

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

Date: December 21, 2011

Location: One Maritime Plaza, 720 Water Street, 3rd floor, Toledo, OH 43604

Attending Committee Members:

Mike Pniewski, USACE
Joe Cappel, TLCPA
Gilda Mitchell, TLCPA
Gail Hesse, OLEC
John Watkins, ODNR
Kristin Gardner, OLEC
Cheryl Rice, Lucas County USDA NRCS
Mary Knapp, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Elizabeth Wick, Ohio EPA-NWDO
Sandy Bihn, Lake Erie Waterkeepers
Paul Pacholski, Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc.
Tim Murphy, City of Toledo
Jane Ruvolo, Rep. Marcy Kaptur
Tom Hays, Lucas County
Eric Neff, ODOT
John Recker, ODOT
Josh Feldmann, USACE (phone)
David Romano, USACE (phone)
Dick Bartz, USGS (phone)

Guests:

John Hull, Hull & Associates, Inc.
Kelly Bensman, Hull & Associates, Inc.

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
Everett Woodell, Rep. Robert Latta
Kelly Tubbs, Kuhlman Corporation
Eileen Granata, ODOD
Peter Ujvagi, Lucas County
Brooke Furio, USEPA, Region 5
Paul LaMarre, TLCPA
Tim Schetter, Toledo Area Metroparks
Rick Unger, Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc.
Ron Kozlowski, USACE
Craig Forgette, USACE
Scott Pickard, USACE
Ken Pisado, USACE
Linda Greenwood, Sen. Rob Portman
David Knight, Great Lakes Commission
Paul Roman, City of Oregon
Ann Longsworth Orr, Sen. Sherrod Brown
Andrew Lorenz, Rep. Bob Latta

The meeting began at 2:07 p.m.

Ms. Hesse announced that Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director James Zehringer is the new Ohio Lake Erie Commission Chairman. She also communicated the Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) office would be re-locating from Toledo to Sandusky, Ohio in late January 2012. The move would result in cost savings in operational costs. As a result of the move and staffing, Ohio Lake Erie Commission is suspending the grant cycle for the third quarter. OLEC approved three small grants and two grants through the Ohio Balanced Growth Initiative the preceding week, but would be suspending the Lake Erie Protection Fund grant cycle for the third quarter due to the office relocation and the limited staff.

Ms. Hesse updated members on Ohio EPA's Phase 2 Phosphorus Task Force. She and Kevin Elder (ODNR) will be co-chair the Phosphorus Task Force and convene after February 2012 and will work on developing a consensus on phosphorus reduction targets and goals. The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), ODNR, and Ohio Environmental protection Agency (OEPA) will be providing recommendations to the Governor on agricultural and nutrient water quality on

February 1, 2012. Mr. Murphy stated he provided input on the point source draft nutrient strategy on behalf of the City of Toledo at the request of Ohio EPA.

Ms. Bensman and Mr. Hull presented the results of the Task Force's initial assignment of weighting factors that will be used in the technical team's evaluation of criteria used to rank sediment management options and informed the members that several of the weighting factors assigned by Task Force members were identified as potential outliers by the technical team. Mr. Hull initiated a discussion by Task Force members on the reasons why Task Force members assigned these specific weighting factors. As a result of the group discussion, several members revised their initial assigned weighting factors. A summary of the final weighting factors assigned by the Task Force is provided by Attachment A. Mr. Hull informed the Task Force that the technical team will proceed to evaluate the sediment management options using the consensus-based weighting factors and the technical scoring completed by the technical team.

Ms. Bihn updated Task Force members on recent Lake Erie Improvement Association activities and noted that the group's next meeting would be on January 11 at 8:30 a.m. at the Lake Erie Islands Visitors Center. The handout Ms. Bihn distributed to Task Force members is provided by Attachment B.

Mr. Cappel updated members regarding beneficial use of material from Facility 3. He stated that S&L Fertilizer has the ability to use approximately 40,000 – 80,000 cubic yards of material annually from Facility 3. S&L Fertilizer mixes the material with biosolids from Toledo's Wastewater Treatment Plant. S&L Fertilizer's use of dredged material from Facility 3 creates additional space and the volume beneficially used begins to be significant considering 800,000 cubic yards of dredged material is placed annually in the open lake placement area. The group discussed beneficial applications of the material including use as fill in brownfield projects and agriculture.

Mr. Pniewski updated the Task Force on the recent sediment/feasibility studies completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Mr. Pniewski discussed the USACE's regional sediment management evaluation of opportunities for beneficial reuse of dredged material from the Toledo Harbor for ecosystem restoration. A copy of the presentation is provided by Attachment C. Mr. Pniewski indicated that costs presented for Pear Island, East Island, and Harbor Light Island only include construction costs and not transportation costs. Mr. Pniewski informed the Task Force that USACE is packaging information regarding the studies they have completed and will be holding a Feasibility Scoping meeting in late 2012, after which the USACE will need additional funding to move forward with the project. Mr. Pniewski also stated that the USACE submitted a Section 401 to OEPA during the previous week. The Section 401 was submitted as part of the USACE's request to complete the 2012 federal channel maintenance dredging of approximately 800,000 cubic yards of material.

Ms. Hesse discussed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Synthesis (GLRI) Conference, which was held to highlight the accomplishments of GLRI projects and provide opportunities for future collaborations on projects. She also stated that approximately \$300,000,000 is expected to be awarded during the next round of GLRI funding. Funding will focus on projects involving nutrients, Areas of Concern, and invasive species. The Task Force discussed the need for projects that can result in immediate benefits.

Mr. Cappel discussed the next meeting be held in March 2012. There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 3:50 p.m.