

TMACOG Freight Committee Dredging Update

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The Facts



- The **Lake Approach Channel** extends from the mouth of the Maumee into Lake Erie for about 18 miles to deep water. In 2010, the USACE dredged **647,000** cubic yards from the Lake Channel.
- The **Maumee River Channel** starts at the mouth of the Maumee and extends 7 miles up the River to I-75. In 2010, the USACE dredged **135,000** from the River Channel.
- The Maumee River watershed is 6,600 square miles and has a mean annual sediment load of more than **1.1 million tons**.
- In 2010, 100% of the material dredged by the USACE was disposed of in the open lake. Directors from ODNR and OEPA limited the amount for open lake disposal to 800,000 cubic yards. While the Directors noted the importance of keeping the Port open, they strongly recommended that the USACE investigate other alternatives for disposal of the dredged material.
- The USACE proposed open lake disposal of 1.2 million cubic yards in 2011. The USACE obtained a Water Quality Certification from OEPA for this method of disposal for an amount **not to exceed 800,000 cubic yards**.

The OEPA & ODNR Position



“ We cannot state our belief any more clearly; Open lake disposal of these huge quantities of dredged sediment in the Western Basin of Lake Erie is not environmentally acceptable to the State of Ohio and needs to be discontinued. Instead, we must seek and find a way to eliminate open lake disposal and manage the sediment in an environmentally acceptable manner. Further, we must do so in a way that is not disruptive to the operations of the Port of Toledo.”

The USACE Position



“ Factors such as the considerable annual volume that is removed from the Federal navigation channels, and lack of non-Federal sponsors to cost-share have to date precluded the implementation of any practicable beneficial use alternative for Toledo Harbor dredged material. At this time, there is currently no viable placement area outside the aquatic ecosystem available to USACE that is accessible, economically feasible, and can accommodate the quantity of dredged material necessary to maintain Toledo Harbor on an annual basis at a reasonable cost to Federal and non-Federal partners. ”

The Issues



- **Logistics:** Cost & Efficiency of handling
- **Politics:** State, Federal, Local, NIMBY, Multi State, Pet Projects
- **Science:** Correlations to Algae Blooms, E-Coli, etc. Definition of contaminated material.
- **Environment:** Habitat restoration- choosing the best design, location, etc with least impact
- **Material Management:** Can material be treated as commodity- is there a true beneficial reuse of this material
- **Economics:** How to balance Federal Funds and Non-Federal funds within the parameters of existing Federal, State, and local programs.

- Finding a sustainable balance for the environment, industry and the community is the **Challenge** we have faced for **Decades**

Beneficial Reuse to Date



- S&L Fertilizer operates on 75 acres at Port Facility 3. They process 20,000 tons of biosolids from the City of Toledo to make 50,000 tons of NuSoil (top soil) each year. The City of Toledo uses the material at landfills and other projects as needed. Product is Class B material until it sits for one year then it becomes Class A.
- S&L Fertilizer can make a fill product called Soils Plus by adding ash (used for building dike walls) but does not have permits to use this material off of Facility 3.



Toledo Harbor Task Force

What is it: The Toledo Harbor Task Force is established to convene representation from all impacted stakeholders to collaboratively resolve challenges regarding the management of dredged material in the Toledo Harbor vicinity.

Who we are: Port Authority, USACE, USDA, ODNR, OEPA, ODOT, OLEC, ODOD, Lucas County, City of Toledo, City of Oregon, Lake Erie Waterkeepers Association, Maritime Industry, Ohio Sea Grant College Program, Toledo Metroparks, Office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Office of Congressman Bob Latta, Office of Senator Sherrod Brown

Sediment Management Plan



Ohio Lake Erie Commission was awarded a GLRI grant to create a sediment management strategy/plan for the Toledo Harbor that identifies and addresses:

- recommended short-term (1-5 years) options

- recommended long-term (30 year) options
 - funding needs/sources/mechanisms
 - timelines for implementation of recommended approaches
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- The Hull & Associates, Inc. Team was retained to assist in developing this plan

Project Tasks



- **Task 1: Task Force Facilitation and Data Collection**
 - Quality Assurance Project Plan
 - Data Collection and Management
 - Participate in Task Force meetings and subcommittee meetings
 - Facilitate two Public Workshops to gain stakeholder input and consensus on the approach (process/decision)
- **Tasks 2 - 6: Short-term (1- 5 years) & long-term (30 year) alternatives**
 - Beneficial reuse options
 - Deployment of Habitat Restoration Units
 - Alternatives for the disposition of contaminated dredge materials
 - Watershed-based erosion reduction actions
 - Environmentally acceptable dredging practices
 - Construction, material placement, & ongoing maintenance costs
 - Identification of funding sources - revenue generation/grants
- **Task 7: Sediment Management Plan**
 - Establish short-term plan and long-term plan
 - Identify funding needs, potential fund sources/mechanisms and activities
 - Timelines for options/obtaining funds to implement recommended

Tentative Project Schedule



Task	2011												2012					
	J a n	F e b	M a r	A p r	M a y	J u n	J u l	A u g	S e p	O c t	N o v	D e c	J a n	F e b	M a r	A p r	M a y	
Task 1: Task Force Facilitation and Data Collection																		
QAPP		*	*															
Data Collection and Data Management System	*	*	*															
Two Public Workshops				*	*				Opt. 1						Opt. 2			
Participate in Task Force meetings and subcommittee meetings	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tasks 2- 6: Evaluate Alternatives				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*							
Task 7: Sediment Management Plan															*	*	*	

Track our progress:

[http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/
GLRI/ToledoHarbor.aspx](http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/GLRI/ToledoHarbor.aspx)

- <http://www.toledoseaport.org>
- <http://lakeerie.ohio.gov>

Thank You!

