 500 for the best paper by an author age 35 or under.

WEDA also has continued our financial support to students at Texas A&M University, increasing the William R. Murden Scholarship to \$5,000.00. This scholarship is awarded annually to a graduate student in the fields of dredging and marine engineering and construction.

## **Safety**

Safety continues to be the most important issue throughout our industry. Because the health and welfare of WEDA members is paramount, and the safety of dredgers and 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 daily. WEDA's Safety Commission Chair, Julie Hile, is to be commended for her outstanding performance in promoting safety throughout the industry. I am pleased to report that WEDA's Safety Commission and Panel, chaired by Julie at this and other WEDA conferences, are having great positive impacts to our industry.

## **Environment**

I am certain that you all have seen the WEDA motto, "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.



Last year, we released the WODA joint Environmental Statement– which was largely a collaborative effort between the three sister organizations – WEDA, CEDA, and EADA – a fine example of our international collaboration.

### **WEDA Chapters and Conferences**

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, Pacific and Central America chapters have held their 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 10-12, Providence, RI
- Pacific Chapter: October 25-27, Portland, OR
- Gulf Chapter: November 7-9, Mobile, AL
- Mid-West Chapter: Location TBD, likely in March 2018
- Dredging Summit & Expo '18: June 25-28, 2018 in Norfolk, VA
- Brazil Chapter: Under consideration for the spring of 2018

Our next annual conference, the 2018 Dredging Summit & Expo will be held at the brand-new Hilton Norfolk, the Main Hotel in downtown Norfolk, VA Monday June 25 to Thursday June 28, 2018. All conference information, including early sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities will be posted on the Dredging Summit & Expo website in a few weeks.

### **Thanks**

I wanted to take a moment to thank our Technical Paper Committee members, and specifically its Chairman, Robert Ramsdell from GLDD, for developing an outstanding conference program and Dr. Donald Hayes from the University of Nevada for his efforts as Editor in getting the proceedings ready for distribution at this conference. What you see here is the culmination of approximately a year's worth of daily and monthly planning – a job well done!

Last, but not least, I also want to thank the WEDA Board of Directors for their active contribution and support in the management of WEDA, as well as in executing our goals. WEDA would not be what it is today without our Directors and Sustaining Members. Thank you!

And while I'm at it, I would also like to thank all who have made this conference a great success. While the individual list is endless, thanks 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
- WEDA's Sponsors & Sustaining members
- Dredging Supply Company, Dredging Contractors of America and Anchor QEA for their generous donations that fund the best paper awards
- The Executive Committee and the Technical Papers Committee for an excellent conference program
- Tom Cappellino for his support and hard work behind the scenes, for all things logistics and operations wise, without which this conference would not have been possible, let alone a success!



**And now on to: WEDA Business**

The Nominating Committee comprised of Matt Binsfeld, Walter Dinicola and myself have decided to nominate for another 3-year term 4 Directors whose terms expire in 2017. This pertains to the following directors:

- Chuck Broussard
- Michael Gerhardt
- Carol Shobrook
- Craig Vogt

In addition, the nominating committee has decided to nominate Julie Hile, from the Hile Group as a new Director.

Per WEDA's bylaws, these nominations need to be confirmed at this general membership meeting so therefore I'd like to ask for a motion and a second to confirm these 5 people as nominated for a 3-year term on the Board of Directors."

***Don Hayes motioned to approve the nominations. Alan Alcorn seconded the motion. Membership voted in favor with no one opposed. The motion passed.***

"As part of Wednesday evening's gala dinner, the WEDA's Lifetime Achievement, Dredger of the Year, Safety Commission, and Environmental Commission Awards will be presented. Please make sure to join us at this event, honoring some great WEDA members.

Ladies and gentlemen, this completes my President's report and WEDA's annual general membership meeting, 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, and enjoy the rest of the conference, and this majestic Pacific Northwest city, Vancouver a real pride of British Columbia! Thank you!"

**Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm PT.**

*Carol Shobrook*

Carol Shobrook, WEDA Secretary