

Meeting Results
WEDA Environmental Commission
San Diego, California June 26, 2006

The meeting on June 26, 2006, of the WEDA Environmental Commission was attended by the following Environmental Commission members and guests:

Craig Vogt	Chair	U.S. EPA
Don Hayes	Academic Community	University of Utah
Bob Engler	Consultant	Moffatt and Nichols
Phil Spadaro	Consultant	BBL
Len Juhnke	Dredging Industry	Manson Construction
Marsha Cohen	Media	Terra et Aqua
Peter Hamburger	Consultant	Hamburger Management
Beverly Fedorko	Shipping Industry	NY Shipping Association
Neville Burt	CEDA	HR Wallingford
Judith Powers	Media	International Dredging Review
Thomas Fredette	Federal Government	Corps of Engineers
Gary McFarlane	Consultant	Mar-Land Engineering
David Taillefer	Federal Government	Environment Canada
Peggy Derrick	Consultant	EA Engineering
Christian Houck	Consultant	The Retec Group

Following introductions of those present at the meeting, Craig Vogt provided a brief review of the objectives of the 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) continue to explore opportunities to collaborate with CEDA's Environmental Steering Committee, PIANC's Environmental Commission, ASCE's COPRI, and other similar organizations;
- (2) assess potential outreach and education actions for the Environmental Commission to take on;
- (3) determine the theme of the Environmental Commission panel during the 2006 San Diego WEDA Conference;
- (4) learn about the progress by PIANC Work Group #13 in production of the best management practices document;
- (5) Initiate detailed planning for WODCON in 2007 in Orlando;
- (6) continue to generate ideas on how to improve the WEDA website;
- (7) identify actions to improve the provision of environmental articles to the WEDA Newsletter; and
- (8) identify other actions and activities for the Environmental Commission.

Neville Burt reported on CEDA's Environmental Steering Committee (ESC). The ESC includes representatives from eight countries, meets twice per year for two days each, and has a number of activities on-going as well as being active in several international treaty organizations (e.g., London Convention and OSPAR). The ESC's role in these activities is to provide liaison and coordinate between the dredging industry and the international regulatory bodies.

- Neville reported on the success of the London Convention's Scientific Group's workshop on marine pollution prevention in Dalian, China, May 29 – June 2, 2006, during which Neville, representing WODA, conducted a full day of training on dredging and dredged material management. Tom Fredette also helped during that session.
- A training package has been developed by IADC and a comprehensive set of power point slides are available for training on the ESC's guidance documents on the environmental aspects of dredging. An effort to update the guidance documents has been initiated; the current set of multiple documents will be combined into one document. If anyone wants to volunteer to be a reviewer of the redrafted documents prior to production, please contact Neville.
- Neville stated that the ESC has recently completed an "advancement paper" on hydrodynamic dredging and it is on the CEDA website: www.dredging.org. The next advancement paper will address climate change and sea level rise.

Bob Engler, Chair of the PIANC Environmental Commission (EnviCom), reported on EnviCom activities related to WEDA interests. Bob provided an overview of guidance documents that had been completed by EnviCom as well as a number of active efforts, such as environmental benefits of waterborne transport, and beneficial use of dredged material - options and constraints. Bob reported that anyone can serve on PIANC workgroups, and participation is very much appreciated. More information can be found on the PIANC website: www.PIANC-aipcn.org.

Bob Engler, Chair of the ASCE COPRI Dredging Operations Subcommittee, reported that the first meeting was held during last year's WEDA conference resulted in production of a draft environmental policy which was in review. The next meeting would be conducted on June 27 at 4:00 PM at the WEDA conference.

Beverly Fedorko, charged by the Environmental Commission during its meeting last year to develop ideas for outreach and education, led a lively discussion of potential outreach and education actions for WEDA to undertake. Beverly stated:

As with any kind of public relations, outreach or education program, an educated and well informed consumer is your best customer. In the instance of dredging and the general public's understanding of dredging most people sort of "know" what it is.

What they don't know and what we can help with is the overall understanding of the importance of dredging and its necessity.

Beverly provided an overview of several potential outreach and education actions including the following ideas:

- Audience: general public and environmental groups
- Venues: guest editorials, articles, open houses on projects, local service organizations
- Partnerships: e.g., Waterways Council, AAPA Environmental Committee, ASCE/COPRI
- Produce "simple English" versions of technical documents
- Background materials: prepare video presentations or power point (with talking points) presentations for use with the public on specific projects
- Invite: meet with broad range of environmental groups to discuss environmental concerns and challenges
- PIANC: formalize relationship/partnership

The Environmental Commission agreed to recognize outreach and education as a priority for action by the Commission and by WEDA in general.

