



## **Minutes and President's Report Western Dredging Association**

**Presented at the  
June 12, 2012 General Membership Meeting  
Crowne Plaza River Walk Hotel  
San Antonio, Texas**

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Robert B. Wetta, President, of the Western Dredging Association (WEDA), called the meeting to order at 1:25 pm on Tuesday, June 12, 2012.

### **Approval of the Minutes from June 7, 2011**

The first item of old business was the approval of the minutes from the last general membership meeting held in Nashville, Tennessee, June 7, 2011. A copy of the minutes was provided to all members in good standing. Mr. Wetta called for any recommended changes to the minutes and, with no changes recommended, he entertained a motion for the acceptance of the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made, seconded, and passed by a voice vote.

### **President's Annual Report**

The next item of business was the President's annual report that covered the period from June 7, 2011 until June 12, 2012. Mr. Wetta's report is as follows.

#### ***Report as Presented by Robert B. Wetta***

##### ***Membership***

During the period of this report, WEDA membership continues to increase. Although more than 320 individuals discontinued their membership for various reasons, 304 new members joined the association. As of this date, WEDA's total membership stands at 4,558. WEDA continues to update its database.

Credit for this continued membership increase is the result of the outstanding efforts by WEDA's North American Chapter, expansion of WEDA activities in Central and South America, and continuation of Texas A & M's dredging engineering short course. Although our combined efforts to increase membership continue to produce excellent results, all members are encouraged to let your friends and colleagues know about the advantages of being a WEDA member. The experiences and knowledge available to WEDA from new members greatly benefits our association and our industry, because issues throughout our industry are changing almost on a daily basis. We need the experience and knowledge from new members in areas such as excavated materials, enhancement of our environment, and the disposition of contaminated sediments. We need to hear more from the sand and gravel industry and dredging contractors about new equipment and dredging techniques. We need to become aware of successes and problem areas.

### *Financial Status*

As to our financial status, WEDA's total liabilities and fund balance as of May 30, 2012 was \$206,000.00. WEDA is a not-for-profit organization.

#### **WEDA Financial Summary as of May 30, 2012**

Income	\$000,000.00
Expenses	\$000,000.00
Reserve Funds	\$ 22,000.00
Cash on Hand (Checking Account)	\$206,000.00

During the past fiscal year, sufficient funds were available to allow us to continue our financial support to Texas A & M University. WEDA contributes \$2,500.00 annually to the William R. Murden Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to a Texas A & M graduate student in the fields of dredging and marine engineering and construction. In other areas, funds are available to continue to support WEDA's Student Papers Program that encourages university students to present technical papers at WEDA/Texas A & M Western Hemisphere conferences. For those not familiar with the student papers program, WEDA waives the student registration fees and provides financial support in the amount of \$500.00 at each annual conference for up to four students. The student deemed to have presented the best paper will be awarded a Best Student Paper certificate and a \$300.00 cash prize.

WEDA members are reminded that because of their hard and dedicated work, WEDA has become the recognized center of dredging excellence throughout the Western Hemisphere. As the only professional technical association in the Western Hemisphere dedicated to the exchange of information and knowledge related to dredging, marine engineering, and construction, as well as the enhancement of the marine environment, WEDA considers it an honor to be able to continue to promote its stated goals and objectives through conferences and trade shows such as this one. The planning and preparation of programs such as the WEDA 32<sup>nd</sup> and TAMU 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, along with our *Journal of Dredging Engineering*, has contributed significantly to the association's ability to meet its stated goals and objectives.

### *Health and Safety*

The health and welfare of WEDA members is paramount and the safety of dredgers and other WEDA members on and off the job has become one of WEDA's primary concerns. The association continues to work with United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Dredging Contractors of America to raise awareness level of all our members about the hazards they face on a daily basis. WEDA's Safety Commission chair, Tom Verna, is to be commended for his outstanding performance in promoting safety throughout the industry. WEDA's Safety Commission and Panel, chaired by Mr. Verna at this and other WEDA conferences, are having the desired impact in safety education.

### *WEDA Chapters and Conferences*

No annual report would be complete without mentioning the outstanding job performance of all WEDA chapters. During the reporting period, the Eastern, Gulf, Midwest and Pacific chapters have held their annual meetings in their respective areas. All were well attended and professionally done.

