



2019 WEDA ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Process and Criteria February 17, 2019

Awards will be presented during the June 2019 WEDA Dredging Summit and Exposition in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Applications should be submitted in PDF format by April 19, 2019, to Craig Vogt, Chair of WEDA's Environmental Commission, at Craig@CraigVogt.com.

Objective

The 2019 WEDA Environmental Excellence Awards will recognize projects for their outstanding contribution to meeting the goals of WEDA, which include:

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 environmental, are accomplished in an efficient manner while meeting environmental goals.

The 2019 Awards

Three Environmental Excellence Awards will be given, one for each of the following categories:

- (1) **DREDGING FOR NAVIGATION**: Purpose is to create or maintain navigation channels;
- (2) **ENVIRONMENTAL DREDGING**: Purpose is environmental enhancement, i.e., remediation, wetland enhancement, restoration or creation, or any other dredging project whose primary objective is environmental in nature; and
- (3) **MITIGATION OR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**: This category includes dredging or marine construction projects that exemplify and implement the WODA Statement on Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change. The WODA Statement can be found on the WEDA website at <https://www.westerndredging.org/index.php/awards/environmental-excellence-awards>. For further explanation of this category, see the text boxes.

Process and General Criteria

These awards will be announced and presented during the WEDA Luncheon on June 5, 2019, during the WEDA Dredging Summit and Exposition in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

- Recognition will include a plaque, a press release, and a special highlight on the WEDA website.



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- The award will be for a project, and team members will be recognized. The preference is for all project team members to be WEDA members; however, at least one of the project team members must be a WEDA member in good standing.
- The project must be related to dredging or marine engineering, consistent with WEDA's mission, which includes beneficial use of dredged material.
- The project must not have been completed more than three years* from the date of the award application, or for longer-term projects, specific increments or phases must have been completed to be eligible for consideration. See text box.
- Projects cannot be resubmitted regardless of whether or not they were awarded the WEDA Environmental Excellence Award, with the exception of the Mitigation and Climate Change Category*. See the text box.

*Exceptions: Mitigation and Climate Change Category

Two important exceptions to the general criteria pertain exclusively to projects in the Mitigation or Adaptation to Climate Change Category.

1. Projects completed up to four years before the date of the award application are eligible.
2. Projects that have been previously submitted in either the Navigation or Environmental Dredging categories can be resubmitted in the Climate Change Category, if they meet the four-year rule noted above.

- Summaries of the Award-winning projects, as written in the applications, will be included in a press release and possibly in a newsletter or other electronic communication.
- All project applications will be included, as submitted, on the WEDA website, after the June 2019 Chicago Dredging Summit. Submittal of an application grants permission for these actions.
- Attendance of a project representative at the WEDA June 2019 Chicago Dredging Summit is expected of all award applicants.
- Posters from all applicants: Please bring a poster (e.g., 24 inches by 36 inches or 50-60 cm by 70-80 cm) to show off the project to attendees at the Chicago Dredging Summit. The intention is to enhance all attendees' understanding of the projects, the project team, and the project accomplishments. These will be displayed in the foyer leading to the exhibit hall. If you want to keep the poster, please make arrangements to have it return home with you.
- While projects will be awarded based upon their merits, using the ranking criteria provided below, the WEDA Environmental Excellence Awards Review Team does appreciate an application that is well-formatted, easy to read, and explains how the project qualifies based on each ranking criteria.

- The WEDA Environmental Excellence Awards Review Team are each a member of WEDA's Environmental Commission.

Project Ranking Criteria

- Environmental benefits (35 points)
 - What are the environmental benefits?
 - What unique environmental challenges were addressed?
 - Were any mitigation measures adopted? If so, list the measures.
 - Did the project incorporate the principles within the approaches of working with nature or engineering with nature?
- Innovation (20 points)
 - How does this project show leadership and take steps beyond "traditional" environmental protection efforts?
 - Did the project "break new ground" in addressing the environmental challenges?
 - What methods, technologies, or approaches (including partnerships) were used?
 - What sustainable approaches were applied?
- Economic benefits (15 points)
 - Explain implementation of cost-effective methods, procedures, or practices in terms of environmental protection efforts. Were there project efficiencies? Were there any specific cost-saving or economic enhancement components of the project?
 - What are the socio-economic aspects of the project, e.g., positive impacts to the quality of life to stakeholders?
 - How does the project contribute to the economy?
- Transferability (15 points)
 - Are the project characteristics and lessons learned transferable and can they be used by others addressing similar environmental issues?
- Outreach and Education (15 points)
 - What education and/or outreach activities were undertaken?
 - What mechanisms were used to involve the broad array of stakeholders?

Special Note on the Mitigation and Climate Change Category

The focus of this Category:

- Increasing energy efficiency and managing carbon in relation to dredging and marine construction projects, including reduction of carbon emissions and creating carbon sinks through habitat development; and
- Contributing to enhanced resilience and reducing risks to shorelines, waterways, infrastructure, and fresh, estuarine and marine water resources.

See the link below to the 2017 Winner of the Climate Change Category, Horseshoe Bend Project, as a good example of a project description for this category, e.g., reductions in tons of carbon emissions, benefits of enhanced wetlands in creating carbon sinks.

https://www.westerndredging.org/phocadownload/2017_Vancouver/Horseshoe%20Bend.pdf

In this category, WEDA is especially interested in quantitative evaluations (i.e., tons of carbon) of (1) carbon emission reductions and (2) the capture of carbon (i.e., sinks) through wetlands, habitat development or other innovative measures.

Applications

- Applications must be submitted in English.
- Applications should clearly identify the award category: Navigation Dredging, Environmental Dredging, or Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change.
- **Important:** Applications should be no longer than 6 pages total length.
- Outline of application:
 - Cover page. Does not count towards page count.
 - Summary: project description: goals, objectives, accomplishments (one page maximum). The Summary will be used in the press release.
 - List of project team members and their affiliations, including the project owner, the role of the team members, WEDA membership status, and the nominating entity.
 - Environmental benefits
 - Innovation
 - Economic benefits
 - Transferability
 - Outreach and education
 - Inclusion of project figures, diagrams, or photographs is encouraged (maximum of three pages). These pages do not count towards the page count.