

**Toledo Harbor Dredging Task Force  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Date: April 12, 2011  
Lake Erie Center- Oregon, OH**

**Attending Committee Members:**

Ron Kozlowski, USACE (videoconference)  
Craig Forgette, USACE (videoconference)  
Scott Pickard, USACE (videoconference)  
David Romano, USACE (videoconference)  
Ken Pisado, USACE (videoconference)  
Josh Feldmann, USACE (videoconference)  
Dick Bartz, USGS (telephone)  
Mike Pniewski, USACE  
Linda Greenwood, Sen. Rob Portman  
Joe Cappel, TLCPA  
Gilda Mitchell, TLCPA  
Ed Hammett, OLEC  
Kristin Gardner, OLEC  
David Knight, Great Lakes Commission  
Elizabeth Wick, Ohio EPA-NWDO  
John Watkins, ODNR  
Monica Drake, ODOT  
Cheryl Rice, Lucas County USDA NRCS  
Steve Smigelski, Kuhlman Corporation  
Sandy Bihn, Lake Erie Waterkeepers  
Paul Pacholski, Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc.  
Patekka Bannister (for Tim Murphy), City of Toledo

**Committee Members Not Present:**

Paul Toth, TLCPA  
Matt Sapara, TLCPA  
LTC Stephen Bales, USACE  
Ron J. Kozlowski, USACE  
Mark Locker, ODOT  
Jeff Reuter, OSU Stone Lab  
Ann Longworth, Sen. Sherrod Brown  
Everett Woodell, Rep. Robert Latta  
Eileen Granata, ODOD  
Peter Ujvagi, Lucas County  
Brooke Furio, USEPA, Region 5  
Paul LaMarre, TLCPA  
Paul Roman, City of Oregon  
Tim Schetter, Toledo Area Metroparks  
Jane Ruvolo, Rep. Marcy Kaptur  
Rick Unger, Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc.

**Guests:**

Gene Clark, UW Sea Grant  
Richard Price, USAERDC  
John Hull, Hull & Associates, Inc.  
Kelly Bensman, Hull & Associates, Inc.  
Jenny Carter-Cornell, Hull & Associates, Inc.

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The meeting began at 1:05 p.m.

**January 2011 Meeting:** The Committee approved the minutes from the January 2011 meeting.

**Status of Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP):** Ms. Bensman informed the Committee that a draft QAPP was prepared as part of the Toledo Harbor Sediment and Management and Use Plan Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) project submitted to USEPA for review and comment. The draft QAPP was submitted to USEPA for their review of the methodologies, procedures, schedule, data quality objectives, quality management, and management structure that will be employed for the project. EPA being prepared for the procedures and was submitted to U.S. EPA for their review and comment. The QAPP is being revised to address initial comments provided by USEPA and will be resubmitted to EPA for further review. Once

USEPA approves the QAPP, data collection can begin for the project. Mr. Hull added that the purpose of the QAPP is to ensure the decisions made throughout the project are based on consistent, sound data.

**Public Forum Approach/Agenda:** Mr. Hull discussed that a consensus-based approach will be used to evaluate sediment management alternatives. The Hull Team is working with TLCPA, OLEC, and the Great Lakes Commission in planning and conducting two public forums where a systematic methodology will be used to gain stakeholder input and to identify and evaluate alternatives using a scoring of technical and assigned weighting factors (issues/prioritization) for major attribute categories including habitat and environmental factors, economic feasibility, design and construction, and other categories. The first public forum will be held to solicit ideas and gain input from stakeholders on potential sediment management alternatives. The information obtained from the first public forum will be used by the Task Force, with the Hull Team's assistance, to develop weighting criteria for technical factors that will be used in the scoring of alternatives. The scoring of alternatives will be presented to the stakeholder group at the second public forum, which is being planned for the Fall/early 2012.

Mr. Hull discussed the draft agenda (attached) for the first public forum that will be approximately four hours in length as follows:

- At the forum, participants will be given an overview of the GLRI project, the project team, and the project goals.
- A background of past and current sediment management practices/challenges that prioritize major issues will be presented. Mr. Hammett will focus on environmental issues and Mr. Cappel will focus on economic impacts.
- Mr. Hull will speak as to what we hope to accomplish and present three general categories of alternatives – upland, in-water, and products - that have been evaluated. Participants will be given an opportunity to add their idea to the list of alternatives presented. Mr. Hull will distinguish between other work that has been completed and work being done as part of this project.
- Mr. Hull will discuss the matrix process and the role of the participants in generating criteria that will be used to rank the preferred alternatives.
- The participants will be asked to break into groups (8 to 10 people) and sit at a specific alternative option based on their interest. During the breakout session, they will select a spokesperson (not involved with the Task Force), discuss the alternative, provide feedback on the pre-selected stock alternative technical factors/parameters, and discuss what is important to them (e.g. geographic locations, applications/logistics, etc.). A person from TLCA, OLEC, or Hull Team will serve as facilitators and take notes for each group and keep the group on task.
- The spokesperson will summarize the breakout groups discussion to the forum's participants.
- The forum will conclude with a discussion of the information repository and next steps.

