

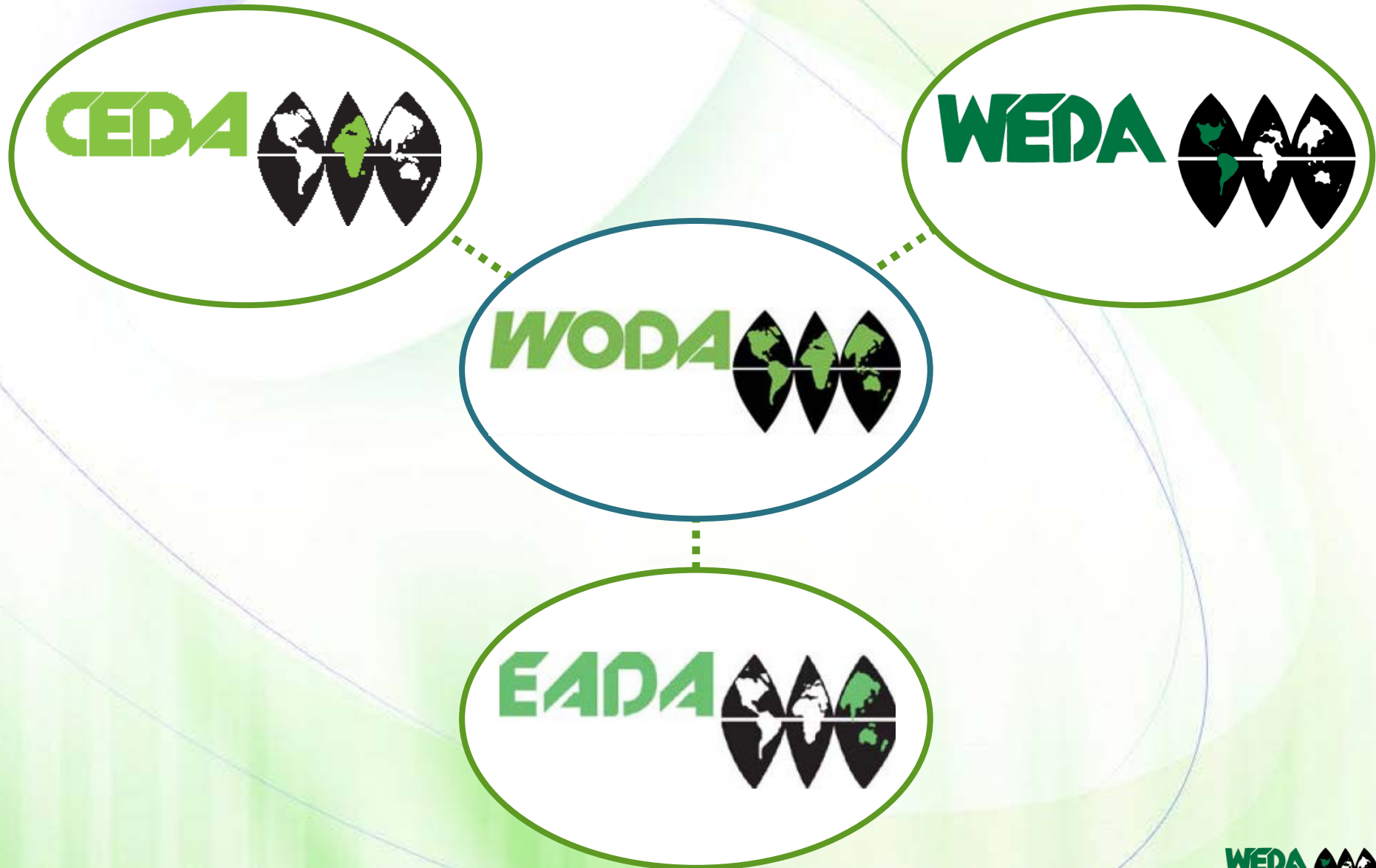


Gulf Chapter Meeting 2014

Welcome Remarks

Thomas M. Verna
WEDA Executive Director

World Dredging Organization



"Dredging Creates a Strong Economy and Cleaner Environment"

WEDA's Goals and Objectives

- **Exchange knowledge** in fields related to dredging, navigation, marine engineering and construction
- **Improve communications, technology transfer, and cooperation** among associations, societies, and organizations
- Emphasize the importance of **understanding and development of solutions** for problems related to the protection and enhancement of the marine environment
- **Support educational institutions** for students interested in pursuing dredging and marine engineering as a career
- Promote membership in and furtherance of WEDA through **establishment and support of Chapters**
- **Recognize individuals and organizations** for outstanding engineering and operational achievement

WEDA at a Glance

- Organized by seven chapters
 - Eastern, Gulf, Midwest, Pacific
 - Mexico, Panama, Brazil
- Currently has approx. 1,000 members
- Have been organizing North America's premier dredging conference and trade show since 1980
- WEDA = Dredging Center of Excellence

WEDA's Sustaining Members

- Since WEDA is non-profit, outside sources of raising funds are a necessity to ensure the longevity and quality of the WEDA organization
- Sustaining Members are recognized on our website and at our events



"Dredging Creates a Strong Economy and Cleaner Environment"

Current Initiatives

- Improved communications with membership
- New branding for annual conferences
 - “Dredging Summit & Expo”
- Renewed technical focus
 - Short courses as part of annual meetings
 - Post-conference technical tours
 - Invited technical sessions on major projects
 - Journal of Dredging
- Increased collaboration between chapters and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Improvements on the website
 - www.westerndredging.org

Key WEDA Developments

- Revised and updated our organization's bylaws last year
- Highly involved Board of Directors have volunteered considerable amount of time towards many initiatives and committees
 - Improved member communications
 - Tighter control over finances
 - Better focused conferences! (workshops, technical tours)
- Created "Events Committee", whose charge is to focus on identifying best and most appropriate marine-themed venues for our annual meetings and identifying technical and cultural tours as part of those meetings
 - "World Dredging Congress XXI" will be held in Miami in 2016

Key WEDA Developments

- Recent Initiatives
 - Membership in OAS! (Thanks to Gerhardt)
 - MOU with NAMEPA for educational outreach
 - Additional outreach with the dredging community in the Central and South American countries
- Created/refined several other initiatives
 - Membership/Sustaining Members
 - The Annual Awards Committee
 - USACE Outreach (Thanks to Verna, McKee, et al)
- Long time Executive Director, Larry Patella, transited into a “Consultant” role after Toronto, June 2014

Key WEDA Developments

- Future conferences
 - WEDA Midwest Chapter, Spring 2015
 - 2015 Dredging Summit & Expo
Westin Galleria Hotel, Houston, TX
22-26 June 2015
 - Mexico Chapter, Mexico City, Nov 2015
 - Panama Chapter, Jan 2016 (Canal dedication)
 - WODCON 2016, Hyatt Regency, Miami, FL
13-17 June 2016

Future Priorities

- Enhanced membership experience!
 - Ideas welcome!
- Sustaining membership drive!
- Planning for WODCON 2016
- Facilitating access to new business opportunities for WEDA member in Central and South America
- Educational outreach partnerships (STEM)
- Selective collaboration with other organizations, when beneficial

Have a Great Meeting!