Upcoming conferences and meetings for 2012 through 2013 are planned as follows:

- The Eastern Chapter: Miami Beach, Florida, October 9 to 11, 2012
- Gulf Chapter: to be determined
- Midwest Chapter: Green Bay, Wisconsin, April 25 to 27, 2012
- Pacific Chapter: Seward, Alaska, September 5 to 7, 2012

- Mexican Chapter: to be determined
- Brazil Chapter: Rio de Janeiro or São Paulo, March 2013
- Panama Chapter: to be determined
- WODCON XX: Brussels, Belgium, June 3 to 7, 2013
- WEDA 33/TAMU 44: Honolulu, Hawaii, August 25 to 28, 2013

Our next Annual Western Hemisphere Dredging Conference, WEDA 33<sup>rd</sup> and Texas A & M 43<sup>rd</sup> (WEDA 33/TAMU 44) Annual Conference, will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Sunday, August 23 to Wednesday, 28, 2013. Exhibitor applications for WEDA 33/TAMU 44 will be available on the website.

### *Economy and Environment*

You all have seen our motto, “*Dredging Creates a Strong Economy and a Cleaner Environment.*” WEDA ago recognized that dredging contributes to the preservation and enhancement of our environment and is essential to both a strong economy and a cleaner environment. Largely through the efforts of WEDA’s Environmental Commission chairman, Craig Vogt, we have made great strides in making environmental dredging issues one of the focal points at our annual conferences. It has become common knowledge throughout the industry that by educating all concerned on the importance of dredging and working together towards that goal we can remove the environmental obstacles to dredging.

### *Other Business*

If you enjoy your free copy of the *Journal of Dredging Engineering*, take a few minutes to thank Ram Mohan, our Technical Papers Committee chair. It is mainly through his efforts that this peer-reviewed periodical on dredging engineering topics is published.

To honor our loyal and supportive members, WEDA is providing year pins for those members who are celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20 or 30 years of membership.

Before moving on to items of new business, Mr. Wetta entertained questions and additional items of old business. There being no additional questions or items, the President turned the membership’s attention to new business.

## *New Business*

### Awards

The first order of new business was to announce that the Dredging Contractors of America's Most Outstanding Paper award, WEDA's Best Student Paper certificate, and DCA's Best Paper award would be presented during the closing ceremonies.

### Conference Notes

A CD copy of the proceedings of this conference were included in participants' registration packets. I would like to thank Dr. Robert Randall for his efforts in getting the proceedings ready for distribution at this conference.

I would also like to thank all who have made this conference a great success. While the individual list is endless, thanks should go to:

- All the exhibitors and their excellent exhibits
- The authors and presenters of the many outstanding papers
- Sustaining members and sponsors of the ice breaker, refreshment breaks, and golf tournament
- Dredging Supply Company for its \$1000.00 award that will be presented during the closing ceremonies to the author of the technical paper that related to why dredging is good
- Bob Randall of Texas A&M for the outstanding Texas A & M dredging seminar
- Ram Mohan for the great WEDA 32 technical program and editing the *Journal of Dredging Engineering*
- Nancy Patella for her hard work on behalf of the program for spouses

### Board Member Nominations and Election

The next order of business was the nomination and election of new board members. The terms of board members Ram K. Mohan, Greg Hartman, Donald Hayes, Dan Hussin, Peter Marotta, Jeffrey McKee, Robert Randall, and Philip Spadaro have expired. Our Nomination Committee of Robert Wetta, Paul Quinn, and Matthew Binsfeld recommend that Daniel Hussin, Donald Hayes, Peter Marotta, Jeffrey McKee, Ram Mohan, and Robert Randall be returned to the board to serve until June 2015. Nominations from the floor were requested.

There being none, a motion was made to accept the nominating committee's recommendations, which was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

**WEDA Board Members**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Matthew Binsfeld	
Donald Hayes	2015
Daniel Hussin	2015
Jeffrey McKee	2015
Peter Marotta	2015
Ram Mohan	2015
Paul Quinn	
Robert Randall	2015
Robert Wetta	

***Report Conclusion***

Ladies and gentlemen, this completes my report. WEDA sincerely thanks all who have made this conference a huge success and all the delegates and exhibitors for attending their attendance.

**Adjournment**

There being no other business to be brought before the general membership, Mr. Wetta adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Recorded by:



Lawrence M. Patella, Executive Director  
Western Dredging Association