

Meeting Results
WEDA Environmental Commission
St. Louis, MO June 9, 2008

The meeting on June 9, 2008, of the WEDA Environmental Commission was attended by the following Environmental Commission members and guests:

Craig Vogt	Chair	Craig Vogt, Inc
Don Hayes	Academic Community	University of Louisiana
Bob Engler	Consultant	Moffatt and Nichols
Len Juhnke	Dredging Industry	Manson Construction
Marsha Cohen	Media	Terra et Aqua
Barry Holliday	Dredging Industry	DCA
Judith Powers	Media	International Dredging Review
Gary McFarlane	Consultant	Mar-Land Engineering
Molly Madden	Federal Government	U.S. EPA
Peggy Derrick	Consultant	EA Engineering
Adrian MacDonald	Federal Government	Environment Canada
Alan Edmondson	Federal Government	Corps of Engineers
Hypolite Laboyrie	Federal Government	CEDA Environmental Commission
Rich Weber	Consultant	Natural Resource Technology
Jim Quadrini	Consultant	QAE, LLC
Beverly Fedorko	Shipping Industry	New York Shipping Association
Ed Russo	PIANC	Federal Government; ports

Following introductions of those present at the meeting, Craig Vogt provided a brief review of the objectives of the WEDA 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 collaborate with CEDA's Environmental Commission, PIANC's Environmental Commission, ASCE's COPRI, and other similar organizations;
- (2) identify potential outreach and education actions for the Environmental Commission to take on;
- (3) determine the theme of the Environmental Commission panel during the 2009 WEDA Conference;
- (4) identify actions in preparation for the upcoming Panama Chapter meeting and the joint meeting of the WEDA and CEDA Environmental Commissions in Panama;
- (5) identify actions to improve the provision of environmental articles to the WEDA Newsletter and continue to generate ideas on how to improve the WEDA website; and

(6) identify other actions and activities for the Environmental Commission.

Polite Laboyrie reported on a number of CEDA activities:

- Polite is the new Chair of CEDA's Environmental Commission (CEC), replacing Neville Burt who retired last year.
- CEDA with IADC has updated the IADC Dredging Guidebooks into one 380 page book, recently publishing the "Environmental Aspects of Dredging." Training based on the book is available from IADC/CEDA.
- WODA, represented by Polite in the London Convention, has agreed to lead the development of low technology approaches to assist developing countries to meet the London Convention Waste Assessment Guidelines. The CEC is developing a position paper on dredging and the environment, and welcomes comments from the WEDA Environmental Commission. The draft will be circulated in early July.
- CEDA is developing what is termed cedawiki which will post reliable, quality information about dredging on the CEDA website improving what is currently available on wikipedia. The aim is to move closer to converting the CEDA website to a dredging information portal. A draft is available and reviewers are welcome to participate. Contact Anna Csiti at csiti@dredging.org.

Ed Russo, Chair of the PIANC Environmental Commission (EnviCom), reported on EnviCom activities related to WEDA interests.

Ed provided an overview of quite an impressive number of pertinent guidance documents that had been completed and would be published in 2008 by EnviCom, such as "Dredged Material as a Resource," "Dredging Management Practices for the Environment," and "Climate Change and Navigation." Ed also reported on a number of active efforts, such as an effort to assist the dredging industry in working with nature, sustainable waterborne commerce, environmental risk management, and ballast water management on board dredges.

Ed reported that anyone can serve on PIANC workgroups, and participation is very much appreciated. Ed's powerpoint presentation and a presentation on working with nature can be found on the PIANC website: www.PIANC-aipcn.org.

Beverly Fedorko, charged by the Environmental Commission during its meeting last year to develop ideas for outreach and education, led another lively discussion of potential outreach and education actions for WEDA to undertake. Beverly reminded us that the Environmental Commission has agreed to recognize outreach and education as a priority for action by the Commission and by WEDA in general. The conclusion of the discussion was to prepare an action plan and propose it to the WEDA Board of Directors for consideration. The proposal is provided below:

Over the past several years there have been a number of conversations within the Environmental Commission of WEDA and our sister organizations of CEDA, EADA, CHIDA and PIANC with regard to the need for public education and outreach.

Compounding the need for increased communications is an identified lack of working knowledge and understanding on the part of the regulatory community in the US about dredging operations and the technical changes that have taken place in this industry.

The discussions yesterday in the WEDA EC led us to the distinct conclusion that although there is significant literature on dredging available, there is a need for information synthesis and a concerted outreach and education effort on the part of this industry. WEDA is a natural organization to spearhead this effort and we propose the following:

1. Develop a plan to synthesize and package available information and launch a formal outreach and education program
2. Within this plan consider hiring an outside public relations or communications firm to create a formal communications plan and develop a brochure/primer (or documents) intended to increase awareness on the part of designated audiences (regulators, state and federal, general public, media and the education community)
3. Within this process identify the shortfalls and missing links
4. Potentially partner with our sister organizations using already existing literature such as those developed by the IADC
5. Gather and create a US version of literature available both technical and non-technical
6. Create a packaged Dredging 101 PowerPoint presentation that would be downloadable from the WEDA website
7. Work with the Dredging Contractors of America to further this effort
8. Work with the USEPA and USACE to arrange training sessions for regulators as the National Dredging Team launches their new green book guidance
9. Identify sources for sharing and/or a delivery mechanism for information such as WEDA chapter meetings; i.e. where do the regulators go for training and how do we enhance that information?
10. WEDA is the missing link of leadership and this is a natural step up into the leadership role in partnership with DCA
11. Develop a working team of “experts” to work in concert with hired consultant to develop and maintain a clear message of what the regulatory community needs to know and also develop a deliverable product useful throughout all regions of the US

The proposed action plan for outreach and communication was provided to the Board of Directors during the St. Louis conference and is under review.

Craig Vogt reported that the joint meeting of the WEDA and CEDA Environmental Commissions is set for March 2-6, 2009, in Panama. The meeting will be the same week as the meeting of the Panama Chapter. More information will be available soon.

Craig Vogt said thanks to this year’s Environmental Commission Panel during the WEDA conference technical program. The theme for this year’s session was:

“Making it Happen: Management of Dredged Material and Sediment in the Watershed”

Chair: Craig Vogt

Panel Members:

- Molly Madden U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Jeff Waters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- David Knight Great Lakes Commission
- Polite Laboyrie CEDA Environmental Commission

These papers will be included in a future edition of the WEDA Journal.

Leading into the discussion of next year's Environmental Commission technical program panel theme, Gary McFarlane of Mar-Land Engineering Ltd. recounted his experiences in Canada in which they used a holistic approach to the problem of storm water management at a port. The "doing the right thing" approach, working with nature, led the planners and designers to a better overall design that met the environmental needs while enabling the port to move forward in an economically efficient manner in their expansion plans. The discussion resulted in the following topic: "Port Development: Doing the Right Thing." Other suggestions (so we don't forget) included:

- "Successes and Challenges: Emissions from Dredging Projects"
- "Working with Nature"

Action: Need volunteer(s) to identify subjects and speakers.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the WEDA Environmental Commission will be held at a time to be determined during the next WEDA meeting, location to be determined.



WEDA Environmental Commission Meeting on June 9, 2008 St. Louis, Missouri