

Meeting Results
WEDA Environmental Commission
Houston, Texas
June 25, 2001

The meeting on June 25, 2001, of the WEDA Environmental Commission was attended by the following Environmental Commission members and guests.

Craig Vogt	Chair	U.S.EPA
Beverly Fedorko	State Government	New Jersey (changed jobs to NYSA)
Ancil Taylor	Dredging Industry	Bean Environmental
Phillip Spadaro	Consultant	Hart Crowser
Bubba Savage	Business Interests	Mobile Pulley
Don Hayes	Academic	University of Utah
Ram Mohan	WEDA Tech Comm	Blasland, Bouck & Lee
Bob Engler	Liaison: Other Comm	Corps of Engineers
Linda Shead	Galveston Bay Foundation	Local Interest Group

Guests Included:

Neville Burt	CEDA
Peter Hamburger	International Association of Dredging Contractors
Mark Sickles	Dredging Contractors of America
Judy Powers	International Dredging Review
Ray Bergeron	Cable Arm
Steve Garbaciak	Blasland, Bouck & Lee
Larry Baier	State of New Jersey
Rich Dewan	State of New Jersey

The objectives of the meeting were to review progress on actions identified in the June 2000 meeting of the Environmental Commission and to identify and initiate new actions regarding environmental issues related to dredged material management and marine transportation.

In a round the room setting, members and guests provided their thoughts regarding goals, objectives, and specific actions that should be taken by the Environmental Commission. These are briefly summarized below:

The Commission should:

- Encourage better dialogue and communication between the dredging industry and environmental interests; i.e., provide information on environmental aspects of dredging to the dredging interests and provide dredging information to the environmental interests. More facts & less misinformation.
- Encourage overall generally enhanced public relations and improve the public's perception of dredging and dredged material disposal, including bringing information on dredging and the environment into the classroom.

- Identify the most pressing environmental issues (e.g., environmental windows, beneficial use of dredged material for habitat creation), promote new and innovative solutions, set priorities for action, and focus on increasing the visibility and information available as well as mechanisms to “spread the word” on those issues (e.g., the WEDA website).
- Need more information made available regarding using dredged material as a resource instead of a waste. Need to provide information on success stories that people don't generally hear about, such as creation of emergent wetlands along the Anacostia River using dredged material.
- Need to do a better job of public relations in getting the message out. In addition, more focus should be on partnering with various stakeholders, e.g., partner with various state agencies and others that can influence the outcomes of various dredging projects.
- WEDA and the Environmental Commission are a technical professional organization and as such we must be careful not to become an advocacy group. We should focus our energies on bringing an increased level of scientific and technical capability to WEDA.
- Participate in other similar forums, networking to encourage the sharing of technical, scientific, and general knowledge on environmental issues and solutions.
 - Need more coordination and communication with CEDA's Environmental Steering Committee, and PIANC's Environmental Commission.
 - Need to assist in the coordination of technical papers and attendance next year at the WEDA conference since Dredging 2002 in Orlando and the WEDA conference are only one month apart from each other.
 - Provide a paper for the WEDA Journal from the panel sponsored by the Environmental Commission during the WEDA Technical program.

Following the above round the room discussion, the Chair reminded the meeting participants that while the Commission had not taken on a very aggressive agenda, some progress had been made, but much of the efforts remained. The Chair provided a brief overview of the action items that were identified during the June 2000 meeting. These were included in the June 2001 Report to the WEDA Board of Directors and include:

- Development of Fact Sheets on Dredging/Dredged Material

Management-starting first with an inventory of existing fact sheets

- Identification of Actions Needed to Encourage Sediment Management-Holistic Approaches
- Preparation of a Brochure on Environmental Aspects of Dredging
- Identification of Outreach and Public Education Opportunities, including a Dredged Material Management Curriculum
- Providing News for the WEDA Newsletter
- Sponsoring a Panel on Specific Environmental Issues during the Technical Program at the Annual WEDA Conferences
- Co-hosting Environment Day at each World Dredging Congress
- Working with CEDA and EADA to Assist in Developing Operating Procedures and Organizational Structure for WODA's Environmental Commission
- Liaison with CEDA's Environmental Steering Committee and PIANC's Permanent Environmental Commission

Meeting Presentations

Neville Burt, Chair of CEDA's Environmental Steering Committee (ESC), provided a brief report on actions/activities that his committee has underway or have completed. The ESC meets twice per year for two days each time. The ESC actions include:

- Guide #7 of the CEDA/IADC Environmental Guides has recently been published and the series is now complete. A series of seminars is being developed.
- Environmental Day at WODCONXVI was organized by CEDA ESC with assistance from the WEDA EC and EADA. The Day was considered a success and WODCONXVII (2004 in Hamburg, Germany) will also have an Environment Day. The organizing committee will include the WODA Environmental Commission, which includes the Chair of CEDA's ESC, the Chair of WEDA's Environmental Commission, and a member of EADA to be designated.
- The ESC represents CEDA at OSPAR and until the last meeting at the London Convention, CEDA has been a recognized NGO at the London Convention meetings. WODA is now the recognized NGO and CEDA will continue their role. Further coordination efforts with WEDA and EADA are likely.
- Neville Burt participated in the National Academy of Sciences workshop on

environmental windows in Washington, DC, in the Spring of this year, and will represent CEDA during the Remediation Conference in Venice in September 2001.

Bob Engler provided a brief report on PIANC's Environmental Commission and that report is included at Attachment 1. He invited everyone to attend PIANC's conference next year, April 16-19, 2002, which will celebrate PIANC's 100th anniversary. The conference will be held in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Action Agenda Items

Curriculum. Beverly Fedorko provided a review of a paper she drafted on bringing ideas into the classroom (Attachment 2). Because of the immense complexity and difficulty in developing a curriculum and the delivery routes, and the fact that the Corps of Engineers at WES is 80% completed with a curriculum on dredging, the conclusion of the Commission is that we wait and review the Corps' efforts before starting efforts of our own. There may be an opportunity in the U.S. Department of Transportation effort, the Marine Transportation Initiative, in which the Corps' information could be used in the broader context of marine transportation outreach and education efforts.

In the interim, the Commission will keep outreach and education on its agenda and will collect available education materials that are already produced (several were mentioned: NY/NJ dredging game, Houston coloring book, the Corps elementary school poster of marine transportation).

Action Item: Send any materials to Beverly.
NYSA
2 World Trade Center, 20th floor
New York, NY 10048-0075

Inventory of Fact Sheets. Preparation of fact sheets on various aspects of dredging and environmental issues is one of the Commission's action items. In order not to redo what others have already done, the first step is to gather what fact sheets have already been prepared. Little progress was made on this item since it was identified during the June 2000 meeting.

Action Item: Send any fact sheets to Bob Engler, copy to Craig Vogt, and Bob will assemble for our next meeting in the Fall 2001. Ancil Taylor volunteered to assist Bob in sorting through the fact sheets. Craig Vogt stated that he would check with Jackie Savitz to see if she could assist as well.

WEDA Web Site and FAQs. The long list of FAQs prepared by the Chair was a lesson learned that much of the answers are likely to already be in the fact sheets. The Commission stated that preparation of FAQs (and answers) for the WEDA web site should wait pending the collection of fact sheets. These two efforts should complement

one another and the fact sheets would come first.

Environmental Commission Brochure. The Commission spoke with one voice in concluding that we did not need to prepare a brochure as there were a number of brochures available already including a recent brochure by CEDA/IADC on “Dredging the Environmental Facts.” Questions were raised regarding what happened to the brochure on the Environmental Commission.

Action Item: Beverly will check the status and also put that brochure onto the WEDA Website.

WEDA Newsletter. The newsletter is published quarterly and stories regarding environmental aspects of dredging are encouraged to be submitted to Larry Patella quarterly. The deadlines are September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1.

Action Item: Don Hayes will serve as coordinator to remind Commission members to submit brief stories to Larry Patella for the newsletter. Larry’s email address is: weda@juno.com. Don will suggest a schedule of who on the Commission submits a story for each deadline. Don will send a reminder of the coming deadline to Commission members and corresponding guests each quarter.

WEDAXX Technical Program Environmental Commission Session. After much discussion of appropriate themes, the conclusion was to have a series of papers on “partnering.” Suggestions included Galveston Bay, Ashtabula, Boston Harbor, and Columbia River.

Action Item: Commission members and corresponding guests should send ideas for partnerships and papers to Craig Vogt, who will solicit papers for the session.

The next meeting of the Environmental Commission will be conducted on one of the days (to be determined) of the WEDA Pacific Chapter meeting in San Diego, November 9-11, 2001. The annual WEDA Conference in 2002 will be conducted in Denver, Colorado, June 12-16. A meeting of the Environmental Commission will be scheduled during the Denver conference.