The committee selected June 16, 2011 as the date for the first public forum. The USACE indicated they will have a representative attend the forum. Mr. Hull mentioned that TLCPA will send the invitation and R.S.V.P. request to a list of approximately 320 people. The invitation will include a request for the recipient to forward the invite to other interested parties. The R.S.V.P will include a request for participants to provide ideas in advance of the public forum. The committee discussed posting background information online. Mr. Cappel mentioned posting the

Task Force Charter documents. Mr. Hull commented that the primary purpose of the notification and R.S.V.P. is to notify participants about the forum's purpose and schedule and to get some initial ideas, but we could post links to relevant existing websites, and any data/information we post will need to be listed as "not-verified" until it goes through the QAPP-process to determine if it meets quality standards. Mr. Hammett stated that in advance of the forum, an inventory of all alternatives that have been considered should be completed and objective criteria that will be used in the evaluation should be identified. Mr. Hull noted that the public forum will focus on identifying sediment management practices for the bulk material. Although evaluation of regulatory-drivers and environmentally-acceptable dredging practices will be addressed as part of the project, they would not be discussed as part of the first public forum, but at a later time.

Mr. Smigelski stated that strong facilitators would be needed during the break out sessions to ensure people stay on track. Mr. Hammett recommended holding a training session for facilitators in advance of the forum. Mr. Hull indicated that Ms. Dixon and Ms. Carter-Cornell will conduct a training session for facilitators.

Ms. Bihn requested clarification regarding the completion of pilot projects as part of the project and other GLRI projects. Mr. Hull stated that through the project, a preliminary assessment of needs will be completed, which will put stakeholders in a position to apply for funding next year. Mr. Hull noted that funding would not be addressed at the forum. Ms. Drake recommended that the certain alternatives might be cost-prohibitive and forum participants needed to be informed of such alternatives up front. Mr. Hull communicated that the scoring evaluation will factor in cost and the budget does not allow for the completion of full cost-benefit analyses for all alternatives. Mr. Hammett stated that the goal of the first forum is to expand on all ideas, while the goal of the second forum is to narrow down ideas. Mr. Hull added that the goal of the project is to "identify, evaluate, and prioritize."

**USACE Progress Report:** Mr. Feldmann provided a status update on funding for the 2011 dredging program. He indicated that USACE are operating under a \$4.2 million budget and will complete dredging for the most critical areas only, approximately 470,000 yd<sup>3</sup> from Lake Miles 5-11, and will not complete river dredging. USACE has received bids from contractors, but has not yet awarded the work. Mr. Watkins inquired as to the backlog remaining after 2011 season. Mr. Feldmann responded that backlog will not be addressed and will provide the Task Force a better layout of the functional channel and fully authorized channel at a future meeting. Mr. Feldmann indicated that USACE is dredging to authorized depths within the functional channel, but not to the functional widths. Mr. Hammett requested USACE provide both the dredging backlogs for the functional channel and the authorized channel to use for the GLRI project. Mr. Hull stated that the data provided by USACE would need to go through the QAPP process.

**Review of Ohio EPA Pubic Hearing RE: 401 Water Quality Permit:** Ms. Wick stated about 25 people attended Ohio EPA's public hearing on March 3, 2011 at 6:30 pm in Toledo City Council Chambers regarding USACE's permit application. Ben Smith is working on responses to the comments received that mostly deal with e-coli and phosphorus. Mr. Watkins indicated that ODNR issued a conditional concurrence on USACE obtaining a 401 Water Quality Certification. If obtained, ODNR will provide full concurrence, but if not, the permit will be denied and the appeal process can be initiated.

**Meeting Wrap Up and Assignment of Tasks:** Mr. Cappel asked if anyone had anything regarding funding given the ban on earmarks. Mr. Watkins mentioned that the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund is a zero item on the federal budget. The money is being used to offset the debt instead of being used on dredging and maintenance. Mr. Knight said that

Michigan Representative Candace Miller issued a letter to the administration to direct this fund to harbor maintenance. Mr. Knight stated that the fund has accumulated \$5.4 billion in surplus and annually receives \$800 million in contributions based on a 1.25% tax on value of goods shipped into ports. Mr. Watkins mentioned there is a Facebook page dedicated to this topic.

USACE agreed to provide the Task Force with the functional and authorized channel layouts and backlogs. Ms. Bensman reminded members to log-on to the data management system via <https://onlinefiles.hullinc.com>. Ms. Bihn suggested a blog be hosted for the forum and would discuss it with Mr. Hull after the meeting. Mr. Hull suggested that a WebEx meeting be held with the Task Force prior to the forum.

Mr. Romano communicated that the feasibility study for the Wynn Road project is complete, but the City of Oregon does not desire to cost-share \$1.47 million for the \$5.4 million project that could handle 150,000 yd<sup>3</sup> material. The USACE is shelving the project for future use. Based on the design the City of Oregon chose to move forward with BP and received grants to re-route the ditch.

Regarding the status of the habitat restoration unit Section 204 project, USACE indicated they are bring to close the general investigation feasibility study. USACE has been working with Mr. Murphy to have the City of Toledo approve a letter of intent to cost-share a Section 204 project and use FY2011 GLRI funds to pursue project although they are unsure if it will be funded. Without funding, the Section 204 project will be terminated and shelved for future use. Mr. Hammett and Mr. Hull questioned the effect of the USACE Section 204 project on the Task Force GLRI project. The USACE stated that is the Task Force yields an HRU alternative with a strong consensus, the USACE will have to do a detailed study on that alternative.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 3:00 p.m.