Specific actions include:

1. Identify organizations that should be notified of upcoming WEDA meetings, including WEDA Chapter meetings, and develop the mechanisms to make the notifications happen on a regular basis. Initial thoughts included:
 - AAPA
 - DCA
 - IAPH
 - ASCE
 - National Waterways Conference
 - Coastal States Organization, National Governor's Association, Coastal Zone Managers
 - Environmental interest groups
 - PIANC
 - Industry groups, such as CMANC
 - Coast, bay, and river keepers
 - Watershed groups
 - Who else?

Action: While no deadline was set for this activity, please send any suggestions to Craig Vogt by August 31, 2006. Specific contact information is critical, i.e., email addresses. Craig will assemble the list and work with Larry Patella to develop a mechanism for notifications.

2. Prepare power point presentations to be available on the WEDA website for general use in outreach and education efforts, especially for specific projects. Numbers of power point presentations are already available, and the first effort is to identify those and modify as needed. It is recognized that these power point presentations could be further modified for use by specific users for specific project outreach and education needs. Possible topics included:

- Dredging 101
- Environmentally sound management of dredged material
- Benefits of dredging on quality of life (CEDA will focus their next dredging days on “the day dredging stops” as a theme relating to the benefits of dredging.

Action: Tom Fredette volunteered to see what he already has and modify as needed for at least the first two bullets above. Bob Engler also said he would check his sources.

3. Prepare an outreach and education strategy and action plan. A subcommittee was formed:

Beverly Fedorko-lead

Peter Hamburger

Tom Fredette

Bob Engler

Marsha Cohen-available for review/advice

Action: The meeting cautioned not to be overly ambitious to start, as this would be the initial step of a long journey. The target completion of the draft strategy/action plan was 90 days----September 26---in order that it could be provided to the Board of Directors for consideration in the Fall 2006.

Phil Spadaro, representative of WEDA's Environmental Commission in PIANC's Working Group #13, reported on progress in development of a document very pertinent to WEDA:

Best Management Practices Applied to Dredging and Dredged Material

Disposal Projects for the Protection of the Environment

The draft document should be ready for Working Group review in a few months. The next meeting is targeted for November in Vicksburg. Don Hayes volunteered to assist Phil in the review of the draft document. The meeting recognized the real need for this BMP document, that it is likely to be a real challenge, and that Phil's leadership on these major efforts is very much appreciated.

WEDA Website: www.westerndredging.org. While not the focus of the Environmental Commission, the meeting noted that the website is much improved. The meeting participants were asked to send their ideas for further enhancements

of the website content and navigation to the webmaster listed on the WEDA website, joe@radiojoe.org, with a copy to Craig Vogt.

WEDA Newsletter: Noting that the Newsletter is an excellent mechanism for exchange of information, we are still not consistent in providing environmental stories related to dredging and marine transportation. Craig Vogt said he would send a reminder to the Environmental Commission two weeks prior to Larry Patella's deadlines. Those deadlines: August 31, 2006; November 30, 2006; February 28, 2007; and May 31, 2007.

Action: Please provide brief reports, announcements, information, stories, meeting or conference dates and anything pertinent to the environment and dredging or marine transportation directly to Larry Patella at weda@comcast.net with a copy to Craig Vogt at Vogt.Craig@epa.gov.

Thanks to Beverly Fedorko and Phil Spadaro for arranging and moderating this year's Environmental Commission Panel during the WEDA XXVI Technical Program The theme for this year's session was "*The Importance of Communication in the World of Dredging*." The panel members included:

A summary of the speakers' remarks and the discussion will be included in the September 2006 issue of the WEDA Newsletter

Craig Vogt noted that the WEDA Chair of the Board of Directors, i.e. Ancil Taylor, stated that the next WODCON was going to be the best WODCON ever. Craig stated that the WEDA Environmental Commission has a direct role to play in achieving that vision. After a brief discussion, it was concluded that:

- Environment Day had run its course.
- In place of Environment Day, the technical program should be set up with specific tracks on environmental issues associated with dredging, such that each day of the conference at least one track would be highlighted in a technical session. Action: Suggestions for the tracks are needed. Also, we need to target papers within those tracks, and we need to be sure that we are not too North American centric---identify international papers. While no lead was determined for this activity, Don Hayes, Ram Mohan, Neville Burt, and Craig Vogt are obvious contenders for assisting—others are more than welcome. We should get the tracks organized by August 31 and identify authors/papers.
- A panel discussion arranged by the WEDA Environmental Commission for the technical program should be developed. The panel at the end of Environment Day in Hamburg should serve as the model for the panel. Action: The Team of Craig Vogt, Neville Burt, and Bob Engler will initiate this activity. Others are welcome.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the WEDA Environmental Commission will be a combined meeting with the WODA Environmental Commission and it will be held at a time to be determined during WODCON in 2007 in Orlando, Florida. A conference call(s) will likely be scheduled sometime during the year.

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WEDA Environmental Commission Meeting on June 26, 2006 San Diego