

Meeting Results
WEDA Environmental Commission
Warwick, Rhode Island
June 26, 2000

The meeting on June 26, 2000, of the WEDA Environmental Commission was the “first” of the new Commission, as the organization and membership of the Commission was restructured since the last meeting. Members of the Commission that were present and the stakeholder group that they represent included:

Craig Vogt	Chair	U.S. EPA
Beverly Federko	State Government	State of New Jersey
Ancil Taylor	Dredging Industry	Bean Dredging, Inc.
Phillip Spadaro	Consultant	Hart Crowser, Inc.
Ken Goldberg	Federal Government	Corps of Engineers
Bubba Savage	Business Interests	Mobile Pulley
Don Hayes	Academic	University of Utah
Ram Mohan	WEDA Tech Comm.	Gahagan & Bryant, Inc.
Bob Engler	Liaison-Other Comms.	Corps of Engineers (WES)

Guests included:

Tom Wakeman	Port of New York/New Jersey
Mark Sickles	Dredging Contractors of America
Anna Csiti	CEDA
Neville Burt	CEDA
Judy Powers	International Dredging Review
Ray Bergeron	Cable Arm, Inc.

Commission members that were unable to attend the meeting included:

Laura Fiffick	Port Authority	Port of Houston
Jackie Savitz	Environmental Interest	Coast Alliance
John Togan	Local Non-Profit	Narragansett Bay Keeper

In a round the room setting, members (and guests) provided their thoughts regarding goals and objectives for the Environmental Commission. These are briefly summarized below:

The Commission should:

- Encourage better dialogue and communication with the dredging industry and environmental interests;
- Encourage overall generally enhanced public relations and improve the public's perception of dredging and dredged material disposal;

- Promote new and innovative solutions to environmental issues, but also provide a mechanism to “spread the word” about existing proven solutions;
- Bring an increased level of scientific and technical capability to WEDA while ensuring an enhanced level of objectivity in WEDA programs;
- Include both navigation dredging and environmental dredging in the Commission’s actions;
- Develop high quality technical manuals and reports as well as public education documents; and
- Participate in other similar forums, networking to encourage the sharing of technical, scientific, and general knowledge on environmental issues and solutions.

CEDA Environmental Steering Committee

Neville Burt, the Chair of CEDA’s Environmental Steering Committee (ESC), summarized a number of ESC activities. The ESC meets approximately twice per year for about two days each time. Their primary objective is to provide information such that decisions are made on a properly informed basis.

- The ESC participates in a number of other organizations, which include the London Convention (as an observer), OSPAR, and the Permanent Environmental Commission (PEC) of PIANC.
- The ESC partnered with WEDA’s Environmental Commission and PIANC’s PEC in organization and conduct of Environmental Day during the World Dredging Congress meeting in Las Vegas. Similar plans are underway for the next Congress in Malaysia in April 2001.
- The ESC has provided training in developing countries, such as participating in the London Convention’s workshop in Capetown, South Africa, in 1997.
- The ESC is currently developing a position paper on injection dredging.
- The ESC has produced a total of six environmental guides (see attached for full list).
- Neville Burt is serving as Chair of the WODA Environmental Commission planning for the WODCON meeting next April.

PIANC's Permanent Environmental Commission

Bob Engler provided a brief overview of the PEC's activities, including a new partnership with the International Association of Dredging Contractors to provide additional efforts in developing educational materials on dredged material disposal.

WEDA Environmental Commission Action Items

The following items were identified for follow-up actions as a result of a full and robust discussion of what the Commission should do to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Commission.

1. Prepare a brochure on environmental aspects of dredging. Beverly Fedorko volunteered to assess what she already has together that could help in the preparation.
2. Evaluate and prepare a curriculum to provide information regarding dredging and dredged material management and the environmental aspects. Phil Spadaro and Beverly Fedorko volunteered to conduct an assessment of what is available, what types of curriculums would be useful, target audience, and potential funding sources for its development. Anna Csiti also indicated that she would assist in the effort.
3. Tom Wakeman offered to scope out the needed activities in order to encourage a more holistic view towards dredged material management which would encompass sediment management into the watershed.
4. The Commission should prepare a fact sheet or series of fact sheets on the topic of dredging and dredged material management. Three topics that were suggested include: "Dredging for Dummies," "The Facts on Turbidity and Dredging," and beneficial use of dredged material. Ken Goldberg will prepare an inventory of fact sheets or similar types of brief documents that are available prior to initiating any actions to develop Commission documents.
5. All of the Commission efforts should be developed in a manner such that they can be placed on the WEDA web site.
6. Other actions by the Commission include sponsoring the Environmental Commission panel during the technical program of the annual WEDA conference. Actions needed:
 - (1) produce the proceedings of the panel on invasive species conducted during the WEDA conference in Warwick, Rhode Island;

- (2) Identify the topic and invite speakers for the next WEDA conference in Houston in June 2001;
 - (3) assist in conduct of Environment Day during WODCON in April 2001;
 - (4) participate in the WODA Environmental Commission; and
 - (5) provide articles for WEDA's quarterly newsletter.
7. Comments on the WODA Environmental Commission Charter should be provided to Craig Vogt by October 1, 2000.

Next Steps

The Environmental Commission will conduct a meeting by conference call on October 16, 1:00 PM EDT to 3:00 PM, to assess progress and needed next steps on the above actions. A notice of the call in telephone number will be sent by email in early October.

CEDA Guides—Environmental Aspects of Dredging*

Players, Processes and Perspectives

Conventions, Codes and Conditions: Marine Disposal

Conventions, Codes and Conditions: Land Disposal

Investigation, Interpretation and Impact

Machines, Methods and Mitigation

Reuse, Recycle or Relocate

* Published by International Association of Dredging Contractors
and Central Dredging Association; 1996-1999

See CEDA's web site at: <http://www.dredging.org/>